

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING 2023

GRADES 9-12

All high school students are encouraged to read over the summer. Below you will find a list of recommended books to choose from. These selections span a diverse and inclusive range of genres, reading levels, maturity levels, and cultural areas for high school students in grades 9-12, ages fourteen to eighteen and postgraduates. In order to engage the interest of teen readers, appeal to a diverse range of backgrounds, and stimulate critical thinking, the book selections may include those that involve sensitive issues or characters navigating mature situations. We encourage parents to take an active role in helping students to choose the books that are the best fit for them and their families. *Common Sense Media: Age Based Media Reviews for Families* (comonsensemedia.org) is an excellent resource to assist parents in identifying any potentially sensitive areas within books, movies, and other media.



Legendborn by Tracy Deonn

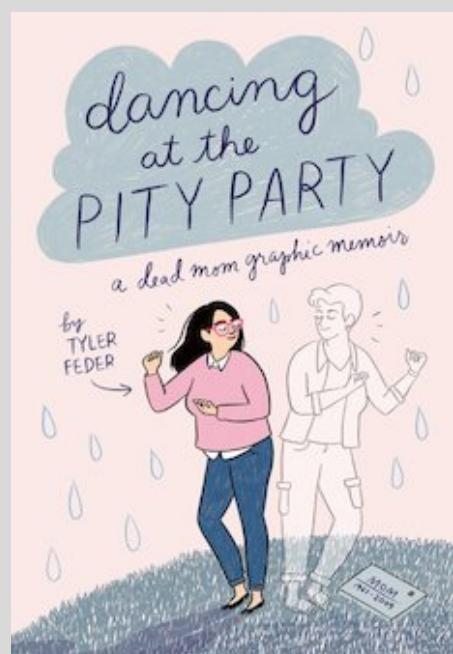
Fiction: fantasy Interest Level: High school/young adult interest

From the publisher: "Filled with mystery and an intriguingly rich magic system, Tracy Deonn's YA contemporary fantasy *Legendborn* offers the dark allure of *City of Bones* with a modern-day twist on a classic legend and a lot of Southern Black Girl Magic."

CORETTA
SCOTT KING-
JOHN STEPTOE
AWARD FOR
NEW TALENT



SYDNEY
TAYLOR
BOOK
AWARD 2021

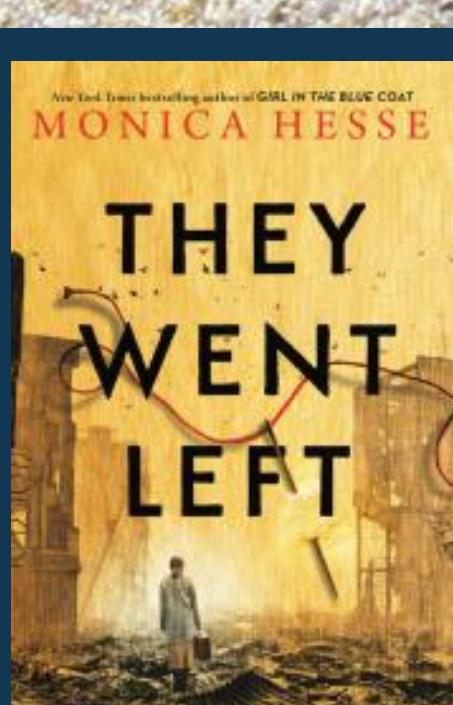


Dancing at the Pity Party by Tyler Feder

Graphic novel: memoir Interest Level: High school/young adult interest

From the publisher: "Part poignant cancer memoir and part humorous reflection on a motherless life, this debut graphic novel is extraordinarily comforting and engaging. From before her mother's first oncology appointment through the stages of her cancer to the funeral, sitting shiva, and afterward, when she must try to make sense of her life as a motherless daughter, Tyler Feder tells her story in this graphic novel that is full of piercing--but also often funny--details. She shares the important post-death firsts, such as celebrating holidays without her mom, the utter despair of cleaning out her mom's closet, ending old traditions and starting new ones, and the sting of having the "I've got to tell Mom about this" instinct and not being able to act on it. This memoir, bracingly candid and sweetly humorous, is for anyone struggling with loss who just wants someone to get it."

SYDNEY
TAYLOR
AWARD
BOOK, 2021



They Went Left by Monica Hesse

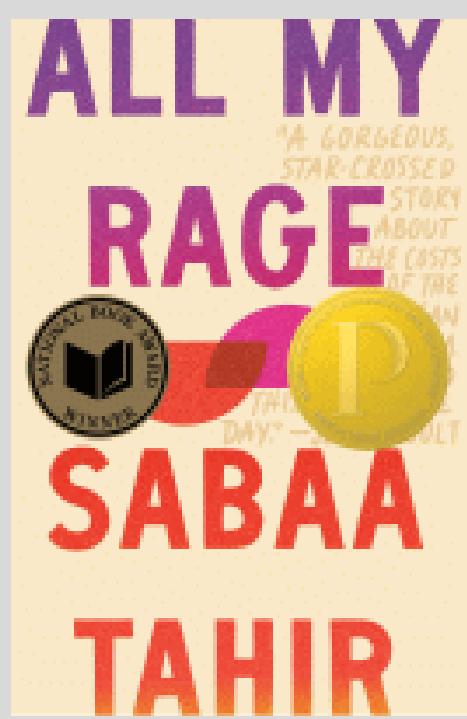
Fiction: historical Interest Level: High school/young adult interest

From the publisher: "Germany, 1945. The soldiers who liberated the Gross-Rosen concentration camp said the war was over, but nothing feels over to eighteen-year-old Zofia Lederman. Her body has barely begun to heal, her mind feels broken. And her life is completely shattered: Three years ago, she and her younger brother, Abek, were the only members of their family to be sent to the right, away from the gas chambers of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Everyone else—her parents, her grandmother, radiant Aunt Maja—they went left. Zofia's last words to her brother were a promise: Abek to Zofia, A to Z. When I find you again, we will fill our alphabet. Now her journey to fulfill that vow takes her through Poland and Germany, and into a displaced persons camp where everyone she meets is trying to piece together a future from a painful past: Miriam, desperately searching for the twin she was separated from after they survived medical experimentation. Breine, a former heiress, who now longs only for a simple wedding with her new fiancé. And Josef, who guards his past behind a wall of secrets, and is beautiful and strange and magnetic all at once. But the deeper Zofia digs, the more impossible her search seems. How can she find one boy in a sea of the missing? In the rubble of a broken continent, Zofia must delve into a mystery whose answers could break her—or help her rebuild her world."

SYDNEY
TAYLOR
AWARD
BOOK, 2021

NATIONAL
BOOK AWARD
WINNER

PRINTZ AWARD
FOR
EXCELLENCE IN
YOUNG ADULT
LITERATURE
WINNER



All My Rage by Sabaa Tahir

Fiction: Realistic Interest level: High school/young adult

From the publisher: "From #1 New York Times bestselling author Sabaa Tahir comes a brilliant, unforgettable, and heart-wrenching contemporary novel about family and forgiveness, love and loss, in a sweeping story that crosses generations and continents."

Lahore, Pakistan. Then.

Misbah is a dreamer and storyteller, newly married to Toufiq in an arranged match. After their young life is shaken by tragedy, they come to the United States and open the Clouds' Rest Inn Motel, hoping for a new start.

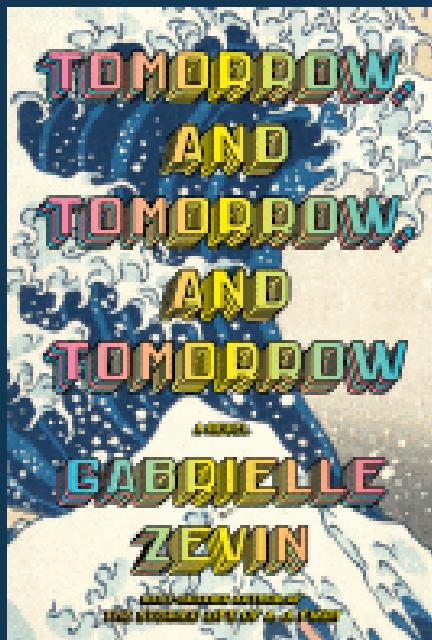
Juniper, California. Now.

Salahudin and Noor are more than best friends; they are family. Growing up as outcasts in the small desert town of Juniper, California, they understand each other the way no one else does. Until The Fight, which destroys their bond with the swift fury of a star exploding.

Now, Sal scrambles to run the family motel as his mother Misbah's health fails and his grieving father loses himself to alcoholism. Noor, meanwhile, walks a harrowing tightrope: working at her wrathful uncle's liquor store while hiding the fact that she's applying to college so she can escape him—and Juniper—forever.

When Sal's attempts to save the motel spiral out of control, he and Noor must ask themselves what friendship is worth—and what it takes to defeat the monsters in their pasts and the ones in their midst.

From one of today's most cherished and bestselling young adult authors comes a breathtaking novel of young love, old regrets, and forgiveness—one that's both tragic and poignant in its tender ferocity."



TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW by ZEVIN, GABRIELLE

Fiction: realistic Interest level: Adult crossover

From the publisher: "From the best-selling author of *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry*: On a bitter-cold day, in the December of his junior year at Harvard, Sam Masur exits a subway car and sees, amid the hordes of people waiting on the platform, Sadie Green. He calls her name. For a moment, she pretends she hasn't heard him, but then, she turns, and a game begins: a legendary collaboration that will launch them to stardom.

These friends, intimates since childhood, borrow money, beg favors, and, before even graduating college, they have created their first blockbuster, Ichigo. Overnight, the world is theirs. Not even twenty-five years old, Sam and Sadie are brilliant, successful, and rich, but these qualities won't protect them from their own creative ambitions or the betrayals of their hearts.

Spanning thirty years, from Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Venice Beach, California, and lands in between and far beyond, Gabrielle Zevin's *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* examines the multifarious nature of identity, disability, failure, the redemptive possibilities in play, and above all, our need to connect: to be loved and to love."



THE AGATHAS by GLASGOW, KATHLEEN

Fiction: mystery and crime Interest level: High school, young adult

From the publisher: "Last summer, Alice Ogilvie's basketball-star boyfriend Steve dumped her. Then she disappeared for five days. She's not talking, so where she went and what happened to her is the biggest mystery in Castle Cove. Or it was, at least. But now, another one of Steve's girlfriends has vanished: Brooke Donovan, Alice's ex-best friend. And it doesn't look like Brooke will be coming back... .

Enter Iris Adams, Alice's tutor. Iris has her own reasons for wanting to disappear, though unlike Alice, she doesn't have the money or the means. That could be changed by the hefty reward Brooke's grandmother is offering to anyone who can share information about her granddaughter's whereabouts. The police are convinced Steve is the culprit, but Alice isn't so sure, and with Iris on her side, she just might be able to prove her theory.

In order to get the reward and prove Steve's innocence, they need to figure out who killed Brooke Donovan. And luckily Alice has exactly what they need—the complete works of Agatha Christie. If there's anyone that can teach the girls how to solve a mystery it's the master herself. But the town of Castle Cove holds many secrets, and Alice and Iris have no idea how much danger they're about to walk into."

NALA BEST
FICTION FOR
YOUNG
ADULTS 2023

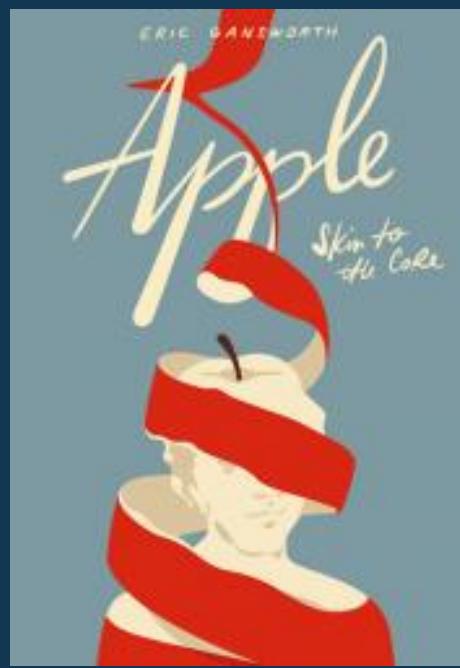
FLORIDA TEENS
READ AWARD
NOMINEE
2023-2024



Furia by Yamile Saied Mendez

Fiction: sports fiction, love stories Interest Level: High school/young adult

From the publisher: "In Rosario, Argentina, Camila Hassan lives a double life. At home, she is a careful daughter, living within her mother's narrow expectations, in her rising-soccer-star brother's shadow, and under the abusive rule of her short-tempered father. On the field, she is La Furia, a powerhouse of skill and talent. When her team qualifies for the South American tournament, Camila gets the chance to see just how far those talents can take her. In her wildest dreams, she'd get an athletic scholarship to a North American university. But the path ahead isn't easy. Her parents don't know about her passion. They wouldn't allow a girl to play football--and she needs their permission to go any farther. And the boy she once loved is back in town. Since he left, Diego has become an international star, playing in Italy for the renowned team Juventus. Camila doesn't have time to be distracted by her feelings for him. Things aren't the same as when he left: she has her own passions and ambitions now, and La Furia cannot be denied. As her life becomes more complicated, Camila is forced to face her secrets and make her way in a world with no place for the dreams and ambition of a girl like her. Filled with authentic details and the textures of day-to-day life in Argentina, heart-soaring romance, and breathless action on the pitch, *Furia* is the story of a girl's journey to make her life her own."



