

## COMING-OF-AGE /// FINDING YOURSELF

**Abdel-Fattah, Randa**

**Ten Things I Hate About Me**

*Lebanese-Australian Jamilah, known in school as Jamie, hides her heritage from her classmates and tries to pass by dyeing her hair blonde and wearing blue-tinted contact lenses until her conflicted feelings become too much for her to bear.*

**Altebrando, Tara**

**The Best Night of Your (Pathetic) Life**

*Mary, Patrick, Winter, and Dez are determined to win the unofficial Senior Week Scavenger Hunt. Throughout the afternoon and evening, however, Mary encounters the demons she and her friends have faced as high school "also-rans" and ponders what her college and future will bring.*

**Alvarez, Julia**

**How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents**

*Told through the points of view of the four Garcia sisters--Carla, Sandi, Yolanda and Sofia--this perceptive first novel by poet Alvarez tells of a wealthy family exiled from the Dominican Republic after a failed coup and how the daughters come of age, weathering the cultural and class transitions from privileged Dominicans to New York Hispanic immigrants.*

**Anderson, Laurie Halse**

**Catalyst**

*Eighteen-year-old Kate, who sometimes chafes at being a preacher's daughter, finds herself losing control in her senior year as she faces difficult neighbors, the possibility that she may not be accepted by the college of her choice, and an unexpected death.*

**Anderson, Laurie Halse**

**Prom**

*Eighteen-year-old Ash wants nothing to do with senior prom, but when disaster strikes and her desperate friend, Nat, needs her help to get it back on track, Ash's involvement transforms her life.*

**Anderson, Laurie Halse**

**Twisted**

*After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attentions of a popular girl, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts.*

**Armistead, Cal**

**Being Henry David**

*Seventeen-year-old "Hank," who can't remember his identity, finds himself in Penn Station with a copy of Thoreau's Walden as his only possession and must figure out where he's from and why he ran away.*

**Bauer, Joan**

**Rules of the Road (and sequel)**

*Sixteen-year-old Jenna gets a job driving the elderly owner of a chain of successful shoe stores from Chicago to Texas to confront the son who is trying to force her to retire.*

**Berry, Julie**

**All the Truth That's In Me**

*Judith can't speak. When her close-knit community of Roswell Station is attacked by enemies, however, Judith is forced to choose: continue to live in silence or recover her voice.*

**Bloss, Josie**

**Faking Faith**

*After a humiliating incident involving some bad decisions on her part, seventeen-year-old Dylan discovers the blogs of fundamentalist Christian girls and starts passing herself off as one of them in her own blog, leading her to some unexpected insights about herself and her values.*

**Bradbury, Jennifer**

**Shift**

*When best friends Chris and Win go on a cross country bicycle trek the summer after graduating and only one returns, the FBI wants to know what happened.*

**Brooks, Kevin**

**Lucas**

*On an isolated English island, Caitlin McCann makes the painful journey from adolescence to adulthood through her experiences with a mysterious boy whose presence has an unsettling effect on the island's inhabitants.*

**Cabot, Meg**

**Teen Idol**

*When teenage heartthrob Luke Stryker shows up at a small-town Indiana high school to do research for a movie role, he persuades junior Jenny Greenley to use her considerable talents to try to change things at school for the better.*

