

# A Touch of Terror

The books chosen for this list are linked by varying degrees of terror – but that’s where the similarity ends. What you won’t get is ten titles full of blood and gore. In saying that, there’s plenty that’s unsettling, scary, downright frightening, but there’s also something more subtle on offer too.

These books take you into terrifying situations – kidnapping, obsessive behaviour, imprisonment, emotional trauma, physical violence, and grisly murder. You can witness acts of terror through the eyes of both the perpetrators and the victims.

Use this list to judge just how far your tolerance levels will go. But remember: one reader’s unbearable terror is another’s fascination. And, in the end, only you know the depth and strength of your own personal fears.

Read the introductions to each book and decide for yourself. Be brave, be daring – you can always swap the book for something else if it’s not your cup of tea. But if you don’t try... you’ll never know!

## An Evil Cradling by Brian Keenan

Brian Keenan was kidnapped in Beirut and held hostage for four and a half years. In this account of his imprisonment he weaves hard facts and deep emotions to reveal ‘the real terror’ of his captivity – the inertia, the despair and the mental torture of days alone in the darkness. Beautifully written and amazingly free from bitterness, this book celebrates the things in life worth living for. It’s a triumph of the human spirit over isolation, pain and fear.

**RNIB** **NLB** **calibre**

## The Deep End of the Ocean

by Jacquelyn Mitchard

This book probes the terrifying depths of parental despair following the disappearance of a small child and explores the resulting ‘fall out’ for everyone involved. You’ll soon find yourself scanning crowds for that familiar little face; jumping each time the telephone rings; and dreading the arrival of the police at the door. If you can cope with the rawness of the subject matter, this is a compelling and convincing read – with an added twist at the end.

## Death du Jour by Kathy Reichs

You’ll need nerves of steel for this one: terror stalks every page. But if you’re up for a tale about the most sickening of murders, no holds barred on the forensic detail, and a really satisfying exploration of the methods and motives, then what are you waiting for? Get reading! The reward for your courage is a wonderful heroine, a taut plot and some stunning locations.

**RNIB** **NLB**

## Triage by Scott Anderson

Triage is the system for determining who among the injured gets treated first. For Mark, a war photographer in Kurdistan, it means the difference between life and death. But it’s Mark’s girlfriend, Elena, and her Spanish grandfather, who have the task of helping Mark come to terms with the trauma of war. The effect of violence on the human psyche is terrifying in this novel; you’ll be gripped from page one.

# A Touch of... Get a sneak preview of ten great reads

Stuck for what to read next? Maybe you fancy trying something new but don’t know where to start. **A Touch of** is a great way for readers who use large print, Braille or audio books to find that good read everyone is looking for. Whether you’re choosing for yourself or for someone else who can’t get to the library, **A Touch of** gives you a sneak preview of tempting possibilities. There are ten different booklists in the series, including A Sharp Touch, A Touch of Mischief, A Ticklish Touch and Touching Infinity.

**A Touch of Terror features books available in large print and tells you which ones you can get in audio and Braille as well.** If you prefer to start from what’s available in audio or Braille, please ask for the ten **A Touch of** samplers which give you friendly introductions and a short extract from each book to listen to or touch read.

**RNIB** Available from RNIB Talking Book Service

**NLB** Available from NLB in Braille

**calibre** Available from Calibre Cassette Library

 Available in audio through public libraries

If you would like more information about the services to readers offered by these organisations please ask a member of library staff. If you have internet access, you can check out [www.nlbuk.org](http://www.nlbuk.org)



**DCMS**  
Reader  
Development  
Programme



**opening the book**

### **The Little House** by Philippa Gregory

If your worst nightmare is lunch with your in-laws then you'll feel immediate empathy with Ruth Cleary. Bullied ('in the nicest possible way') by husband, Patrick, and his parents into motherhood and a move from the city into a remote cottage just a stone's throw from the family farmhouse, Ruth loses both her friends and her identity. Slowly and terrifyingly, the older Clearys assume control – of everything. Very scary – but hang on in there. The ending's electrifying!

**NLB** **calibre**

### **Hannibal** by Thomas Harris

Dr Hannibal Lecter is terror made flesh – a razor-sharp mind combined with psychopathic behaviour. Are you ready to risk a further encounter with this serial killer? Dare to open the book and you'll feel the hairs on the back of your neck slowly start to rise. But what's truly frightening is how much you're on the killer's side.

**NLB**

### **Sheer Blue Bliss** by Lesley Glaister

Lurking beneath the apparent normality of ordinary people and everyday places, there is the threat of something terrifying – this is what Lesley Glaister does best and Sheer Blue Bliss is no exception. Add to the mixture, a disturbed man with a bizarre obsession; an elderly recluse; a naïve young journalist and an isolated cottage and you've got the ingredients for a read that will have you sweating with fear.

### **Beloved** by Toni Morrison

You may think you are familiar with what happened to American slaves but this story will move you to understand at a much deeper level. At its heart is an act of horror and heroism which challenges everything most people believe in. It's not an easy read but it gives an overwhelmingly emotional experience – deep, powerful and piercingly beautiful.

**NLB**

### **The Girl who Loved Tom Gordon** by Stephen King

As a child, did you ever experience the terror of getting really lost? Nine year-old Trisha McFarland gets separated from her mother and brother in the woods and the horrors she encounters become more and more extreme. Who else can she turn to but her baseball idol, Tom Gordon, who helps her maintain her sanity via her Walkman? But what is real and what merely hallucination? The master of the horror story will keep you turning the pages long past bedtime.

**NLB**

### **The Safe House** by Nicci French

Would you offer a safe house to someone traumatised by seeing their parents murdered? This is what the police ask of Samantha Laschen, newly moved to the Essex coast with her small daughter. The twists and turns of this psychological thriller will keep your heart in your mouth and your mind racing. And you'll never guess the end even if you cheat and look before you get there!

# A Touch of...

## A Touch of Terror

A Touch of Terror offers you ten very different books, guaranteed to raise the hairs on the back of your neck. You may love the fast heartbeat of a frightening read or you may be someone who is looking for the truth about war and violence. Either way, you'll need all your courage to turn these pages...

**A Touch of... Get a sneak preview of ten great reads**