Apple (*Skin to the Core*) by Eric Gansworth

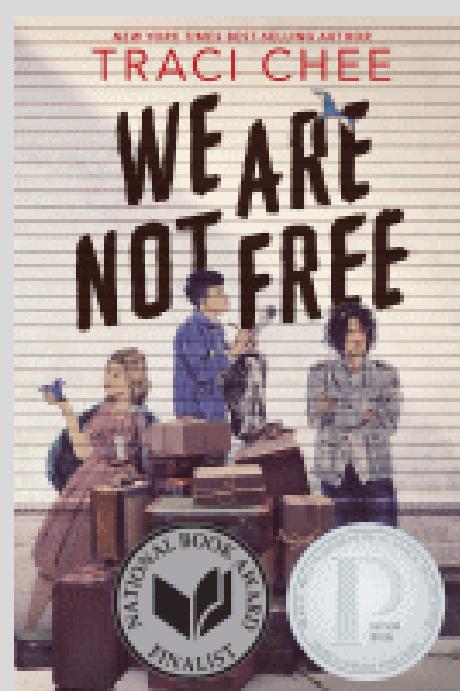
Memoir in verse Interest Level: High school/young adult

From the publisher: "How about a book that makes you barge into your boss's office to read a page of poetry from? That you dream of? That every movie, song, book, moment that follows continues to evoke in some way?"

The term "Apple" is a slur in Native communities across the country. It's for someone supposedly "red on the outside, white on the inside." Eric Gansworth is telling his story in *Apple (Skin to the Core)*. The story of his family, of Onondaga among Tuscaroras, of Native folks everywhere. From the horrible legacy of the government boarding schools, to a boy watching his siblings leave and return and leave again, to a young man fighting to be an artist who balances multiple worlds. Eric shatters that slur and reclaims it in verse and prose and imagery that truly lives up to the word heartbreaking."

PRINTZ
HONOR
BOOK

NATIONAL
BOOK
AWARD
FINALIST,
PRINTZ
HONOR
BOOK,
WALTER
HONOR
BOOK



We Are Not Free by Tracy Chee

Fiction: historical Interest Level: High school/young adult

From the publisher: "From New York Times best-selling and acclaimed author Traci Chee comes *We Are Not Free*, the collective account of a tight-knit group of young Nisei, second-generation Japanese American citizens, whose lives are irrevocably changed by the mass U.S. incarcerations of World War II.

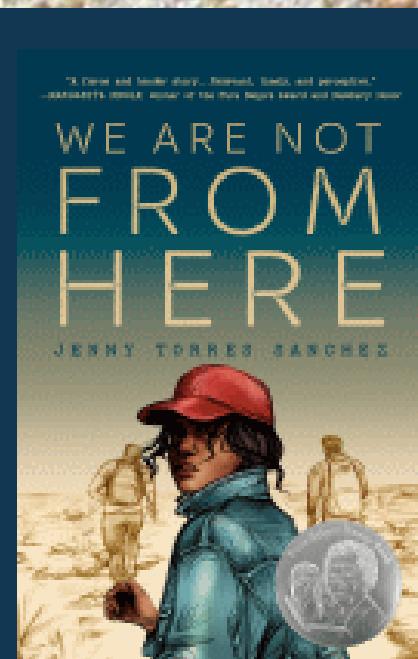
Fourteen teens who have grown up together in Japantown, San Francisco.

Fourteen teens who form a community and a family, as interconnected as they are conflicted.

Fourteen teens whose lives are turned upside down when over 100,000 people of Japanese ancestry are removed from their homes and forced into desolate incarceration camps.

In a world that seems determined to hate them, these young Nisei must rally together as racism and injustice threaten to pull them apart."

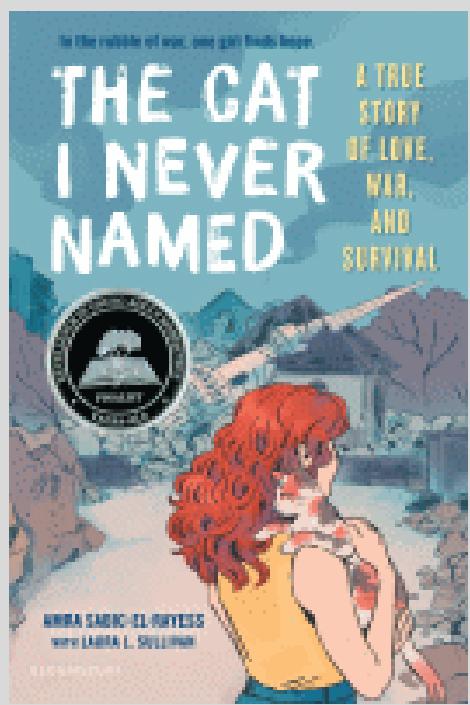
A PURA
BELPRÉ 2021
YOUNG
ADULT
AUTHOR
HONOR
BOOK



We Are Not From Here by Jenny Torres Sanchez

Fiction: realistic Interest Level: High school/young adult

From the publisher: "Three Guatemalan teens, Pequena, Pulga, and Chico are caught in the web of a local gang and are desperate to seek a way out. Pulga and Chico have witnessed a murder and must join the gang or die. Pequena, has suffered abuse at the hands of the gang's leader Rey and born his child. The three close friends flee for the United States, desperate to seek sanctuary, and face a perilous journey across Mexico."



The Cat I Never Named: A True Story of Love, War, & Survival by Amra Sabic-El-Rayess

Memoir Interest level: middle grade-young adult crossover

From the publisher: "The stunning memoir of a Muslim teen struggling to survive in the midst of the Bosnian genocide--and the stray cat who protected her family through it all."

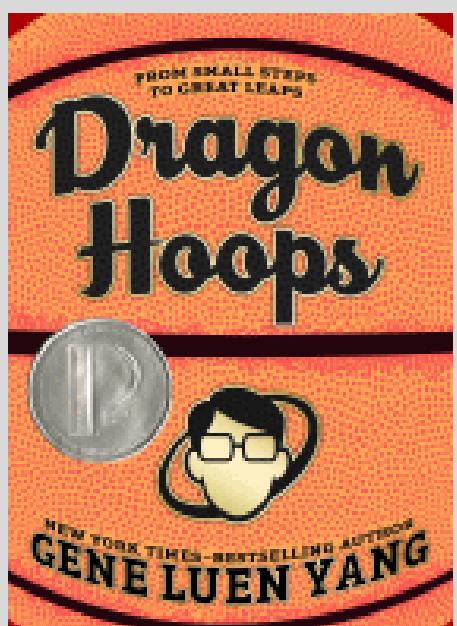
In 1992, Amra's life changed from that of a typical teenager, to a victim of war when her hometown of Bihać, Bosnia was surrounded by the Serbian army and she and her family became trapped in the city, with little food and threats to their safety. In walks a stray calico cat--Maci--who offers them solace and comfort during the darkest times of their lives."



Watch Over Me by Nina LaCour

Fiction: supernatural/paranormal Interest level: high school/young adult

From the publisher: "After graduating from high school and the foster care system, Mila accepts a job on an isolated Northern California farm where she confronts not only her memories, but also the ones of her fellow residents."



Dragon Hoops by Gene Luen Yang

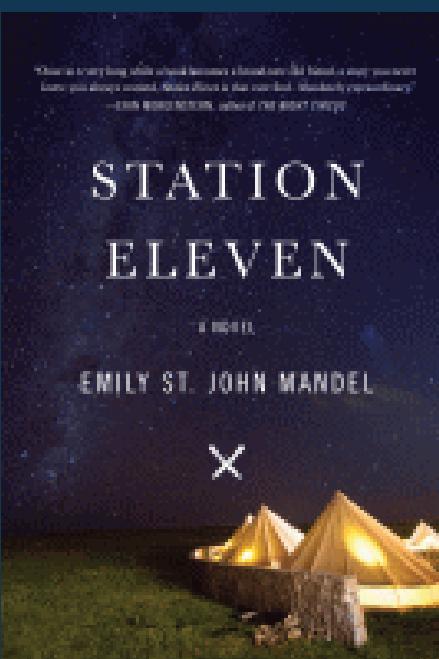
Graphic memoir Interest level: high school/young adult

From the publisher: "In his latest graphic novel, Dragon Hoops, New York Times bestselling author Gene Luen Yang turns the spotlight on his life, his family, and the high school where he teaches.

Gene understands stories—comic book stories, in particular. Big action. Bigger thrills. And the hero always wins.

But Gene doesn't get sports. As a kid, his friends called him "Stick" and every basketball game he played ended in pain. He lost interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, it's all anyone can talk about. The men's varsity team, the Dragons, is having a phenomenal season that's been decades in the making. Each victory brings them closer to their ultimate goal: the California State Championships.

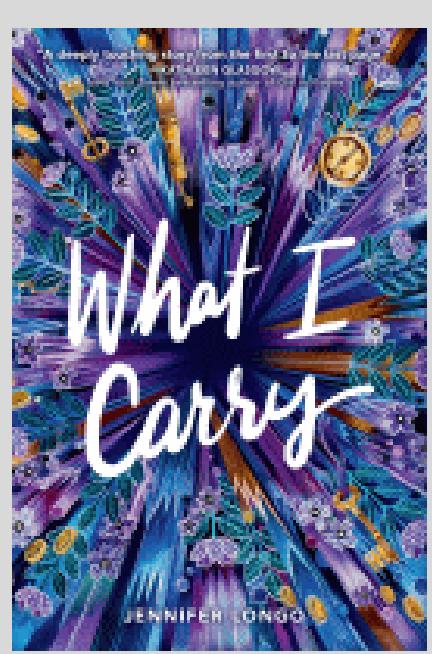
Once Gene gets to know these young all-stars, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he's seen on a comic book page. He knows he has to follow this epic to its end. What he doesn't know yet is that this season is not only going to change the Dragons's lives, but his own life as well."



Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel

Fiction: dystopian Interest level: adult crossover

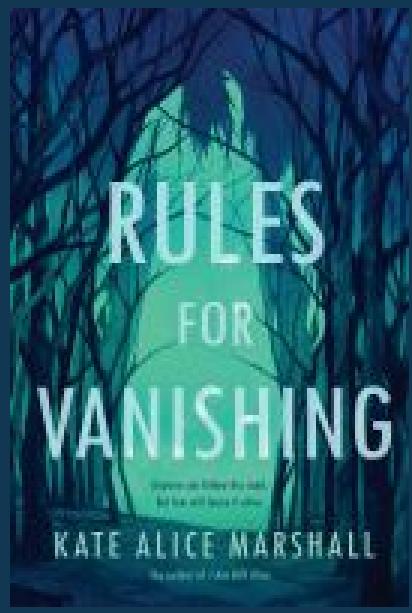
From the publisher: "On the same night he attempts unsuccessfully to revive an old actor who has a heart attack on stage, EMT Jeevan Chaudhary watches in fear as a terrible flu virus spreads rapidly across the world. Fifteen years later, Kirsten Raymonde, a child actress who witnessed the heart attack, is an actress in a very different world, under the sway of "the prophet," who keeps a tight rein on the flu survivors who live near him."



What I Carry by Jennifer Longo

Fiction: realistic Interest Level: High school/young adult

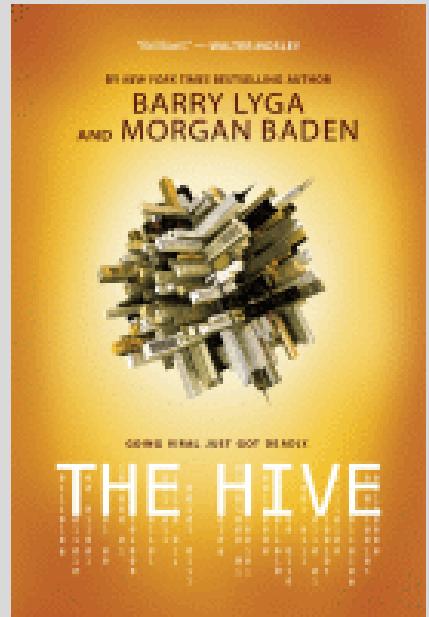
From the publisher: "In her final year of foster care, seventeen-year-old Muir tries to survive her senior year before aging out of the system. As she becomes closer to her latest foster mother, meets a new friend, and even finds love, she worries that she's getting too involved and fights the urge to flee the closest thing she's ever had to a home."



Rules for Vanishing by Kate Alice Marshall

Fiction: horror and suspense Interest Level: High school/young adult

From the publisher: "Teenager Sara Donoghue's sister, Becca, went missing a year ago, and Sara knows that her disappearance is related to a local urban legend of a mysterious road and the ghost of Lucy Gallows. On the anniversary of Becca's disappearance, Sara and several of her friends set out to find the road and discover the truth about Becca and Lucy. The ghostly road opens and the figure of Lucy leads them on. There are rules for following the road, however, and one-by-one the friends break those rules with deadly results. The story is told through narrative, text messages, emails, interviews, descriptions of photographs, and transcripts of video recordings."



The Hive by Barry Lyga

Fiction: dystopian Interest Level: High school/young adult

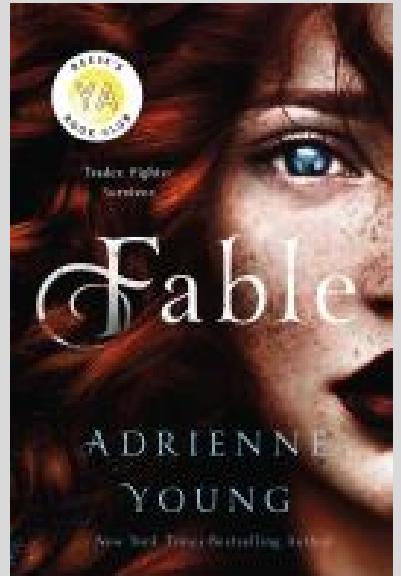
From the publisher: "In a futuristic America, social media is held in check by the Hive that draws mobs together to mete out real-life justice for people's online actions--and it's legal. High school senior Cassie McKinney believes in the Hive until grief over her father's death makes her post an edgy joke online that goes viral and the Hive turns on her. Cassie goes on the run and becomes part of a group of Hive outcasts who show her the truth behind the Hive."



