

Top 10 toxic friendships

No friendship is perfect, we all have our ups and downs, and sometimes our best friends can feel like our worst enemies. (And sometimes they are...)

1. Jack and Ralph and Piggy: [Lord of the Flies](#) by William Golding

The power struggle between Ralph, the nominated leader of a group of abandoned school boys, and Jack Merridew, the compelling (and psychotic) choirboy-turned-hunter, is one of the most destructive in literature – and Piggy, smart, unlikeable and needy, is in turn betrayed, saved, respected and abandoned by Ralph, the one boy he wants to like him.

2. Daisy and Hazel: [Murder Most Unladylike](#) by Robin Stevens

Voted as Best Friendship in 2014's [Book Blogger UKYA Awards](#) this might seem an odd choice, but it's a relationship that began with charismatic Daisy tricking new "foreign girl" Hazel into climbing inside her own trunk... which Daisy then locks. This ignoble start evolves into friendship and Hazel tells us that "in a way, I have been getting into trunks for Daisy ever since, without stopping to ask why" – an excellent way to describe the see-saw dynamics and insecurities of many best friendships.

3. freida and isabel: [Only Ever Yours](#) by Louise O'Neill

Inside the walls of the School, freida has no one but the girls against whom she is measured. But then there is isabel, the one girl in the class who has never felt the need to compete for anything – the one girl freida could consider a friend. But the School is cruel and freida is miserable, vulnerable and open to manipulation, and friendship is something she can afford to sacrifice.

4. Jem and Kai: [Undone](#) by Cat Clarke

Kai speaks to the reader – and his best friend – through letters, monthly missives to keep Jem going now that she has lost him forever. But the friendship Jem believes they had isn't one that was supposed to end like this. What Clarke shows us is that no matter how close we hold those we love, we can never really know them: Jem could not know Kai would

commit suicide and Kai could never guess that this decision would set the girl he wants to save on a self-destructive path of revenge.

5. Duck and Death: [Duck, Death and the Tulip](#) by Wolf Erlbruch

Death comes for us all, whether we invite him or not, but instead of ignoring the problem, Duck welcomes Death into her life to form a bittersweet friendship; Death might be Duck's best friend, but that doesn't stop him from doing his job.

6. Emily and Juliet: [Heart-Shaped Bruise](#) by Tanya Byrne

Juliet ruined Emily Koll's life without even knowing who she was. Now Emily is going to ruin hers. But Emily's smarter than Juliet, more focused and much more dangerous, because Emily knows that the best way to do it isn't to confront Juliet head on... it's to become her best friend. Emily is the ultimate anti-heroine, fuelled by a toxic mixture of hate and grief, it'll make you question whether to trust anyone ever again.

7. Petyr Baelish and... anyone from the entire cast of [Game of Thrones: A Game of Thrones](#) by George RR Martin

It's probably best not to rely on a man whose advice is not to trust him – a mistake Ned Stark learns the hard way. Baelish (aka Littlefinger) has pawns, not friends, and since he's the most ambitious player in the game of thrones, this hardly bodes well for the people he uses.

8. Madrigal and Chiro: [Daughter of Smoke and Bone](#) by Laini Taylor

The chimera are locked in a war with the seraphim, but for chimera soldier Madrigal, the real enemy is much closer to home. Her friendship with foster-sister Chiro is not as stable as it seems and Madrigal is unaware that her perceived beauty has driven a wedge between them. So deep is Chiro's envy of Madrigal that she is prepared to trade the life of a friend as close as family for the chance to be beautiful...

9. Hannah and Stella: [Lobsters](#) by Tom Ellen and Lucy Ivison

Stella is inherently selfish. The kindnesses she shows Hannah are always slightly self-serving and whenever Hannah threatens to be the centre of attention, especially where boys are concerned, Stella is there to redirect it towards herself. One of the most realistic friendships in teen fiction, Hannah chooses to tolerate this behaviour not from habit or weakness, but because when you're really close to someone, you understand their flaws and you forgive them.

10. Sirius and Remus: [Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban](#) by JK Rowling

Harry Potter is as much about friendship as it is about magic. James Potter, Sirius Black, Remus Lupin and Peter Pettigrew form an idealised vision of teenage friendship during their Hogwarts years: intense, fractious and enviable. For Sirius and Remus, two wizards who for all intents and purposes have no family of their own, this friendship is everything and the night Harry's parents are killed, they lose it all. I can't work out which is worse, being Sirius and living with the knowledge that your one remaining friend thinks you'd do something so vile, or being Remus and finding out that you were wrong.