

Halloween Reads

October leads to thoughts of Halloween, so to celebrate the dark and spooky I have chosen a few books to whet your appetite for the macabre.

"I'm Not Afraid of This Haunted House" by Laurie Friedman – A picture book with whimsical illustrations of goblins, vampires, witches, and ghosts (to name a few). Simon Lester Henry Strauss is not afraid of these things, but something else terrifies him. What could it be? Ages 4-8

"Dark Fiddler: The Life and Legend of Nicolo Paganini" by Aaron Frisch & Gary Kelley – This picture book biography tells the story of the famous violinist Nicolo Paganini. During his lifetime many eerie tales were told about his amazing abilities, not only as a musician but as a composer. Full of dark, dramatic artwork. Ages 9 and up

"Vlad the Impaler" by Enid Goldberg – Part of "A Wicked History" series, this biography tells of Vlad's harsh childhood and his violent life as ruler of Wallachia (near the country of Transylvania). You may know him by the name Count Dracula. Ages 10 and up

"Monstrumologist" by Rick Yancey – One of my favorite books! This beautiful story is the journal of Will Henry and his life as an apprentice to a monstrumologist—a doctor who studies monsters. Will and the doctor race to find and destroy monsters that have been found in town. A brilliant horror story, but not for the faint of heart. Also available as an audio book. Ages 12 and up

"The Christopher Killer" by Alane Ferguson – Full of suspense and science, this book puts a great twist on teen mysteries. Cameryn's father is the town's coroner and he agrees to hire her as his assistant. Her dream of becoming a medical examiner is tested when a friend becomes the latest victim of a serial killer and she must help her father process the crime scene. Cameryn is determined to help the police discover the killer, even when danger finds her. Ages 14 and up

"Revolver" by Marcus Sedgwick – A fantastic suspense novel! A very dark mystery set in the Arctic Circle. Sig finds his father dead on the ice but as he sits with his father, a menacing stranger appears and holds him captive. Flashbacks add to the tension as the events lead up to a harrowing climax. Ages 15 and up

"Jekel Loves Hyde" by Beth Fantaskey – A new take on the classic tale of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Jill Jekel's father has been murdered and her college fund has disappeared. To win a chemistry scholarship she partners with Tristen Hyde, the new boy in school, to recreate experiments from the classic novel. Dark family secrets threaten not only her chance of winning, but the lives of those around her. Ages 15 and up

"The Devouring" by Simon Holt – Reggie loves horror stories and her job in an occult bookstore. She comes across an old journal that talks about the Vours, demons that feed on fear and take over humans. The story becomes reality when Reggie's younger brother Henry becomes their next victim. Will Reggie be able to save Henry from the Vours or will they get her next? Ages 15 and up

"Vampire Forensics" by Mark Jenkins – I just finished reading this book and was truly fascinated by the wealth of information found within. The author delves deep into the origins of Dracula and vampires. He traces the appearances of vampires in different cultures and the importance of death, burial rites, and fear in the myth of the vampire. A must-read for any vampire fan! This nonfiction book is found in our adult section on the main floor. Ages 16 and up

So, whether you're in the mood to celebrate Halloween or you're just ready for a good scare, make sure you stop by for one of these or many other frightening tales available at the library!

Jennifer Tchida is Children's Librarian at Bartholomew County Public Library