- Caletti, Deb**                                **The Fortunes of Indigo Skye**  
*Eighteen-year-old Indigo is looking forward to becoming a full-time waitress after high school graduation, but her life is turned upside down by a large check given to her by a customer who appreciates that she cares enough to scold him for smoking.*
- Caletti, Deb**                                **Honey, Baby, Sweetheart**  
*In the summer of her junior year, sixteen-year-old Ruby McQueen and her mother, both nursing broken hearts, set out on a journey to reunite an elderly woman with her long-lost love and in the process learn many things about "the real ties that bind" people to one another.*
- Caletti, Deb**                                **Stay**  
*Clara has just graduated from high school, and her intense relationship with Christian is over, but he cannot accept that reality. The more he pushes and pleads, the more she pulls away. When Clara and her writer-father go to the coast for the summer without telling anyone, she begins to come to grips with Christian's obsession. Making friends with local sailor Finn Bishop helps Clara see herself more clearly and confront the damage of the relationship.*
- Calonita, Jen**                                **Secrets of My Hollywood Life** (and sequel)  
*Longing to experience the life of a "normal" teenager, sixteen-year-old actress Kaitlin Burke assumes a false identity to attend a local high school.*
- Chambers, Aidan**                                **Postcards from No Man's Land**  
*Visiting his grandfather's grave during the annual commemoration of the Battle of Arnhem, Jacob Todd finds his view of himself, his country, and his place in the world are overturned when he starts chatting to a very special elderly Dutch woman.*
- Chandler, Kristen**                                **Girls Don't Fly**  
*Myra, a high school senior, will do almost anything to win a contest and earn money for a study trip to the Galapagos Islands in order to get away from her demanding family life in Utah and her ex-boyfriend Erik--but Erik is set on winning the same contest.*
- Chandler, Kristen**                                **Wolves, Boys & Other Things That Might Kill Me**  
*Two teenagers become close as the citizens of their town fight over the packs of wolves that have been reintroduced into the nearby Yellowstone National Park.*
- Chbosky, Stephen**                                **The Perks of Being a Wallflower**  
*A series of letters to an unknown correspondent reveals the coming-of-age trials of a teenager named Charlie.*
- Chow, Cara**                                        **Bitter Melon**  
*With the encouragement of one of her teachers, a Chinese-American high school senior asserts herself against her demanding, old-school mother and carves out an identity for herself in late 1980s San Francisco.*
- Choyce, Lesley**                                **Dumb Luck**  
*Surviving a head injury through a lucky chance that causes his doctor to joke that he should play the lottery, seventeen-year-old Brandon buys a ticket and wins three million dollars only to find his life disrupted by unanticipated stress, fair-weather friends, and family dissention.*
- Coelho, Paulo**                                **The Alchemist**  
*A fable about undauntingly following one's dreams, listening to one's heart, and reading life's omens features dialogue between a boy and an unnamed being.*
- Coleman, Michael**                                **On the Run**  
*When a persistent youth offender is caught yet again, he is sentenced to community service as the partner to a blind runner.*
- Combs, Sarah**                                **Breakfast Served Anytime**  
*Spending the summer before her senior year at a camp for gifted and talented students, Gloria struggles with the recent loss of her grandmother while trying to meet friends and make the best of her new circumstances.*
- Cooner, Donna**                                **Skinny**  
*After undergoing gastric-bypass surgery, a self-loathing, obese teenaged girl loses weight and makes the brave decision to start participating in high school life, including pursuing her dream of becoming a singer and finding love.*
- Cooney, Caroline**                                **The Face on the Milk Carton** (and sequels)  
*1<sup>st</sup> book in the Janie series. A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity.*

**Crutcher, Chris**

**Stotan!**

*A high school coach invites members of his swimming team to a memorable week of rigorous training that tests their moral fiber as well as their physical stamina.*

**Dale, Katie**

**Someone Else's Life**

*When seventeen-year-old Rosie's mother dies from Huntington's Disease, a devastating secret is revealed that sends Rosie on a journey from England to the United States with her ex-boyfriend. While there she discovers yet more deeply-buried and troubling secrets and lies.*

**Daswani, Kavita**

**Indie Girl**

*Indie has always dreamed of becoming a fashion reporter. She'd do anything to land an internship with glamorous Celebrity Style magazine -- even babysit publisher Aaralyn Taylor's two-year-old son.*

**Desai, Hidier**

**Born Confused**

*Seventeen-year-old Dimple, whose family is from India, discovers that she is not Indian enough for the Indians and not American enough for the Americans, as she sees her hypnotically beautiful, manipulative best friend taking possession of both her heritage and the boy she likes.*

**Dessen, Sarah**

**The Moon and More**

*During her last summer at home before leaving for college, Emaline begins a whirlwind romance with Theo, an assistant documentary filmmaker who is in town to make a movie. Even though Emaline ends up with two boys falling in and out of love with her, what's most at stake for her is figuring out what she wants for her future and deciding the priorities in her highly populated and very busy life.*

