

**Escape. Connect. Relate.**

# Crime

A crime occurs when a person breaks a law. Crime might affect just one person, or an entire society, and can usually be divided into attacks on people and attacks on property. Crimes usually result in punishment, such as a prison sentence or a fine.

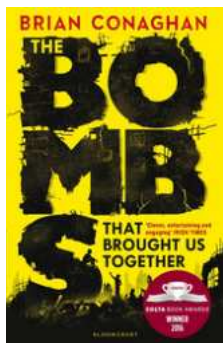
**Britannica Kids**





# ECR Suggested Reads

Many of our suggested reads are available from your school library and from [Edinburgh Libraries](#). Some books may contain triggering or upsetting content. Please use the age ratings as guidance and ask your school librarian for help. Books are listed in alphabetical order by author's surname.



## **The Bombs That Brought Us Together, by Brian Conaghan**

Charlie has lived in Little Town, on the border with Old Country, all his life. He knows the rules: no drinking; no litter; no fighting. You don't want to get on the wrong side of the people who run Little Town. When he meets Pavel, a refugee from Old Country, the rules start to get broken. Charlie wants to keep everyone happy, even if it kills him. But he's got to kill someone else first.

**S3+, Gangs**



## **Unstoppable, by Dan Freedman**

Twins Kaine and Roxy are talented and driven. One plays football, the other tennis. Kaine wants a trial at a club and pretends he doesn't care that his dad is so uninterested, while Roxy wants to win Wimbledon one day but is falling out of love with tennis because of her dad's punishing training regimen. When the dreams of both twins are ripped away, they are exposed to danger and must get back to a life that fulfils them.

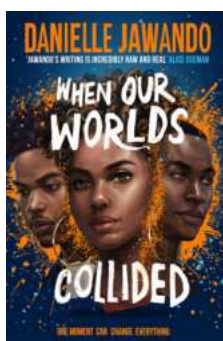
**S1+, Gangs, Knife Crime**



## **After the Fire, by Will Hill**

Before, she lived inside the fence. She was never allowed to leave the property, never allowed to talk to Outsiders, never allowed to speak her mind. Because Father John controlled everything—and Father John liked rules. Disobeying Father John came with terrible consequences. But there are lies behind Father John's words. Outside, there are different truths. Then came the fire.

**S3+, Cults**



## **When Our Worlds Collided, by Danielle Jawando**

When fourteen-year-old Shaq is stabbed outside of a busy shopping centre in Manchester, three teenagers from very different walks of life are unexpectedly brought together. What follows flips their worlds upside down and makes Chantelle, Jackson, and Marc question the deep-rooted prejudice and racism that exists within the police, the media, and the rest of society.

**S3+, Knife Crime**



### **I Am Thunder, by Muhammed Khan**

Muzna struggles with controlling parents and is forced to move to a new school. She realizes that the bullies will follow her, but deciding to face them is harder than it looks - until the gorgeous Arif shows an interest in her, encouraging her to explore her freedom. But Arif has secrets and influences her with his extreme view of the world. Muzna must decide - keep quiet and betray herself, or speak up and betray her heart?

**S3+, Radicalisation**



### **Kick the Moon, by Muhammed Khan**

Ilyas is under pressure: his teachers just won't let up, his dad wants him to join the family business and his mates don't care about any of it. Ilyas finds a kindred spirit in Kelly and their friendship blows the social strata of high school wide open. But when Kelly catches the eye of Imran, he decides to seduce her for a bet - and Ilyas is faced with losing her. Standing up to Imran puts Ilyas' family at risk, but it's time for him to be the superhero he draws in his comic-books, and go kick the moon.

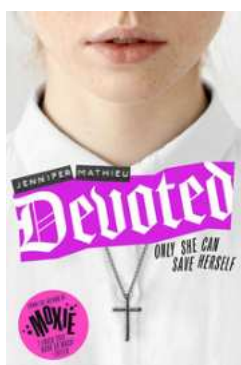
**S3+, Gangs**



### **The Knife That Killed Me, by Anthony McGowan**

Paul wishes his school's bullies were normal. But "normal" doesn't apply to Roth—a twisted and threatening thug. When Paul ends up delivering a message from Roth to the leader of a gang, it fuels a rivalry with immediate consequences. Paul attempts to distance himself, but somehow Roth keeps finding reasons for him to stick around. One day Roth hands him a knife. And even though Paul is scared, he has never felt so powerful.

**S3+, Knife Crime, Gangs**



### **Devoted, by Jennifer Mathieu**

Rachel's family and community have turned away from the world. Every part of Rachel's life is controlled, from what she reads to where she goes and what she wears. Her parents dictate how her life must be: marriage, modesty, children and obedience to her future husband. But when a former member of her community, a girl who escaped, moves back to her small Texas town, Rachel's world turns upside down. She realizes that her life is her own. But can she find the courage to fight for it?