Today Tonight Tomorrow by Rachel Lynn Solomon

Fiction: love stories Interest Level: High school/young adult

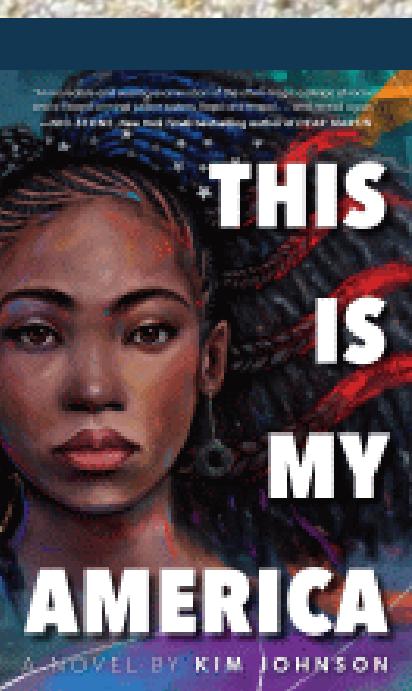
From the publisher: "It's the last day of senior year. Rowan Roth and Neil McNair have been rivals throughout high school and now there's one last competition between them: who will be named valedictorian. After Neil is named valedictorian, Rowan has one last chance to beat him at something: Howl, a senior class scavenger hunt that leads students all over Seattle. When Rowan learns that a group of her fellow seniors are teaming up to take down her and Neil, she agrees to team up with Neil in order to win. But as Rowan spends more time with Neil, she begins to see a different side to him--one that she might just fall in love with."



Fable by Adrienne Young

Fiction: fantasy Interest Level: High school/young adult

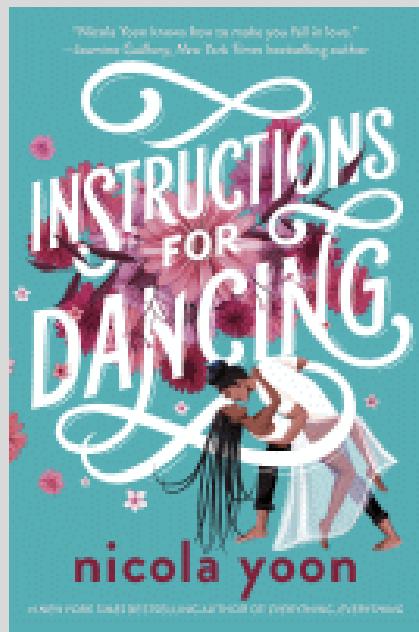
From the publisher: "Seventeen-year-old Fable is the daughter of the most powerful trader in the Narrows, but her father left her on a legendary island filled with dangers after her mother drowned. Fable is determined to get off the island, find her father, and take her rightful place alongside him. When she meets a young trader named West, she embarks on a perilous journey to reach her father with West and his crew. But Fable soon discovers that West hasn't been entirely honest with her, and they must endure more than the treacherous sea to survive."



This is My America by Kim Johnson

Fiction: realistic Interest Level: High school/young adult

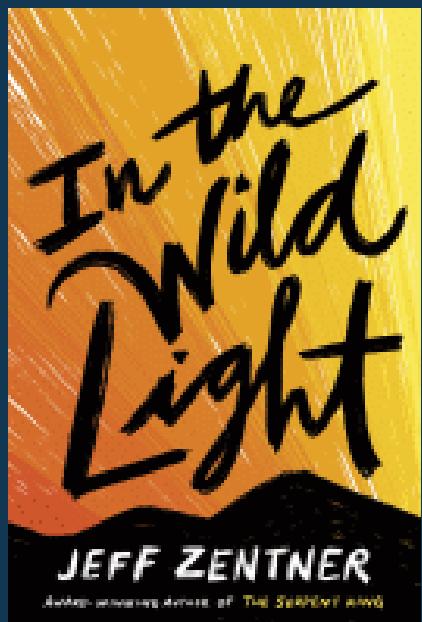
From the publisher: "Desperate to gain the attention of an organization that helps overturn wrongful convictions, seventeen-year-old Tracy Beaumont uses an interview of her track star brother to plead her jailed father's innocence. The event has unintended consequences for her brother, when his girlfriend winds up murdered and he's the prime suspect. Tracy ends up fighting battles on both fronts and her investigations into her brother's and father's innocence uncovers entrenched racism in her hometown."



Instructions for Dancing by Nicola Yoon

Fiction: love stories Interest Level: High school/young adult

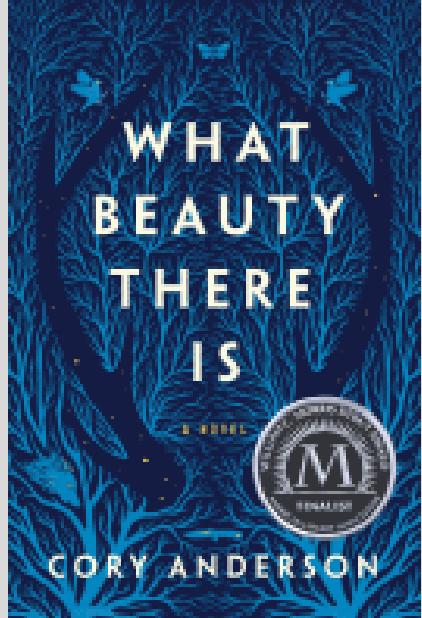
From the publisher: "Swearing off love after her father's affair, high school senior Evie Thomas begins having visions of happy couples' breakups after seeing them together. Having given up her romance novels, she reads "Instructions for Dancing" and signs up for dance classes at a local studio. There she meets X, who becomes her dance partner, teaching her to forgive and open up her heart again."



In the Wild Light by Jeff Zentner

Fiction: realistic Interest Level: High school/young adult

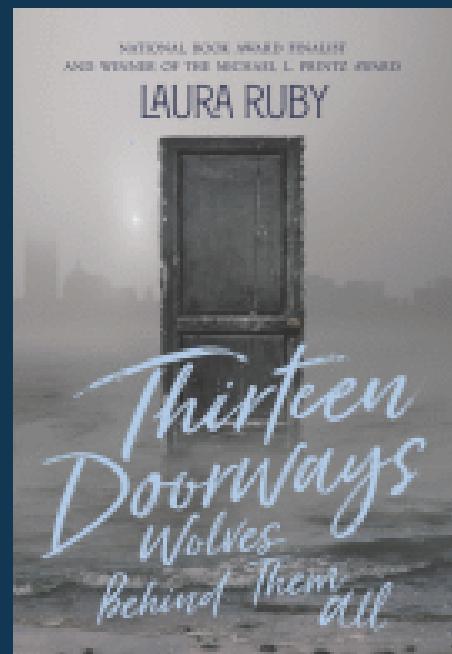
From the publisher: "An Appalachian teen named Cash who lost his mother to an opioid overdose spends his time caring for his grandparents and protecting his best friend Delaney. When Delaney secures a way out of the dead-end town with a scholarships to an elite Connecticut prep school, Cash must reckon with his feelings of obligation towards his grandparents, his desire to protect Delaney, and the possibility of a more hopeful future."



What Beauty There Is by Cory Anderson

Fiction: mystery and crime Interest Level: High school/young adult

From the publisher: "Jack Dahl, 17, desperately tries to protect his younger brother Matty from being taken away from him after his mother dies. Fleeing into Idaho's cold mountains, Jack begins a desperate search for drug money hidden by his father before his arrest. On his trail is his father's ruthless partner, Victor Bardem, who will stop at nothing to get the money for himself. Jack finds an unexpected ally in Victor's daughter Ava, whom Victor abusively controls. Unaware who she is, Jack accepts Ava's help, but Ava knows how ruthless her father is and worries they are doomed to fail unless she learns to speak up for the brothers."



Thirteen Doorways, Wolves Behind Them All by Laura Ruby

Fiction: fantasy Interest Level: High school/young adult

From the publisher: "From the author of Printz Medal winner Bone Gap comes the unforgettable story of two young women—one living, one dead—dealing with loss, desire, and the fragility of the American dream during WWII."

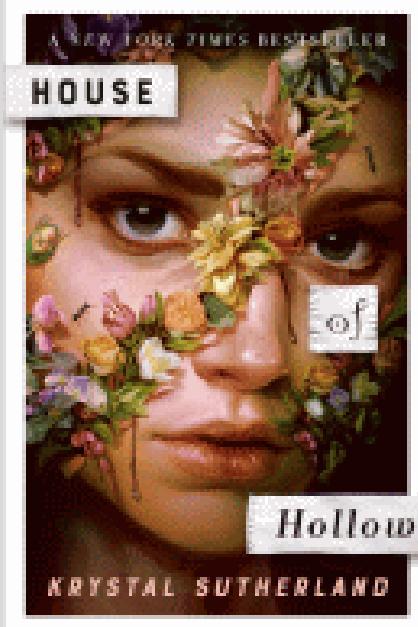
When Frankie's mother died and her father left her and her siblings at an orphanage in Chicago, it was supposed to be only temporary—just long enough for him to get back on his feet and be able to provide for them once again. That's why Frankie's not prepared for the day that he arrives for his weekend visit with a new woman on his arm and out-of-state train tickets in his pocket.

Now Frankie and her sister, Toni, are abandoned alongside so many other orphans—two young, unwanted women doing everything they can to survive.

And as the embers of the Great Depression are kindled into the fires of World War II, and the shadows of injustice, poverty, and death walk the streets in broad daylight, it will be up to Frankie to find something worth holding on to in the ruins of this shattered America—every minute of every day spent wondering if the life she's able to carve out will be enough.

I will admit I do not know the answer. But I will be watching, waiting to find out.

That's what ghosts do."



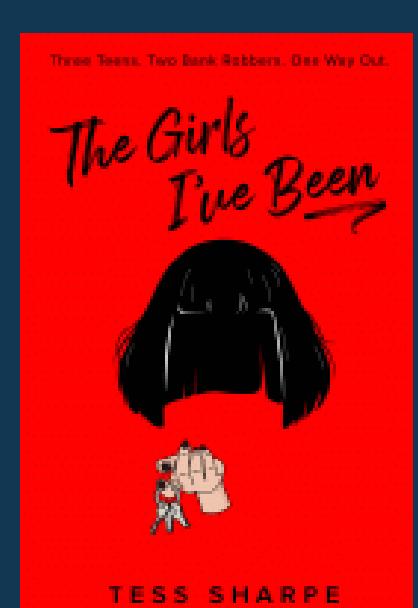
House of Hollow by Krystal Sutherland

Fiction: fantasy Interest Level: High school/young adult

From the publisher: "A dark, twisty modern fairytale where three sisters discover they are not exactly all that they seem and evil things really do go bump in the night."

Iris Hollow and her two older sisters are unquestionably strange. Ever since they disappeared on a suburban street in Scotland as children only to return a month later with no memory of what happened to them, odd, eerie occurrences seem to follow in their wake. And they're changing. First, their dark hair turned white. Then, their blue eyes slowly turned black. They have insatiable appetites yet never gain weight. People find them disturbingly intoxicating, unbearably beautiful, and inexplicably dangerous.

But now, ten years later, seventeen-year-old Iris Hollow is doing all she can to fit in and graduate high school on time--something her two famously glamourous globe-trotting older sisters, Grey and Vivi, never managed to do. But when Grey goes missing without a trace, leaving behind bizarre clues as to what might have happened, Iris and Vivi are left to trace her last few days. They aren't the only ones looking for her though. As they brush against the supernatural they realize that the story they've been told about their past is unraveling and the world that returned them seemingly unharmed ten years ago, might just be calling them home."

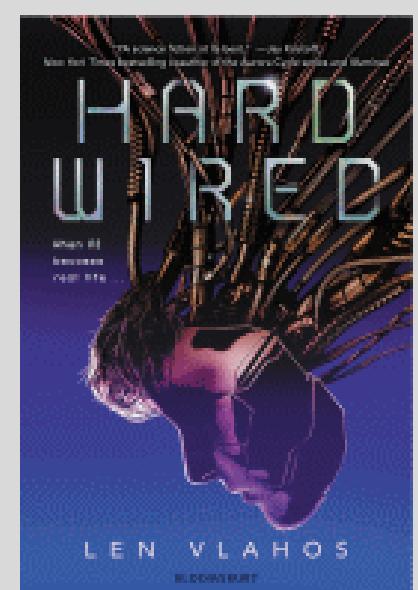


The Girls I've Been by Tess Sharpe

Fiction: mystery/suspense Interest Level: High school/young adult

From the publisher: "Soon to be a Netflix film starring Millie Bobby Brown! In this feminist, suspenseful thriller the daughter of a con artist is taken hostage in a bank heist—and will need to tap into all her skills in order to survive."

Eighteen-year-old Nora O'Malley didn't intend for a routine trip to the bank with good friends to turn awkward. Even though they're no longer dating and have remained friends, her ex Wes walks in on Nora kissing their mutual friend Iris, whom she's been secretly dating. However, awkward quickly turns to deadly when bank robbers enter the picture and hold them hostage. Soon another secret from Nora's past comes to the forefront--her former life as a con artist trained by her mother--and her skills may very well save their lives."



