TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART ONE

1.	Introduction: "Will spook you for real"	3
2.	Definitions and demarcations	9
2.1	Societal Anxieties Scare, fear and anxiety Societal anxiety To inspire	9 9 14 16
2.2	Popular Fiction Bestsellers Key characteristics of popular fiction High-, middle- and lowbrow fiction Internet-based popular fiction	18 20 22 24 26
3.	Theoretical underpinnings	29
3.1	Philosophy of anxiety Sigmund Freud Søren Kierkegaard Martin Heidegger	29 29 31 33
3.2	Folklore theory We are folk, and we live in folk groups Defining folklore Folklore and emotions The significance of orality	38 38 43 45 46
3.3	Political & socio-political theory Group pressures and cross pressures Social trust Anxieties as political instruments Moral panics	48 49 50 53 55
4.	Literature & emotions Beneficial or harmful emotional effects of literature 'Aesthetic' v. 'real' emotions "How to write something scary" What we do or do not suspend willingly Character-reader relationship Making a character likeable Character identification Categorial identification	59 62 65 70 75 81 83 93 93

5.	Contemporary forms of popular fiction	99
	The epistolary novel – a case example	103
	Genre characteristics of the contemporary legend	114
	Contemporary legends as genre of fiction	121
6.	The recipe	129
6.1	A character the readers feel connected with	130
	Narrative habitus	132
6.2	A plausible threat	135
	Setting agendas	141

PART TWO

7.	The recipe in practice	151
8.	New genre: post-9/11 fiction Dealing and healing – novels and contemporary legends Responsibility and retaliation – novels and contemporary legends <i>The Reluctant Fundamentalist</i> – a counter example <i>Incendiary</i>	153 156 158 160 162
9.	Gothic horror & weird fiction The genre and its contemporary legends <i>Kraken</i> – a counter example <i>World War Z</i>	173 173 178 187
10.	Science fiction The genre and its contemporary legends Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? The Circle	205 205 211 221
11.	Romance The genre and its contemporary legends We Need To Talk About Kevin	233 233 239
12.	Thrillers The genre and its contemporary legends <i>Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy</i> <i>Black Box</i>	255 255 263 273
13.	Purposes of societal anxieties in fiction	283

SOURCES

Cited sources	289
Consulted sources	322