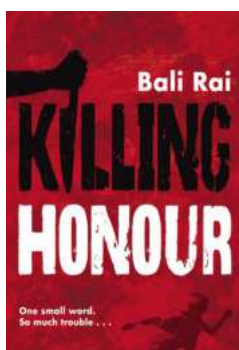
**S3+, Cults**



### **Broken Things, by Lauren Oliver**

It's been five years since Summer Marks was brutally murdered in the woods. Everyone thinks Mia and Brynn killed their best friend. The only thing is: they didn't do it. On the anniversary of the death, a discovery resurrects the mystery and pulls Mia and Brynn back together once again. But as the lines begin to blur between past and present, the girls must confront what really happened in the woods all those years ago—no matter how monstrous.

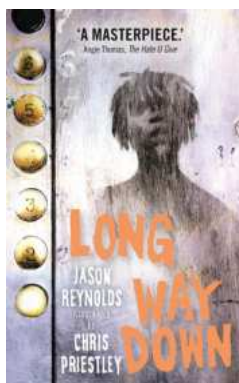
**S3+, Murder**



### **Killing Honour, by Bali Rai**

When Sat's sister, Jas, is married off into the Atwal family she changes, she's quiet and distant. But Sat's too busy with his own life...then Jas disappears. According to her new husband, she's run off with another man. Her family disown her; don't seem to care if she's ever found. But Sat doesn't believe it. Something has happened to his sister and he's determined to figure out what. But his investigations take him into dark and dangerous territory...

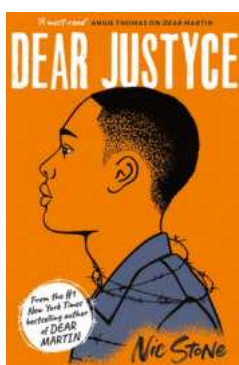
**S3+, Radicalisation, Honour Killings**



### **Long Way Down, by Jason Reynolds**

Fifteen-year-old Will has a gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans. See, his brother Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. Revenge. That's where Will's now heading, with that gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, the gun that was his brother's gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he's after. Or does he? A fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence.

**S1+, Gangs, Gun Crime, Verse Novel**



### **Dear Justyce, by Nic Stone**

Shortly after teenager Quan enters a not guilty plea for the shooting death of a police officer, he is placed in a holding cell to await trial. Through a series of flashbacks and letters to Justyce, Quan's story unravels. From a troubled childhood and bad timing to a coerced confession and prejudiced police work, this novel takes an unflinching look at the flawed practices and ideologies that discriminate against minorities in the American justice system.

**S3+, Gun Crime, Gangs, Series**

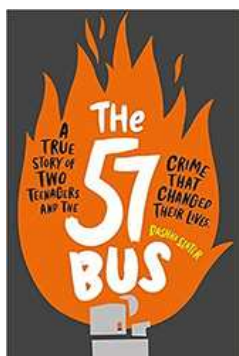


### **Liddle Bit, by Alex Wheatle**

Lemar is the second shortest guy in his year. Everyone calls him Liddle Bit and his best friends tell him he has no chance with girls. His mum is hassled, his sister frustrated and his dad gone. Lemar wishes he could make life better. As a new gang war breaks out on his estate, Lemar discovers that a gang leader has taken an interest in him. Before he knows what's happening, Lemar's involved, and it's dangerous. How can he possibly put things right?

**S3+, Gangs**

## **Information Books**



### **The 57 Bus, by Dashka Slater**

Sasha - agender, wears skirts, attends a private school. Richard - African American, poor, attends a rough public school. For eight minutes every day, they catch the same bus home. One day, messing about, Richard spies Sasha napping. He flicks the flame of his lighter to Sasha's skirt, and Sasha wakes up in a ball of flame. What happens next is a story of recovery, reconciliation, forgiveness and, above all, hope. It's about being true to yourself, bravery and the good and bad in all of us.

**S3+**



# Resources

Disclaimer: the ECR team does not take credit for these links, which are all offered and maintained by external providers

## **Fearless**

CrimeStoppers youth service aimed at 11 - 16 year olds

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/about-the-charity/who-we-work-with/trusts-and-foundations/helping-young-people>

## **Stop Hate UK**

Workshops and training for young people about Hate Crime

<https://www.stophateuk.org/young/>

## **The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice**

Works with Scottish youth who are in conflict with the law and supports improvement to youth justice

<http://www.cycj.org.uk/>

## **Victim Support Scotland**

Support for people affected by crime

<https://victimsupport.scot/>