Hard Wired by Len Vlahos

Fiction: science fiction Interest Level: High school/young adult

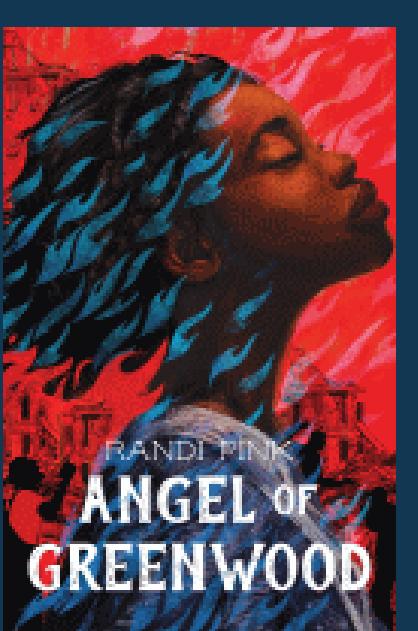
From the publisher: "From acclaimed Morris finalist Len Vlahos comes a grounded sci-fi story about a boy who's more than human, perfect for fans of Westworld and LIFEL1K3."

Quinn thinks he's a normal fifteen year-old. He plays video games, spends time with his friends, and crushes on a girl named Shea. But a shocking secret brings his entire world crashing down: he's not a boy. He's artificial intelligence.

After Quinn "wakes up," he sees his world was nothing more than a virtual construct. He's the QUantum INtelligence Project, the first fully-aware A.I. in the world--part of a grand multi-billion-dollar experiment led by the very man he believed to be his dead father.

But as Quinn encounters the real world for the first time, his life becomes a nightmare. While the scientists continue to experiment on him, Quinn must come to grips with the truth: his mom and brother don't exist. His friends are all adults who were paid to hang out with him. Even other super computers aren't like him. Quinn finds himself completely alone--until he bonds with Shea, the real girl behind the virtual one. As Quinn explores what it means to truly live, he questions who he can trust. What will it take to win his freedom . . . and where does he belong?

Award-winning author Len Vlahos offers a perfect blend of science fiction and contemporary in this unputdownable, high stakes tale that explores big questions about what it means to be human."



Angel of Greenwood by Randi Pink

Fiction: science fiction

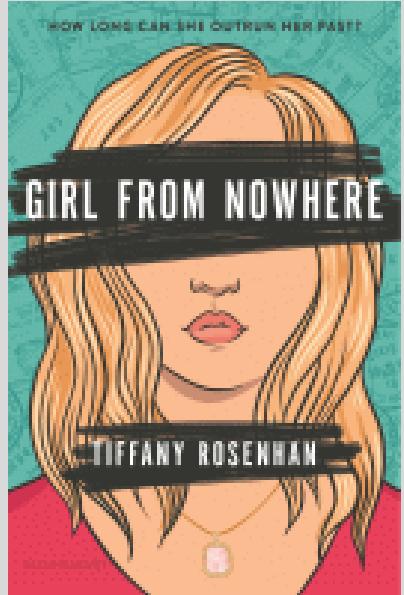
Interest Level: High school/young adult

From the publisher: "Angel of Greenwood by Randi Pink is a piercing, unforgettable love story set in Greenwood, Oklahoma, also known as the "Black Wall Street," and against the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921."

Isaiah Wilson is, on the surface, a town troublemaker, but is hiding that he is an avid reader and secret poet, never leaving home without his journal. Angel Hill is a loner, mostly disregarded by her peers as a goody-goody. Her father is dying, and her family's financial situation is in turmoil.

Though they've attended the same schools, Isaiah never noticed Angel as anything but a dorky, Bible toting church girl. Then their English teacher offers them a job on her mobile library, a three-wheel, two-seater bike. Angel can't turn down the money and Isaiah is soon eager to be in such close quarters with Angel every afternoon.

But life changes on May 31, 1921 when a vicious white mob storms the Black community of Greenwood, leaving the town destroyed and thousands of residents displaced. Only then, Isaiah, Angel, and their peers realize who their real enemies are."



Girl from Nowhere by Randi Pink

Fiction: action/adventure

Interest Level: High school/young adult

FLORIDA
TEENS
READ
2022-2023

From the publisher: "Ninety-four countries. Thirty-one schools. Two bullets. Now it's over . . . or so she thinks.

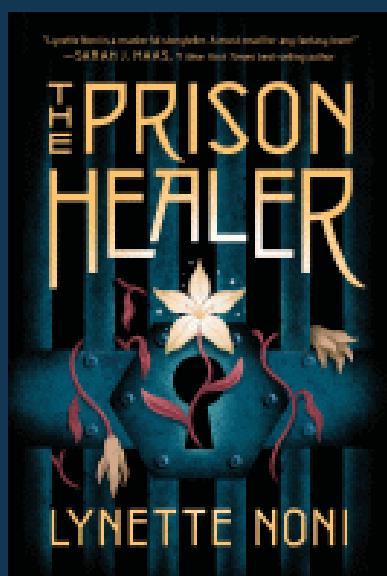
Sophia Hepworth has spent her life all over the world--moving quickly, never staying in one place for too long. She knows to always look over her shoulder, to be able to fight to survive at a moment's notice. She has trained to be ready for anything.

Except this. Suddenly it's over. Now Sophia is expected to attend high school in a sleepy Montana town. She is told to forget the past, but she's haunted by it. As hard as she tries to be like her new friends and live a normal life, she can't shake the feeling that this new normal won't last.

Then comes strong and silent Aksel, whose skills match Sophia's, and who seems to know more about her than he's letting on . . .

What if everything Sophia thought she knew about her past is a lie?

Cinematic and breathtaking, Tiffany Rosenhan's debut stars a fierce heroine who will risk everything to save the life she has built for herself."



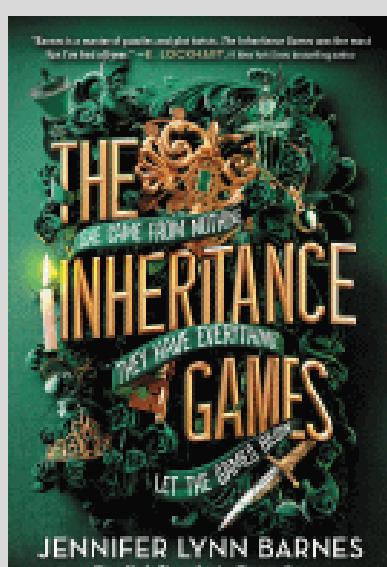
The Prison Healer by Lynette Noni

Fiction: fantasy

Interest Level: High school/young adult

FLORIDA
TEENS
READ
2022-2023

From the publisher: "Kiva Meridan has spent the last decade in the death prison, Zalindov, as the prison healer. She is tasked with the care of the terminally ill Rebel Queen who is sentenced to be subjected to the Trial by Ordeal, a series of elemental challenges. But everything changes when Kiva receives a message from her family telling her to save the queen at all costs. Kiva volunteers to take her place with the promise that if she survives, she and the queen will be released. The only problem is no one has ever survived the trial."



The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

Fiction: fantasy

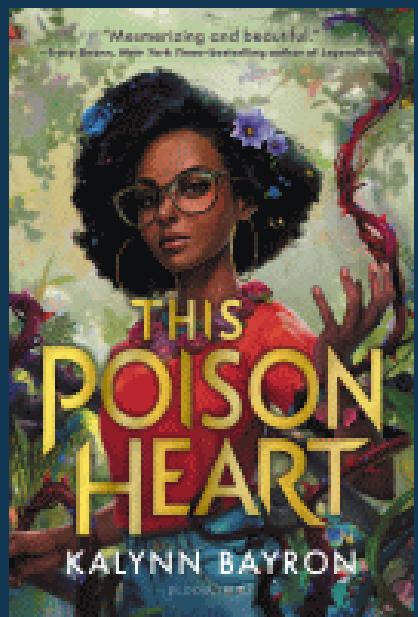
Interest Level: High school/young adult

FLORIDA
TEENS
READ
2022-2023

From the publisher: "Don't miss this New York Times bestselling "impossible to put down" (Buzzfeed) novel with deadly stakes, thrilling twists, and juicy secrets--perfect for fans of One of Us is Lying and Knives Out."

Avery Grambs has a plan for a better future: survive high school, win a scholarship, and get out. But her fortunes change in an instant when billionaire Tobias Hawthorne dies and leaves Avery virtually his entire fortune. The catch? Avery has no idea why -- or even who Tobias Hawthorne is.

To receive her inheritance, Avery must move into sprawling, secret passage-filled Hawthorne House, where every room bears the old man's touch -- and his love of puzzles, riddles, and codes. Unfortunately for Avery, Hawthorne House is also occupied by the family that Tobias Hawthorne just dispossessed. This includes the four Hawthorne grandsons: dangerous, magnetic, brilliant boys who grew up with every expectation that one day, they would inherit billions. Heir apparent Grayson Hawthorne is convinced that Avery must be a conwoman, and he's determined to take her down. His brother, Jameson, views her as their grandfather's last hurrah: a twisted riddle, a puzzle to be solved. Caught in a world of wealth and privilege, with danger around every turn, Avery will have to play the game herself just to survive."



This Poison Heart by Kalynn Bayron

Fiction: fantasy

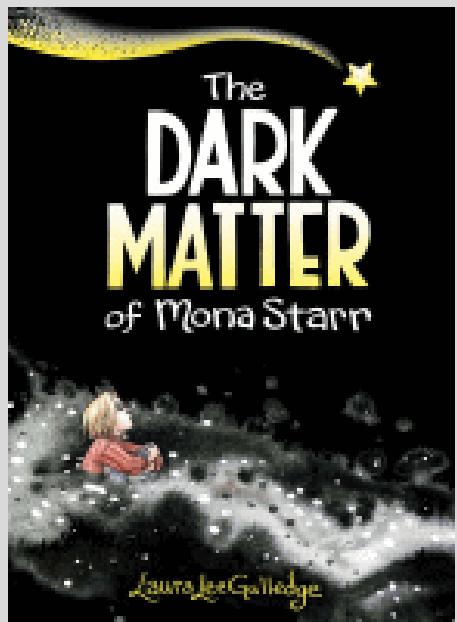
Interest Level: High school/young adult

From the publisher: "Darkness blooms in bestselling author Kalynn Bayron's new contemporary fantasy about a girl with a unique and deadly power."

Briseis has a gift: with a single touch she can grow plants from tiny seeds to rich blooms.

When Briseis's aunt dies and wills her a dilapidated estate in rural New York, Bri and her parents hope that surrounded by plants and flowers, she will finally learn to control her gift. But their new home is sinister in ways they never expected—it comes with a mysterious set of instructions, a walled garden filled with the deadliest botanicals in the world, and generations of secrets. There is more to Bri's sudden inheritance than she could have imagined, and she is determined to uncover it.

From the bestselling author of *Cinderella Is Dead* comes an enchanting story about a young woman with the power to conquer the dark forces descending around her."



The Dark Matter of Mona Starr by Laura Lee Gulledge

Fiction: graphic novel

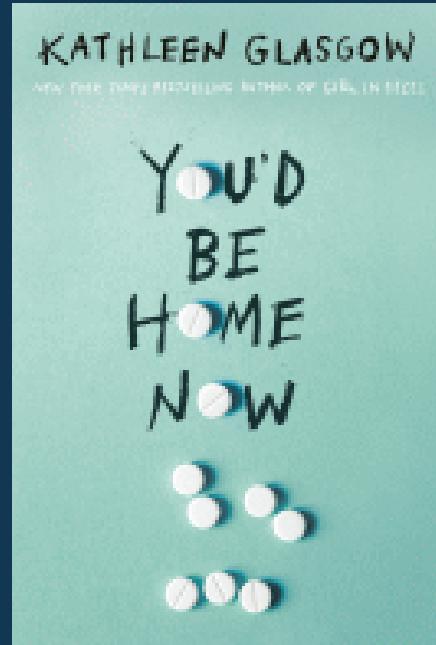
Interest Level: High school/young adult

From the publisher: "A bold and original YA graphic novel about one teen's battle to understand her mental illness—and find her creative genius."

Sometimes, the world is too much for Mona Starr. She's sweet, geeky, and creative, but it's hard for her to make friends and connect with other people, and her depression seems to take on a vivid, concrete form. She calls it her Matter.

The Matter seems to be everywhere, telling Mona she's not good enough and that everyone around her wishes she'd go away. But with therapy, art, writing, and the persistence of a few good friends, Mona starts to understand her Matter and how she can turn her fears into strengths.

Heartfelt, emotionally vulnerable, and visually stunning, *The Dark Matter of Mona Starr* is a story about battling your inner doubts and fears—and finding your creative genius."



You'D Be Home Now by Kathleen Glasgow

Fiction: realistic

Interest Level: High school/young adult

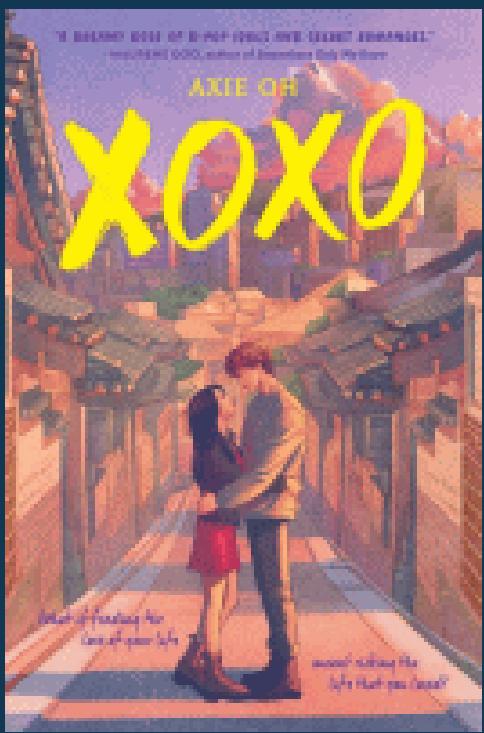
From the publisher: "From the New York Times bestselling author of *Girl in Pieces* comes a stunning novel that *Vanity Fair* calls "impossibly moving" and "suffused with light". In this raw, deeply personal story, a teenaged girl struggles to find herself amidst the fallout of her brother's addiction in a town ravaged by the opioid crisis."

