

May Fiction



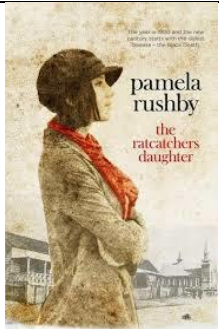
Unnatural Creatures edited by Neil Gaiman

Welcome to a menagerie unlike any other, where stories let amazing, beautiful and occasionally terrifying creatures roam free in your mind. This is Neil Gaiman's selection of his favourite stories featuring beasts from myth, fable and imagination.



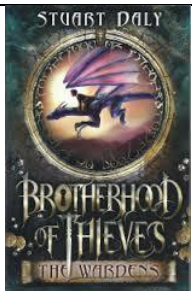
Machine Wars by Michael Pryor

It was only a matter of time until one escaped. It was only a matter of time until one tried to take over the planet. Bram just wasn't expecting it to be today. In the sky, drones are hunting him. On every corner, machines are waiting to kill him. But Bram has a plan. First, scatter and hide. Then with his best friend and a wise-cracking roboduck, help save the world.



The Ratcatcher's Daughter by Pamela Rushby

The year is 1900 and thirteen-year-old Issy McKelvie is forced to leave school to start her first job as a maid in an undertaking establishment. Issy's entire family is now working and because her father's job on the wharves is unreliable, he also works with his dog as a ratcatcher. In 1900 the plague- the Black Death- also arrives in Australia, spread by the fleas on rats. As the disease starts to take its human toll panic grows. The rats must be exterminated. Issy loathes both rats and her father's pack of yappy, snappy, rat-killing terriers. But when her father becomes ill, Issy must join the battle to rid the city of the plague-carrying rats. However, many things about the city's control of the plague are not as they seem. As she discovers and pieces together various clues, Issy comes to realise that the real world is very different from the one she thought she knew.



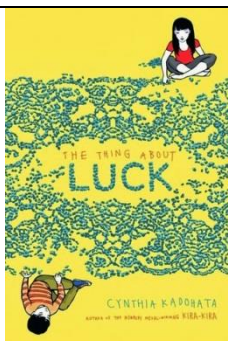
Brotherhood of Thieves: The Wardens by Stuart Daly

A brotherhood of treasure hunters. A terrifying enemy. Five young recruits. The race is on. Caspan hates his life as a thief on the streets, so he leaps at the chance to join a secret order sanctioned by the King. The Brotherhood seeks the lost magical weapons of an ancient race that will help them fight the Roon, the invading army who creep ever closer. Defeat seems inevitable. Unless Caspan and his fellow recruits- Roland, Lachlan, Sara and Kilt- can set aside their differences and use their new skills to help turn the tide. With swords strapped to their belts, riding magical beasts called Wardens, they leave the sanctuary of their training ground for their first mission. Will it be their last?



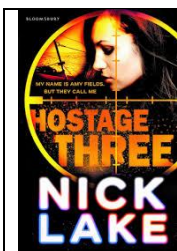
Night Vision by Ella West

Viola was born with a genetic condition that makes sunlight deadly. In the dark of the night, when most teenagers are tucked up in bed, Viola has the run of her parents' farm and the surrounding forest. She is used to seeing hidden things through her night-vision goggles, but one night she sees something that could get her into a whole lot of trouble... Now Viola must decide just how far she's willing to go to help her parents keep their beloved farm. Is it okay to steal from a thief? What if the thief might be a killer? And what if the killer threatens to come after her and her family?



The Thing About Luck by Cynthia Kadohata

Summer knows that kouun means "good luck" in Japanese, and this year her family has had none. Just when she thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong, an emergency whisks her parents away to Japan right before harvest season leaving Summer and her little brother, Jaz, in the care of their elderly grandparents, Obaachan and Jiichan. Obaachan and Jiichan are old fashioned, very demanding, and easily disappointed. Between helping Obaachan cook for the workers and with all the other chores, and worrying about her little brother, who can't seem to make any friends, Summer has her hands full. But when a welcome distraction turns into a big mess, causing further disappointment, Summer realises she must try and make her own luck as it might be the only way to save her family.



Hostage Three by Nick Lake

Picture this: A luxury yacht in the Indian Ocean. My dad: a rick banker. Grey hair, charming smile, sharp teeth. The stepmother: don't ask. Me: I'm Amy. I'm sort of nothing-ish, except for the piercings. And the guns? The Pirates? Farouz? You can't see them yet. This is before. It was supposed to be the trip of a lifetime. The risk was meant to be tiny. But that means it has to happen to someone, doesn't it?



Silver People: A tale from the Panama Canal by Margarita Engle

How can such a narrow bridge of land be so important? One hundred years ago, the world celebrated the opening of the Panama Canal. It was a miracle. Where a mountain once stood was now a path of water connecting the world's two largest oceans. But creating the miracle is no easy task. For only a few coins a day, teenagers Mateo and Henry endure homesickness, backbreaking labour, ferocious heat, landslides, and disease as they dig through the mountain with little more than a shovel. Thousands around them lose their lives, while displaced souls like local herb girl Anita, and the endangered rainforest itself, do what they can to survive.



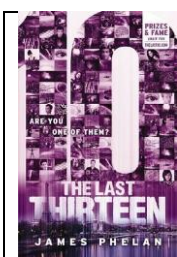
Monument 14 by Emily Laybourne

This is the story of what happens when 14 kids are trapped inside a superstore in the town of Monument. Inside they have everything they could ever need, and with no adult supervision they can do whatever they want. Sounds like fun? It is. Until they find out that the world outside is being destroyed...