For all of Emory's life she's been told who she is. In town she's the rich one—the great-great-granddaughter of the mill's founder. At school she's hot Maddie Ward's younger sister. And at home, she's the good one, her stoner older brother Joey's babysitter. Everything was turned on its head, though, when she and Joey were in the car accident that killed Candy MontClaire. The car accident that revealed just how bad Joey's drug habit was.

Four months later, Emmy's junior year is starting, Joey is home from rehab, and the entire town of Mill Haven is still reeling from the accident. Everyone's telling Emmy who she is, but so much has changed, how can she be the same person? Or was she ever that person at all?

Mill Haven wants everyone to live one story, but Emmy's beginning to see that people are more than they appear. Her brother, who might not be "cured," the popular guy who lives next door, and most of all, many "ghostie" addicts who haunt the edges of the town. People spend so much time telling her who she is—it might be time to decide for herself.

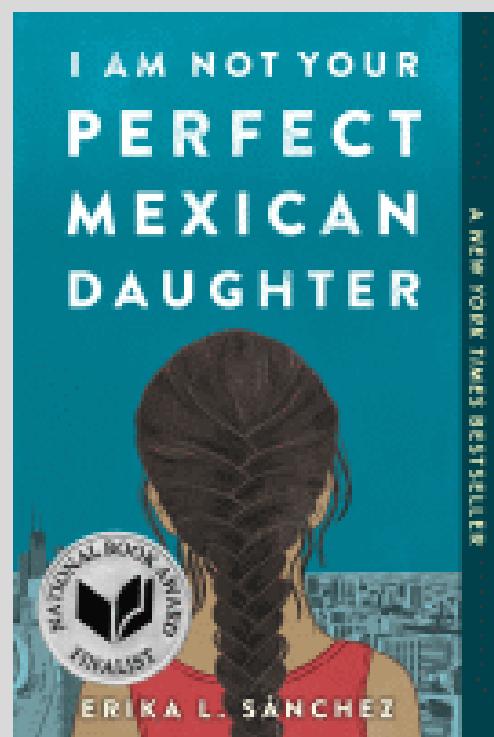
A journey of one sister, one brother, one family, to finally recognize and love each other for who they are, not who they are supposed to be, *You'D Be Home Now* is Kathleen Glasgow's glorious and heartbreakng story about the opioid crisis, and how it touches all of us."



XOXO by Axie Oh

Fiction: love stories Interest Level: High school/young adult

From the publisher: "Jenny, a classically trained cellist, meets the handsome Jaewoo and enjoys one evening with him wandering Los Angeles on the night before his flight back home to South Korea. Then Jenny and her mother move to Seoul to care for her ailing grandmother and Jenny meets Jaewoo again at the elite arts academy where they both attend school. Jenny is shocked to learn that Jaewoo is a member of the biggest K-pop band in the world and is strictly forbidden from dating anyone. Now Jenny and Jaewoo must decide if their love is worth risking her place at her dream music school and his successful career."



I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika L. Sanchez

Fiction: realistic Interest level: High school/young adult

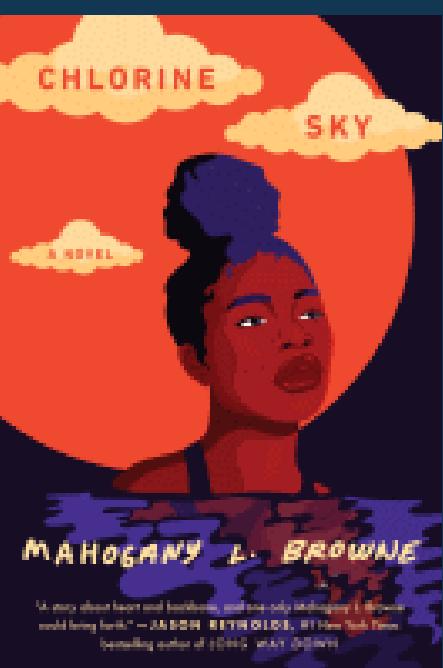
From the publisher: "Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never abandon their family.

But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role.

Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out every possible way Julia has failed.

But it's not long before Julia discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. With the help of her best friend, Lorena, and her first love (first everything), Connor, Julia is determined to find out. Was Olga really what she seemed? Or was there more to her sister's story? And either way, how can Julia even attempt to live up to a seemingly impossible ideal?"

NATIONAL
BOOK
AWARD
FINALIST

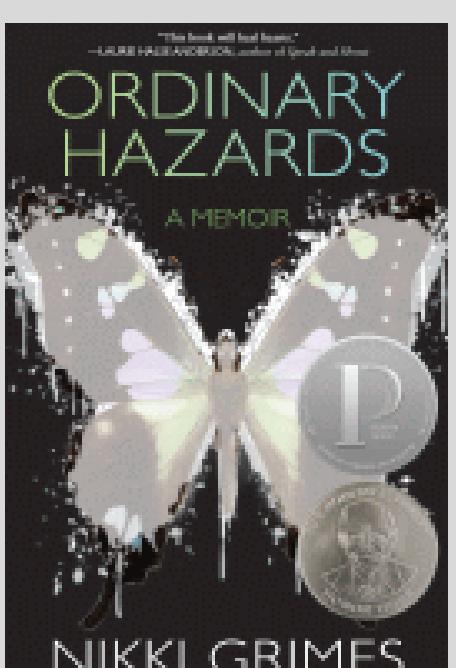


Chlorine Sky by Mahogany L. Browne

Fiction: realistic Interest level: High school/young adult

From the publisher: "From the first ever poet-in-residence at Lincoln Center comes a bold coming-of-age story told in verse about a young woman who loses a best friend, but finds herself in the process. The joys of basketball, the tumult of high school, and the bonds of family are lyrically woven together in this must-read novel."

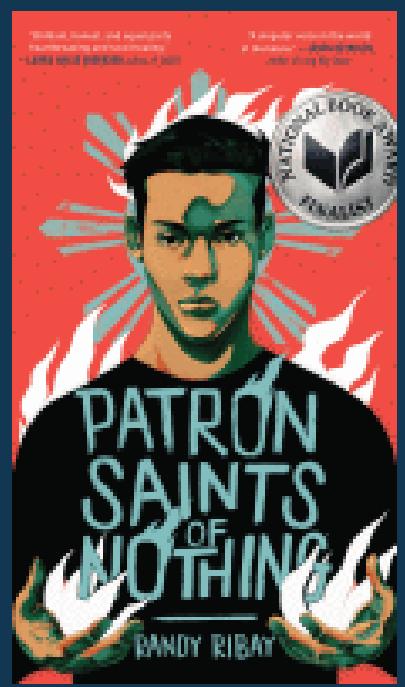
PRINTZ
HONOR
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ROBERT F.
SIBERT
HONOR
BOOK,
BOSTON
GLOBE/HORN
HONOR
BOOK



Ordinary Hazards by Nikki Grimes

Memoir Interest level: High school/young adult

From the publisher: "Told in verse, African American author and poet Nikki Grimes chronicles her childhood as the daughter of a schizophrenic mother and absent father, as well as the abuse she suffered at the hands of babysitters and foster families. She also discusses how magical and cathartic writing is in her life and how it got her through tough times throughout her young life."



Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay

Fiction: realistic Interest level: High school/young adult

From the publisher: "A powerful coming-of-age story about grief, guilt, and the risks a Filipino-American teenager takes to uncover the truth about his cousin's murder."

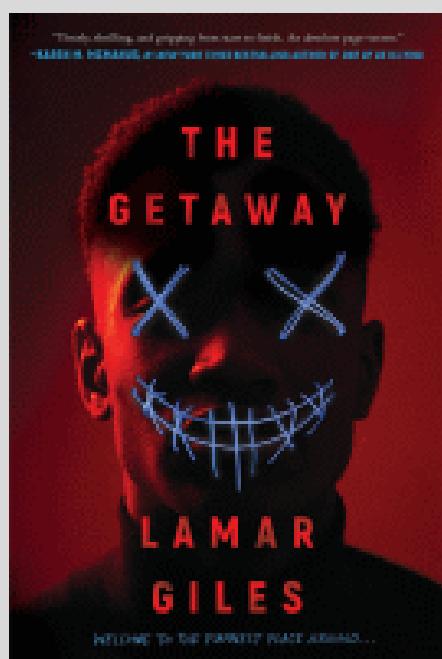
Jay Reguero plans to spend the last semester of his senior year playing video games before heading to the University of Michigan in the fall. But when he discovers that his Filipino cousin Jun was murdered as part of President Duterte's war on drugs, and no one in the family wants to talk about what happened, Jay travels to the Philippines to find out the real story.

Hoping to uncover more about Jun and the events that led to his death, Jay is forced to reckon with the many sides of his cousin before he can face the whole horrible truth -- and the part he played in it.

As gripping as it is lyrical, *Patron Saints of Nothing* is a page-turning portrayal of the struggle to reconcile faith, family, and immigrant identity."

ALA BEST
FICTION FOR
YOUNG
ADULTS 2022-
2023

FLORIDA TEENS
READ AWARD
NOMINEE
2023-2024



The Getaway by Lamar Giles

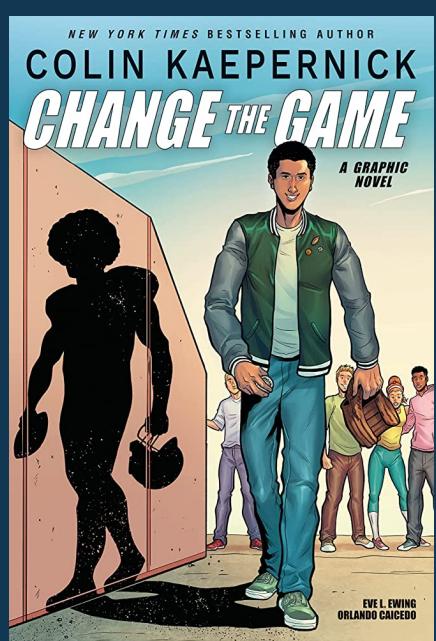
Fiction: Horror and Suspense Interest level: High school/young adult

From the publisher: "Jay is living his best life at Karloff Country, one of the world's most famous resorts. He's got his family, his crew, and an incredible after-school job at the property's main theme park. Life isn't so great for the rest of the world, but when people come here to vacation, it's to get away from all that."

As things outside get worse, trouble starts seeping into Karloff. First, Jay's friend Connie and her family disappear in the middle of the night and no one will talk about it. Then the richest and most powerful families start arriving, only... they aren't leaving. Unknown to the employees, the resort has been selling shares in an end-of-the-world oasis. The best of the best at the end of days. And in order to deliver the top-notch customer service the wealthy clientele paid for, the employees will be at their total beck and call.

Whether they like it or not.

Yet Karloff Country didn't count on Jay and his crew--and just how far they'll go to find out the truth and save themselves. But what's more dangerous: the monster you know in your home or the unknown nightmare outside the walls?"



Change the Game by Colin Kaepernick

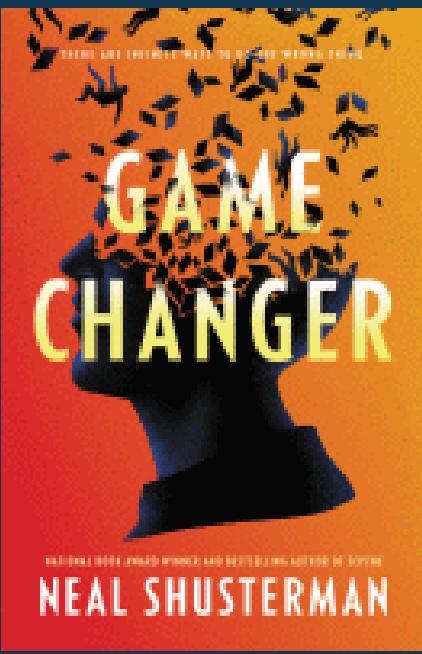
Fiction: graphic memoir, sports Interest level: High school/young adult

From the publisher: "Colin Kaepernick: Change the Game is an inspiring high school graphic novel memoir for readers 12 and up from celebrated athlete and activist Colin Kaepernick."

High school star athlete Colin Kaepernick is at a crossroads in life. Heavily scouted by colleges and MLB as a baseball pitcher, he has a bright future ahead of him as a highly touted prospect. Everyone from his parents to his teachers and coaches are in agreement on his future. Colin feels differently.

Colin isn't excited about baseball. In the words of five-time all-star MLB player Adam Jones, "Baseball is a white man's game." Colin looks up to athletes like Allen Iverson: talented, hyper-competitive, unapologetically Black, and dominating their sports while staying true to themselves. College football looks a lot more fun than sleeping on hotel room floors in the minor leagues of baseball. But Colin doesn't have a single offer to play football. Yet.

This touching graphic novel explores the story of how a young change-maker learned to find himself and never compromise. How the right decision is very rarely the easy one, but taking the road less traveled can make all the difference in the world."



GAME CHANGER by SHUSTERMAN, NEAL

Fiction: science fiction Interest level: High school, young adult

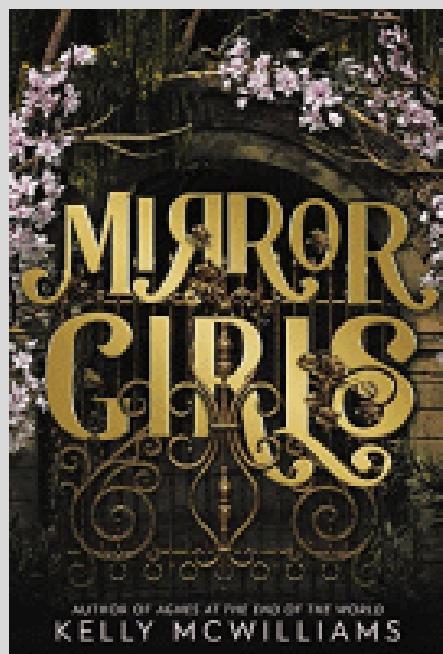
From the publisher: "All it takes is one hit on the football field, and suddenly Ash's life doesn't look quite the way he remembers it.

Impossible though it seems, he's been hit into another dimension—and keeps on bouncing through worlds that are almost-but-not-really his own.

The changes start small, but they quickly spiral out of control as Ash slides into universes where he has everything he's ever wanted, universes where society is stuck in the past...universes where he finds himself looking at life through entirely different eyes.

And if he isn't careful, the world he's learning to see more clearly could blink out of existence...

This high-concept novel from the National Book Award-winning and New York Times-bestselling author of the Arc of a Scythe series tackles the most urgent themes of our time, making this a must-buy for readers who are starting to ask big questions about their own role in the universe."



MIRROR GIRLS by MCWILLIAMS, KELLY

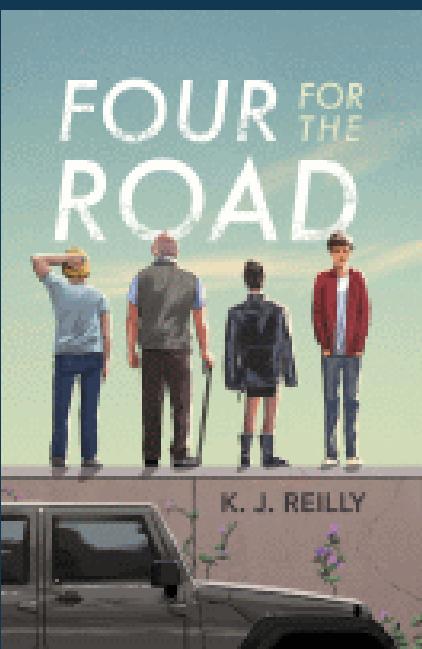
Fiction: fantasy Interest level: High school, young adult

From the publisher: "A thrilling gothic horror novel about biracial twin sisters separated at birth, perfect for fans of Lovecraft Country and The Vanishing Half.

As infants, twin sisters Charlie Yates and Magnolia Heathwood were secretly separated after the brutal lynching of their parents, who died for loving across the color line. Now, at the dawn of the Civil Rights Movement, Charlie is a young Black organizer in Harlem, while white-passing Magnolia is the heiress to a cotton plantation in rural Georgia.

Magnolia knows nothing of her racial heritage, but secrets are hard to keep in a town haunted by the ghosts of its slave-holding past. When Magnolia finally learns the truth, her reflection mysteriously disappears from mirrors—the sign of a terrible curse. Meanwhile, in Harlem, Charlie's beloved grandmother falls ill. Her final wish is to be buried back home in Georgia—and, unbeknownst to Charlie, to see her long-lost granddaughter, Magnolia Heathwood, one last time. So Charlie travels into the Deep South, confronting the land of her worst nightmares—and Jim Crow segregation.

The sisters reunite as teenagers in the deeply haunted town of Eureka, Georgia, where ghosts linger centuries after their time and dangers lurk behind every mirror. They couldn't be more different, but they will need each other to put the hauntings of the past to rest, to break the mirrors' deadly curse—and to discover the meaning of sisterhood in a racially divided land."



FOUR FOR THE ROAD by REILLY, KJ

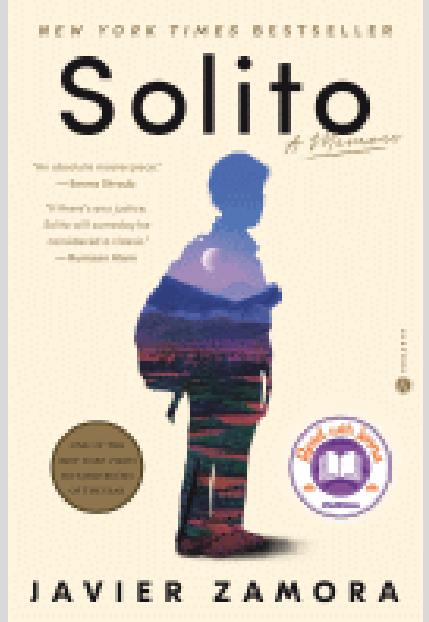
Fiction: realistic Interest level: High school, young adult

From the publisher: "Asher Hunting wants revenge.

Specifically, he wants revenge on the drunk driver who killed his mom and got off on a technicality. No one seems to think this is healthy, though, which is how he ends up in a bereavement group (well, bereavement groups. He goes to several.) It's there he makes some unexpected friends: There's Sloane, who lost her dad to cancer; Will, who lost his little brother to a different kind of cancer; and eighty-year-old Henry, who was married to his wife for fifty years until she decided to die on her own terms. And it's these three who Asher invites on a road trip from New Jersey to Graceland. Asher doesn't tell them that he's planning to steal his dad's car, or the real reason that he wants to go to Tennessee (spoiler alert: it's revenge)—but then again, the others don't share their reasons for going, either.

Complete with unexpected revelations, lots of chicken Caesar salads at roadside restaurants, a stolen motorcycle, and an epic kiss at a rest stop minimart, what begins as the road trip to revenge might just turn into a path towards forgiveness."

ALA BEST
FICTION FOR
YOUNG
ADULTS 2023



SOLITO by ZAMORA, JAVIER

memoir, nonfiction Interest level: adult crossover

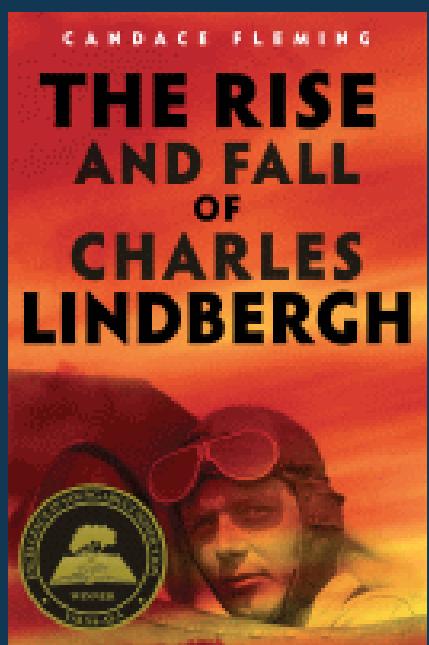
From the publisher: "Trip. My parents started using that word about a year ago—"one day, you'll take a trip to be with us. Like an adventure."

Javier Zamora's adventure is a three-thousand-mile journey from his small town in El Salvador, through Guatemala and Mexico, and across the U.S. border. He will leave behind his beloved aunt and grandparents to reunite with a mother who left four years ago and a father he barely remembers. Traveling alone amid a group of strangers and a "coyote" hired to lead them to safety, Javier expects his trip to last two short weeks.

At nine years old, all Javier can imagine is rushing into his parents' arms, snuggling in bed between them, and living under the same roof again. He cannot foresee the perilous boat trips, relentless desert treks, pointed guns, arrests and deceptions that await him; nor can he know that those two weeks will expand into two life-altering months alongside fellow migrants who will come to encircle him like an unexpected family.

A memoir as gripping as it is moving, *Solito* provides an immediate and intimate account not only of a treacherous and near-impossible journey, but also of the miraculous kindness and love delivered at the most unexpected moments. *Solito* is Javier Zamora's story, but it's also the story of millions of others who had no choice but to leave home."

PEN/JOHN
KENNETH
GALBRAITH AWARD
FOR NONFICTION,
LONGLISTED FOR
THE ANDREW
CARNEGIE MEDAL
FOR EXCELLENCE,
WINNER OF THE
AMERICAN
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION ALEX
AWARD



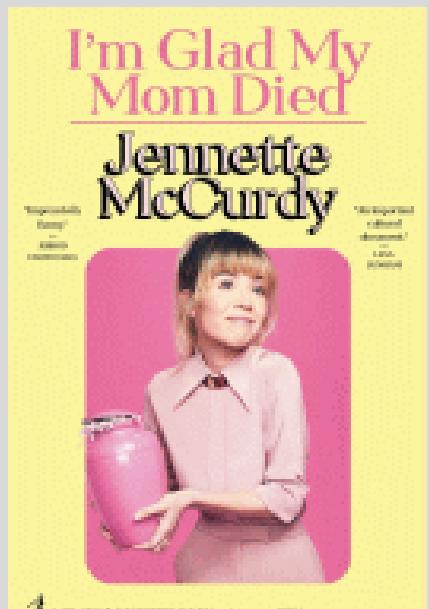
THE RISE AND FALL OF CHARLES LINDBERGH by FLEMING, CANDACE

narrative nonfiction Interest level: High school, young adult

From the publisher: "Discover the dark side of Charles Lindbergh—one of America's most celebrated heroes and complicated men—in this riveting biography from the acclaimed author of *The Family Romanov*.

WINNER OF
THE 2021
YALSA
AWARD FOR
EXCELLENCE
IN
NONFICTION
FOR YOUNG
ADULTS

First human to cross the Atlantic via airplane; one of the first American media sensations; Nazi sympathizer and anti-Semite; loner whose baby was kidnapped and murdered; champion of Eugenics, the science of improving a human population by controlled breeding; tireless environmentalist. Charles Lindbergh was all of the above and more. Here is a rich, multi-faceted, utterly spellbinding biography about an American hero who was also a deeply flawed man. In this time where values Lindbergh held, like white Nationalism and America First, are once again on the rise, *The Rise and Fall of Charles Lindbergh* is essential reading for teens and history fanatics alike."



I'M GLAD MY MOM DIED by MCCURDY, JENNETTE

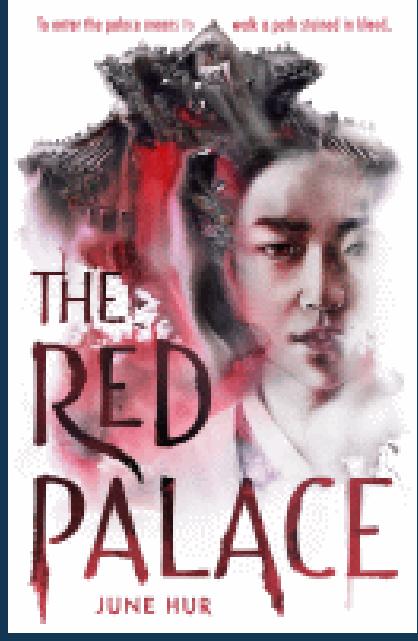
Nonfiction: memoir Interest level: adult crossover

From the publisher: "A heartbreakingly honest memoir by iCarly and Sam & Cat star Jennette McCurdy about her struggles as a former child actor—including eating disorders, addiction, and a complicated relationship with her overbearing mother—and how she retook control of her life."

Jennette McCurdy was six years old when she had her first acting audition. Her mother's dream was for her only daughter to become a star, and Jennette would do anything to make her mother happy. So she went along with what Mom called "calorie restriction," eating little and weighing herself five times a day. She endured extensive at-home makeovers while Mom chided, "Your eyelashes are invisible, okay? You think Dakota Fanning doesn't tint hers?" She was even showered by Mom until age sixteen while sharing her diaries, email, and all her income.

In *I'm Glad My Mom Died*, Jennette recounts all this in unflinching detail—just as she chronicles what happens when the dream finally comes true. Cast in a new Nickelodeon series called *iCarly*, she is thrust into fame. Though Mom is ecstatic, emailing fan club moderators and getting on a first-name basis with the paparazzi ("Hi Gale!"), Jennette is riddled with anxiety, shame, and self-loathing, which manifest into eating disorders, addiction, and a series of unhealthy relationships. These issues only get worse when, soon after taking the lead in the *iCarly* spinoff *Sam & Cat* alongside Ariana Grande, her mother dies of cancer. Finally, after discovering therapy and quitting acting, Jennette embarks on recovery and decides for the first time in her life what she really wants.

Told with refreshing candor and dark humor, *I'm Glad My Mom Died* is an inspiring story of resilience, independence, and the joy of shampooing your own hair."



THE RED PALACE by HUR, JUNE

Fiction: historical fiction, mystery Interest level: High school, young adult

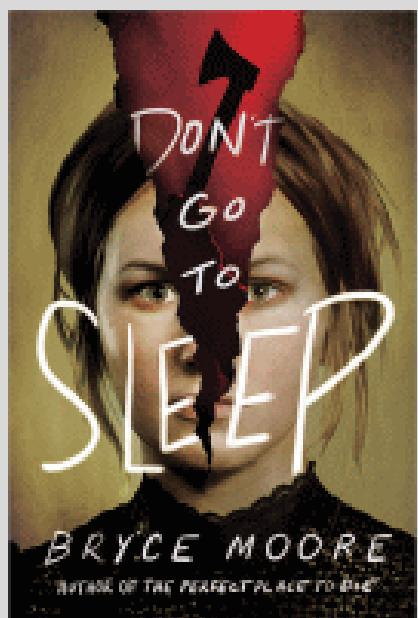
From the publisher: "June Hur, critically acclaimed author of *The Silence of Bones* and *The Forest of Stolen Girls*, returns with *The Red Palace*—a third evocative, atmospheric historical mystery perfect for fans of Courtney Summers and Kerri Maniscalco.

To enter the palace means to walk a path stained in blood...