The Scourge of Jericho by Stuart Daly

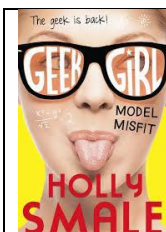
It is 1666, and the forces of darkness are spreading across Europe. Dreaming of wielding a blade in epic battles like the father he never knew, Jakob von Drachenfels falsifies a letter of introduction to join the Hexenjäger- an elite military order of witch hunters. He soon learns a lesson in the dangers of ambition when he finds himself selected for a team sent to recover a biblical relic from a witch- infested castle. But when the team is betrayed from within, what was already a difficult mission turns into a desperate struggle for survival.



10 by James Phelan

Solaris is all around us. How can this be?

An unexpected saviour helps Sam continue his search for the last 13. His next terrifying nightmare leads him to Paris and the Council of Dreamers. With Solaris shadowing his every move, Sam must fight to stay alive. Treasure beyond belief beckons, while tragedy strikes at the very heart of the Academy. Will Sam and his friend survive and stay in the race, or is the world doomed? He must find the last 13. Our fate is in their hands.



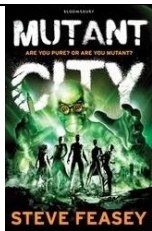
Geek Girl: Model Misfit by Holly Smalle

Harriet Manners knows a lot of facts. Humans have 70,000 thoughts a day. Caterpillars have four thousands muscles. The average person eats a tone of food a year. Being a Geek + Model = a whole new set of graffiti on your belongings. But clearly she knows nothing about boys. And on a whirlwind modelling trip to Tokyo, Harriet would trade in everything she's ever learnt for just the faintest idea of what she's supposed to do next...



The Love Oracles: Nymph by Tonya Alexandra

Merope, a beautiful but faded star nymph, is banished to Earth for displeasing the gods. She tries to fit in, go to school and live a normal "human" life. And then she meets Lukas. But relationships between goddesses and men are forbidden. Will their love grow? Or will Merope and Lukas feel the wrath of the gods?



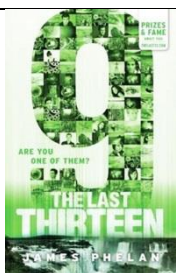
Mutant City by Steve Feasey

Are you Mutant? Or are you Pure? On scorched Earth, you can't be both. Healer. Shape-shifter. Telekinetic. Time decelerator. Mind controller. Rush has grown up believing that he's just another mutant. The truth? He's an illegal experiment. One of five rescued from a lab 13 years ago. He should be dead. But the secret's out. Alone he's a moving target. Together, they're a weapon- with the power to bring down the government. Unless the government gets them first...



Fire & Flood by Victoria Scott

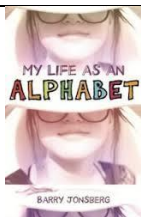
Tella's brother is dying. He's got cancer and Tella is helpless to save him. Or so she thought. When an invitation arrives for Tella to compete in the Brimstone Bleed, a deadly competition that will lead her through treacherous jungle and scorching desert, she doesn't think twice. Because the prize is a cure to any illness. But Tella will be facing more than just the elements...



9 by James Phelan

Not this, anything but this.

In the aftermath of their devastating tragedy, the Academy turns towards an unlikely ally. But Sam's trust in everyone around him continues to be tested to the limits. Sam journeys to South America, his dream leading him to a long- lost ancient city. Hidden deep in within the Amazon rainforest, he is forced to navigate deadly obstacles in pursuit of another Gear. Can Sam work out who the next Dreamer is in time, or will his enemies succeed once more? He must find the last 13. They must fight on.



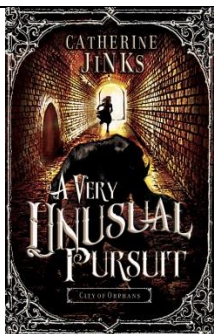
My Life as an Alphabet by Barry Jonsberg

Introducing Candice Phee: twelve years old, hilariously honest and a little... odd. But she has a big heart, the very best of intentions and an unwavering determination to ensure everyone is happy. So she sets about trying to 'fix' all the problems of all the people [and pets] in her life.



Song for a Scarlet Runner by Julie Hunt

Peat is on the run- forced to flee for her life when she's blamed for bringing bad luck to her village. She heads for the endless marshes, where she's caught by an old healer- woman who makes Peat her apprentice and teaches her the skill of storytelling. But a story can be a dangerous thing. It can take you out of one world and leave you stranded in another- and Peat finds herself trapped in an eerie place beyond the Silver River where time stands still. Her only friends are a 900- year- old boy and his ghost hound, plus a small and slippery sleek- a cunning creature that might sink his teeth into your leg one minute, and save your life the next.



A Very Unusual Pursuit by Catherine Jinks

Monsters have been infesting London's dark places for centuries, eating any child who gets too close. That's why ten- year- old Birdie McAdam works for Alfred Bunce, the bogler. With her beautiful voice and dainty looks, Birdie is the bait that draws bogles from their lairs so that Alfred can kill them. One life-changing day, Alfred and Birdie are approached by two very different women. Sarah Pickles runs a local gang of pickpockets, three of whom have disappeared. Edith Eames is an educated lady who's studying the mythical beasts of English folklore. Both of them threaten the only life Birdie has ever known. But Birdie soon realises she needs Miss Eames's help, to save her master, defeat Sarah Pickles, and vanquish an altogether nastier villain.