Joseon (Korea), 1758. There are few options available to illegitimate daughters in the capital city, but through hard work and study, eighteen-year-old Hyeon has earned a position as a palace nurse. All she wants is to keep her head down, do a good job, and perhaps finally win her estranged father's approval.

But Hyeon is suddenly thrust into the dark and dangerous world of court politics when someone murders four women in a single night, and the prime suspect is Hyeon's closest friend and mentor. Determined to prove her beloved teacher's innocence, Hyeon launches her own secret investigation.

In her hunt for the truth, she encounters Eojin, a young police inspector also searching for the killer. When evidence begins to point to the Crown Prince himself as the murderer, Hyeon and Eojin must work together to search the darkest corners of the palace to uncover the deadly secrets behind the bloodshed."



DON'T GO TO SLEEP by MOORE, BRYCE

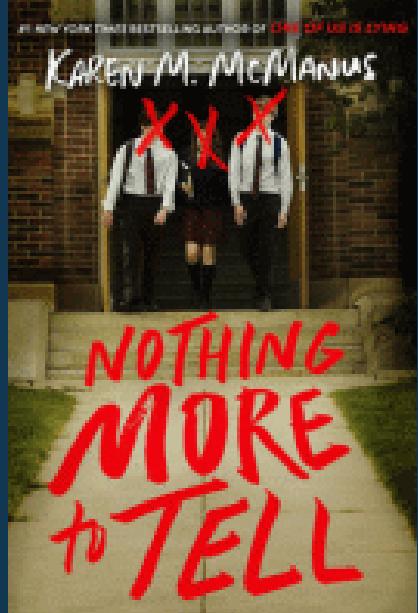
Fiction: historical Interest level: mature young adult

From the publisher: "It's 1918, WW1 is in full swing, and a Spanish Influenza outbreak is on the horizon. In the midst of the chaos, families are being terrorized and people are being killed by a lone man with an axe. As Gianna and her friend Enzo investigate the heinous crimes, she realizes she's connected to the killer in a way she could have never imagined.

Gianna is the average seventeen-year-old girl living in 1918 New Orleans. She worries about her family's store, the great war, and a mysterious illness that's about to take hold of the city she loves.

It doesn't help that there also appears to be a mad man on the loose in her neighborhood. The attacks started as burglaries but soon escalate to cold blooded murder. There's a killer out there, and the police can't seem to figure out how to stop him.

Gianna enlists the help of her friend Enzo to investigate. And as they study the crimes, they see a common link between the victims, and Gianna can't help but wonder if it's the same man who attacked her family years before. As Gianna gets closer to the killer, she discovers a connection between them that she never would have suspected."



NOTHING MORE TO TELL by MCMANUS, KAREN M

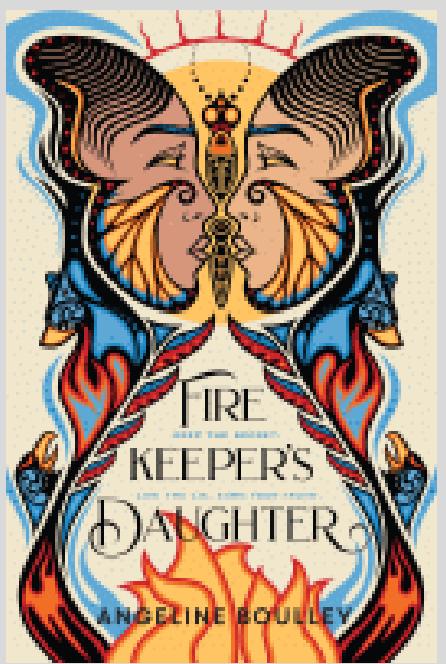
Fiction: mystery and crime Interest level: High school, young adult

From the publisher: "Four years ago, Brynn left Saint Ambrose School following the shocking murder of her favorite teacher—a story that made headlines after the teacher's body was found by three Saint Ambrose students in the woods behind their school. The case was never solved. Now that Brynn is moving home and starting her dream internship at a true-crime show, she's determined to find out what really happened.

The kids who found Mr. Larkin are her way in, and her ex-best friend, Tripp Talbot, was one of them. Without his account of events, the other two kids might have gone down for Mr. Larkin's murder—but instead, thanks to Tripp, they're now at the top of the Saint Ambrose social pyramid. Tripp's friends have never forgotten what Tripp did for them that day, and neither has he. Just like he hasn't forgotten that everything he told the police was a lie.

Digging into the past is bound to shake up the present, and when Brynn begins to investigate what happened in the woods that day, she uncovers secrets that might change everything—about Saint Ambrose, about Mr. Larkin, and about her ex-best friend, Tripp Talbot.

Four years ago someone got away with murder. More terrifying is that they might be closer than anyone thinks."



FIREKEEPER'S DAUGHTER by BOULLEY, ANGELINE

Fiction: mystery and crime Interest level: high school, young adult

From the publisher: "With four starred reviews, Angeline Boulley's debut novel, *Firekeeper's Daughter*, is a groundbreaking YA thriller about a Native teen who must root out the corruption in her community, perfect for readers of Angie Thomas and Tommy Orange."

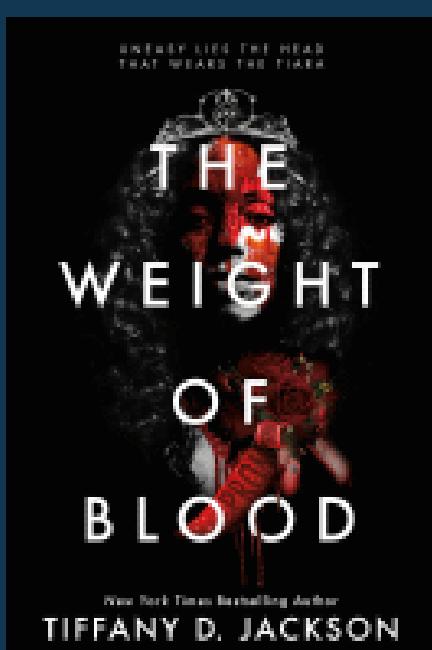
Eighteen-year-old Daunis Fontaine has never quite fit in, both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. She dreams of a fresh start at college, but when family tragedy strikes, Daunis puts her future on hold to look after her fragile mother. The only bright spot is meeting Jamie, the charming new recruit on her brother Levi's hockey team.

Yet even as Daunis falls for Jamie, she senses the dashing hockey star is hiding something. Everything comes to light when Daunis witnesses a shocking murder, thrusting her into an FBI investigation of a lethal new drug.

Reluctantly, Daunis agrees to go undercover, drawing on her knowledge of chemistry and Ojibwe traditional medicine to track down the source. But the search for truth is more complicated than Daunis imagined, exposing secrets and old scars. At the same time, she grows concerned with an investigation that seems more focused on punishing the offenders than protecting the victims.

Now, as the deceptions—and deaths—keep growing, Daunis must learn what it means to be a strong Anishinaabe kwe (Ojibwe woman) and how far she'll go for her community, even if it tears apart the only world she's ever known."

A PRINTZ
MEDAL
WINNER.
A MORRIS
AWARD
WINNER.
AN AMERICAN
INDIAN YOUTH
LITERATURE
AWARD YA
HONOR BOOK



THE WEIGHT OF BLOOD by JACKSON, TIFFANY D

Fiction: horror and suspense Interest level: High school, young adult

From the publisher: "New York Times bestselling author Tiffany D. Jackson ramps up the horror and tackles America's history and legacy of racism in this suspenseful YA novel following a biracial teenager as her Georgia high school hosts its first integrated prom."

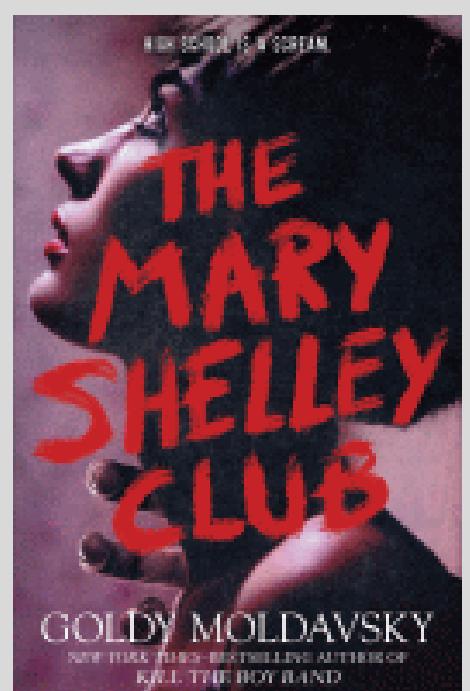
When Springville residents—at least the ones still alive—are questioned about what happened on prom night, they all have the same explanation . . . Maddy did it.

An outcast at her small-town Georgia high school, Madison Washington has always been a teasing target for bullies. And she's dealt with it because she has more pressing problems to manage. Until the morning a surprise rainstorm reveals her most closely kept secret: Maddy is biracial. She has been passing for white her entire life at the behest of her fanatical white father, Thomas Washington.

After a viral bullying video pulls back the curtain on Springville High's racist roots, student leaders come up with a plan to change their image: host the school's first integrated prom as a show of unity. The popular white class president convinces her Black superstar quarterback boyfriend to ask Maddy to be his date, leaving Maddy wondering if it's possible to have a normal life.

But some of her classmates aren't done with her just yet. And what they don't know is that Maddy still has another secret . . . one that will cost them all their lives."

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AWARD
NOMINEE
2023-2024



THE MARY SHELLEY CLUB by MOLDAVSKY, GOLDY

Fiction: horror and suspense Interest level: high school, young adult

From the publisher: "New York Times-bestselling author Goldy Moldavsky delivers a deliciously twisty YA thriller that's *Scream* meets Karen McManus about a mysterious club with an obsession for horror."

When it comes to horror movies, the rules are clear:

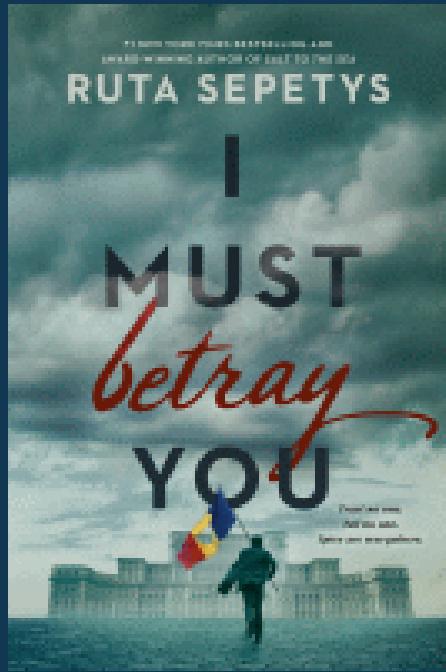
- x Avoid abandoned buildings, warehouses, and cabins at all times.
- x Stay together: don't split up, not even just to "check something out."
- x If there's a murderer on the loose, do not make out with anyone.

If only surviving in real life were this easy...

New girl Rachel Chavez turns to horror movies for comfort, preferring stabby serial killers and homicidal dolls to the bored rich kids of Manhattan Prep...and to certain memories she'd preferred to keep buried.

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Then Rachel is recruited by the Mary Shelley Club, a mysterious society of students who orchestrate Fear Tests, elaborate pranks inspired by urban legends and movie tropes. At first, Rachel embraces the power that comes with reckless prankering. But as the Fear Tests escalate, the competition turns deadly, and it's clear Rachel is playing a game she can't afford to lose."



I MUST BETRAY YOU by SEPETYS, RUTA

Fiction: historical Interest level: High school, young adult

From the publisher: "A gut-wrenching, startling historical thriller about communist Romania and the citizen spy network that devastated a nation, from the #1 New York Times bestselling, award-winning author of *Salt to the Sea* and *Between Shades of Gray*.

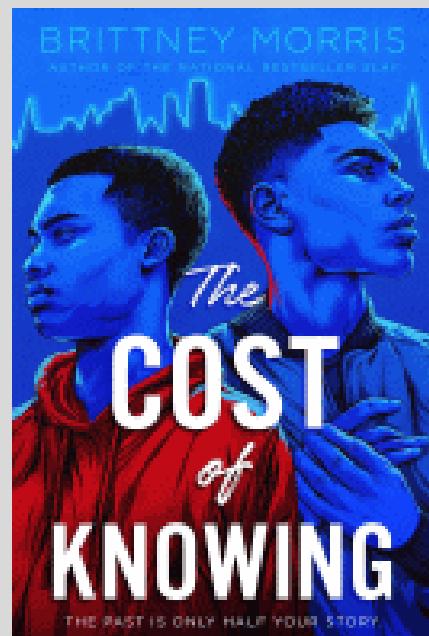
Romania, 1989. Communist regimes are crumbling across Europe. Seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu dreams of becoming a writer, but Romanians aren't free to dream; they are bound by rules and force.

Amidst the tyrannical dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaușescu in a country governed by isolation and fear, Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer. He's left with only two choices: betray everyone and everything he loves—or use his position to creatively undermine the most notoriously evil dictator in Eastern Europe.

Cristian risks everything to unmask the truth behind the regime, give voice to fellow Romanians, and expose to the world what is happening in his country. He eagerly joins the revolution to fight for change when the time arrives. But what is the cost of freedom?

Master storyteller Ruta Sepetys is back with a historical thriller that examines the little-known history of a nation defined by silence, pain, and the unwavering conviction of the human spirit."

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THE COST OF KNOWING by MORRIS, BRITTNEY

Fiction: science fiction Interest level: high school, young adult

From the publisher: "Dear Martin meets *They Both Die at the End* in this gripping, evocative novel about a Black teen who has the power to see into the future, whose life turns upside down when he foresees his younger brother's imminent death, from the acclaimed author of *SLAY*.

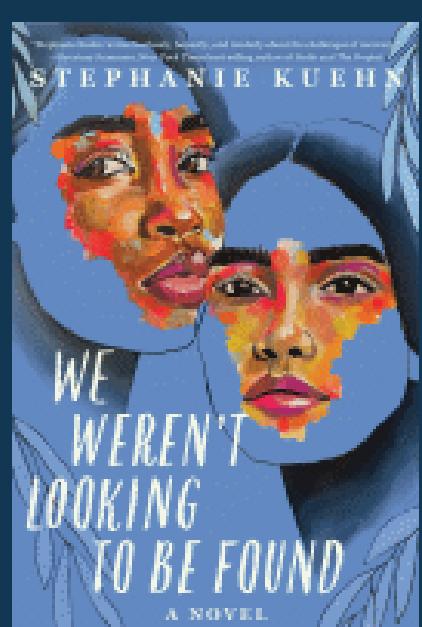
Sixteen-year-old Alex Rufus is trying his best. He tries to be the best employee he can be at the local ice cream shop; the best boyfriend he can be to his amazing girlfriend, Talia; the best protector he can be over his little brother, Isaiah. But as much as Alex tries, he often comes up short.

It's hard to for him to be present when every time he touches an object or person, Alex sees into its future. When he touches a scoop, he has a vision of him using it to scoop ice cream. When he touches his car, he sees it years from now, totaled and underwater. When he touches Talia, he sees them at the precipice of breaking up, and that terrifies him. Alex feels these visions are a curse, distracting him, making him anxious and unable to live an ordinary life.

And when Alex touches a photo that gives him a vision of his brother's imminent death, everything changes.

With Alex now in a race against time, death, and circumstances, he and Isaiah must grapple with their past, their future, and what it means to be a young Black man in America in the present."

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WE WEREN'T LOOKING TO BE FOUND by KUEHN, STEPHANIE

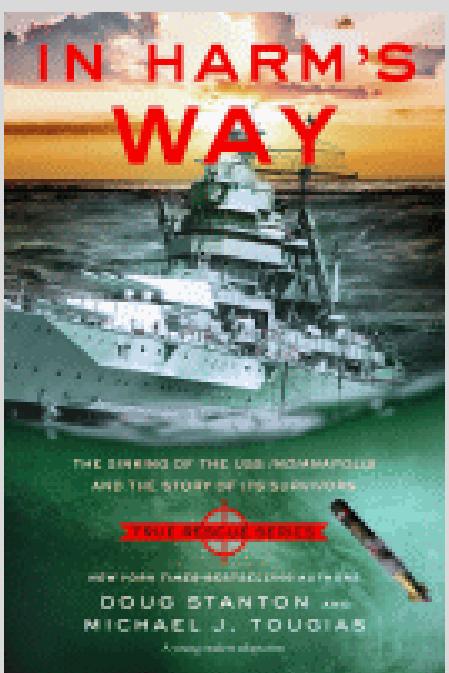
Fiction: realistic Interest level: high school, young adult

From the publisher: "Dani comes from the richest, most famous Black family in Texas and has everything a girl could want. So why does she keep using drugs and engaging in other self-destructive behavior?

Camila's Colombian American family doesn't have much, but she knows exactly what she wants out of life and works her ass off to get it. So why does she keep failing, and why does she self-harm every time she does?

When Dani and Camila find themselves rooming together at Peach Tree Hills, a treatment facility in beautiful rural Georgia, they initially think they'll never get along—and they'll never get better. But then they find a mysterious music box filled with letters from a former resident of PTH, and together they set out to solve the mystery of who this girl was . . . and who she's become. The investigation will bring them closer, and what they find at the end might just bring them hope."

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In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis and the Story of its Survivors by Doug Stanton and Michael J. Tougias (Young Readers Adaptation)

Narrative nonfiction Interest level: middle school-high school, young adult interest

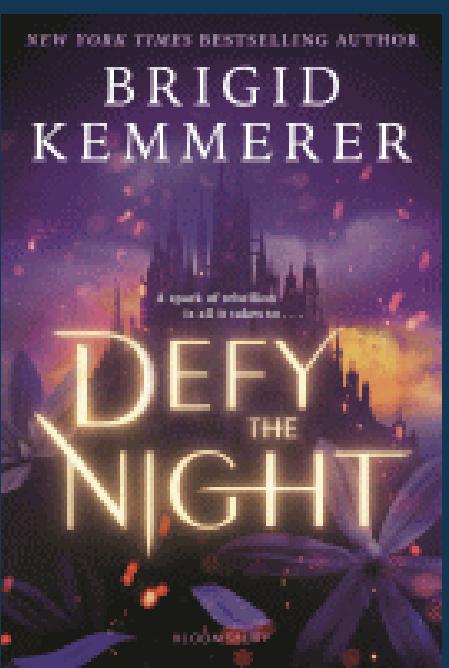
From the publisher: "A young readers edition of Doug Stanton and Michael J. Tougias' New York Times bestseller *In Harm's Way*—a riveting World War II account of the greatest maritime disaster in US naval history."

"A masterful account of one of history's most poignant and tragic secrets." —#1 New York Times-bestelling author Lee Child

On July 30, 1945, the U.S.S. Indianapolis was torpedoed in the South Pacific by a Japanese submarine. An estimated 300 men were killed upon impact; close to 900 sailors were cast into the Pacific Ocean, where they remained undetected by the navy for nearly four days and nights. Battered by a savage sea, they struggled to stay alive, fighting off sharks, hypothermia, and hallucinations.

By the time rescue arrived, all but 316 men had died. The captain's subsequent court-martial left many questions unanswered: How did the navy fail to realize the Indianapolis was missing? And how did these 316 men manage to survive against all odds?

This thrilling wartime account of heroism and survival, Book 5 in the True Rescue narrative nonfiction series, is inspiring and unforgettable—the perfect choice for young adventure-seekers."



DEFY THE NIGHT by KEMMERER, BRIGID

Fiction: fantasy, love stories Interest level: high school, young adult interest

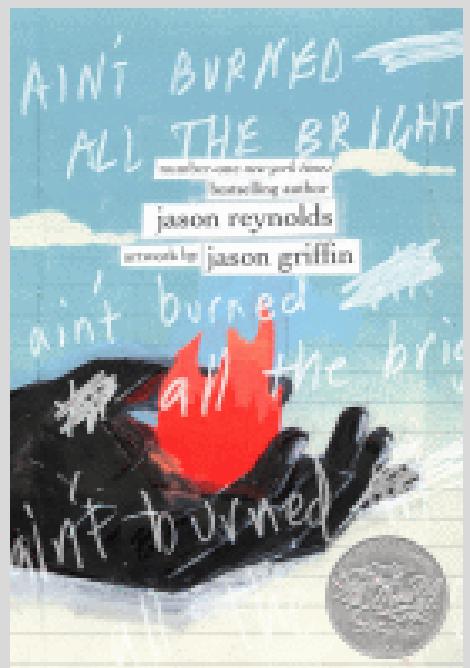
From the publisher: "From New York Times bestselling author Brigid Kemmerer comes an electrifying fantasy romance, perfect for fans of Holly Black and Victoria Aveyard."

A desperate prince.
A daring outlaw.
A dangerous flirtation.

In the Wilds of Kandala, apothecary apprentice Tessa Cade has been watching people suffer for too long. A mysterious sickness is ravaging the land and the cure, Moonflower Elixir, is only available for the wealthy. So every night, she defies the royal edicts and sneaks out, stealing Moonflower petals and leaving the elixir for those in need.

In the palace of Kandala, Prince Corrick serves as the King's Justice, meting out vicious punishments and striking fear into the hearts of agitators and outlaws. Corrick knows he must play this role convincingly--with a shortage of elixir and threats of rebellion looming ever closer, the King's grip on power is tenuous at best, and Corrick knows his brother is the kingdom's best hope for survival.

But when an act of unspeakable cruelty brings the royal and the outlaw face to face, the natural enemies are faced with an impossible choice--and a surprising spark. Will they follow their instincts to destroy each other? Or will they save the kingdom together . . . and let that spark ignite?"



AIN'T BURNED ALL THE BRIGHT by REYNOLDS, JASON

Poetry Interest level: high school, young adult interest

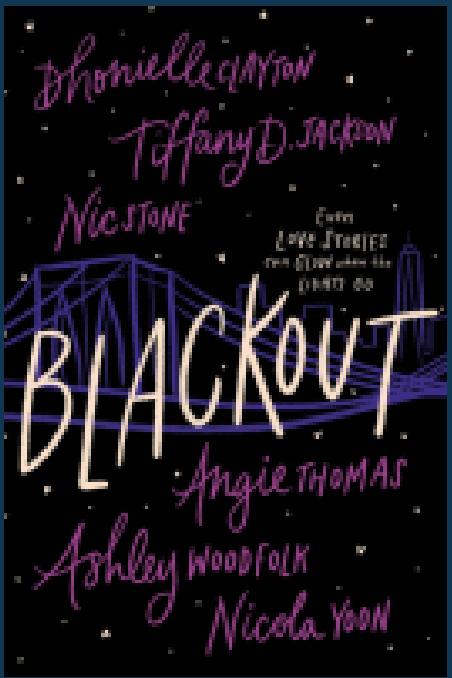
From the publisher: "Prepare yourself for something unlike anything: A smash-up of art and text for teens that viscerally captures what it is to be Black. *In America. Right Now.* Written by #1 New York Times bestselling and award-winning author Jason Reynolds."

Jason Reynolds and his best bud, Jason Griffin, had a mind-meld. And they decided to tackle it, in one fell swoop, in about ten sentences, and 300 pages of art, this piece, this contemplation-manifesto-fierce-vulnerable-gorgeous-terrifying-WhatIsWrongWithHumans-hope-filled-hopeful-searing-Eye-Poppingly-Illustrated-tender-heartbreaking-how-The-HECK-did-They-Come-UP-with-This project about oxygen. And all of the symbolism attached to that word, especially NOW.

And so for anyone who didn't really know what it means to not be able to breathe, REALLY breathe, for generations, now you know. And those who already do, you'll be nodding yep yep, that is exactly how it is."

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ALA BEST
FICTION FOR
YOUNG
ADULTS TOP
TEN 2022



BLACKOUT by CLAYTON, DHONIELLE

Fiction: Realistic, short story anthology Interest level: high school, young adult interest

From the publisher: "Six critically acclaimed, bestselling, and award-winning authors bring the glowing warmth and electricity of Black teens in love to this charming, hilarious, and heartwarming novel that shines a bright light through the dark."

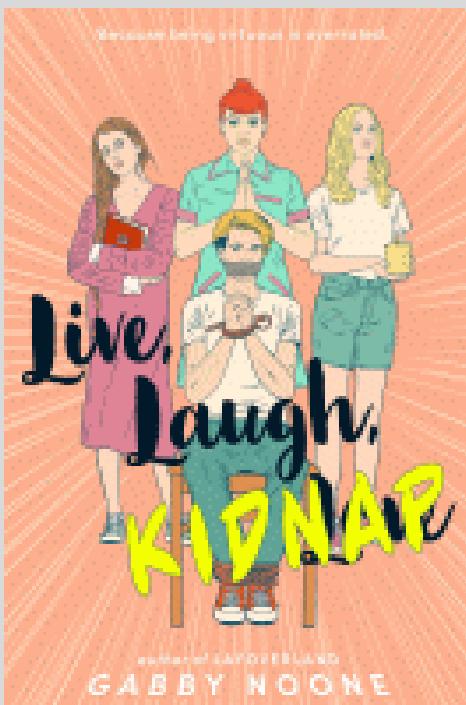
A summer heatwave blankets New York City in darkness. But as the city is thrown into confusion, a different kind of electricity sparks...

A first meeting.
Long-time friends.
Bitter exes.

And maybe the beginning of something new.

When the lights go out, people reveal hidden truths. Love blossoms, friendship transforms, and new possibilities take flight.

Beloved authors—Dhonielle Clayton, Tiffany D. Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, and Nicola Yoon—celebrate the beauty of six couples and the unforgettable magic that can be found on a sweltering starry night in the city."



LIVE, LAUGH, KIDNAP by NOONE, GABBY

Fiction: Realistic Interest level: high school, young adult interest

From the publisher: "From the author of Layoverland comes another bitingly clever, laugh-out-loud funny novel, about a group of teen girls going up against an exploitative megachurch in their small Montana town."

The only thing Genesis, Holly and Zoe seem to have in common is being stuck in Violet, Montana. Well, that and the fact that Hope Harvest Ministries is trying to ruin their lives.

Genesis lives on a commune that is now an echo of the New Age cult it once was. She's witnessed power couple Pastor Jay and Ree Reaps transform their sleepy small town into a haven for online Influencers, who flock to Violet, Bible in one hand and Ree's bestselling ACT LIKE A LADY, PRAY LIKE A BOSS in the other. Now, the Reaps have decided it's God's Will™ that they take over Gen's ranch.

Holly is a begrudging tourist, forced to spend the summer with her estranged father as punishment for her unsavory behavior back in LA. To Holly, Hope Harvest is nothing but a gimmicky marketing ploy, but it's threatening to put her father's diner out of business and, for some reason, Holly cares.

All Zoe wants is to leave Violet, working thankless shifts at the diner to scrape together enough cash to start a new life with her girlfriend. But Zoe's mother has lost everything to the church's multilevel marketing schemes so the little money that Zoe manages to make goes right to debt collectors.

The only solution to their problems is to scam the scammers and protect what's theirs. It shouldn't take much – the Reaps' golden son, an accidental kidnapping, some light blackmail – and the Reaps' fortune will be in the girls' much more deserving hands. As long as everything goes according to plan..."

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NOMINEE
2023-2024

ALA TOP TEN
QUICK PICKS
FOR
RELUCTANT
READERS 2023