**Dessen, Sarah**

**What Happened to Goodbye**

*Following her parents' bitter divorce as she and her father move from town to town, seventeen-year-old Mclean reinvents herself at each school she attends until she is no longer sure she knows who she is or where she belongs.*

**Dowd, Siobhan**

**Solace of the Road**

*While running away from a London foster home, Holly has ample time to consider her years of residential care and her early life with her Irish mother.*

**Draper, Sharon**

**The Battle of Jericho**

*When an elite club, The Warriors of Distinction, invites Jericho and his cousin Josh to pledge, the teens look forward to wearing the black silk jacket, going to great parties, and receiving the admiring glances of the other students at their Ohio high school. The initiation process begins rather tamely with the new pledges helping with the Christmas toy drive. As it progresses, however, Jericho becomes increasingly uncomfortable with what they are asked to do and the way they treat Dana, the first-ever female pledge.*

**DuPrau, Jeanne**

**Car Trouble**

*Seventeen-year-old computer "nerd" Duff Pringle leaves Richmond, Virginia, in a newly-acquired used car and begins an unexpectedly convoluted journey to San Jose, California, and the job that awaits him there.*

**Eulberg, Elizabeth**

**Take a Bow**

*Emme, Sophie, Ethan, and Carter are seniors at a performing arts high school in New York City who are preparing for the senior recital and feeling the pressure to perform well. They're ready to take the next step in their careers and their lives--whether they want to or not.*

**Ferraro, Tina**

**Top Ten Uses for an Unworn Prom Dress**

*Having been stood up for the prom the previous year, high school junior Nicolette works on a top ten list of things to do with her unworn dress while also trying to help her divorced parents and take care of her relationships with her best friend and with potential boyfriends.*

**Fields, Terri**

**My Father's Son**

*Kevin's life of high school classes, crushes, basketball, and shuttling between his parents' homes falls apart when his father is arrested as a suspected serial killer. This leads Kevin to a new understanding of his family and himself.*

**Flack, Sophie**

**Bunheads**

*Hannah Ward, nineteen, revels in the competition, intense rehearsals, and dazzling performances that come with being a member of Manhattan Ballet Company's corps de ballet. After meeting handsome musician Jacob, however, she begins to realize there could be more to her life.*

**Flinn, Alex**

**Divya**

*Despite her mother's objections, sixteen-year-old Caitlin determines to pursue her dream of becoming an opera singer by attending a performing arts school in Miami.*

**Green, John**

**An Abundance of Katherines**

*Having been recently dumped for the nineteenth time by a girl named Katherine, recent high school graduate and former child prodigy Colin sets off on a road trip with his best friend to try to find some new direction in life while also trying to create a mathematical formula to explain his relationships.*

**Green, John**

**Paper Towns**

*One month before graduating from his Central Florida high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, Q's neighbor and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears.*

**Green, John**

**Will Grayson, Will Grayson**

*When two teens, one gay and one straight, meet accidentally and discover that they share the same name, their lives become intertwined as one begins dating the other's best friend, who produces a play revealing his relationship with both of them.*

**Grimes, Nikki**

**Bronx Masquerade**

*While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates. Novel in verse.*

**Grossman, Nancy**

**A World Away**

*Sixteen-year-old Eliza, an Amish girl who goes to work for an "English" family as a nanny to two young children, must choose between two entirely different ways of life.*

**Gurtler, Janet**

**16 Things I Thought Were True**

*Morgan knows nothing about her dad, not even his name. Her mom simply won't talk about him. But when her mom winds up in the hospital, she finally lets the information slip. Estranged from schoolmates after an embarrassing video goes viral, Morgan meets talkative Amy at work and reluctantly becomes friends with Adam, her supervisor. When Morgan learns her dad's address in British Columbia, Amy talks Morgan and Adam into a road trip to find him.*

**Headley, Justine Chen**

**Girl Overboard**

*After a snowboarding accident, Syrah Cheng, a billionaire's daughter, must rehabilitate both her knee and her self-esteem while forging relationships with those who accept her for who she is.*

**Herbach, Geoff**

**Stupid Fast (and sequel)**

*Just before his sixteenth birthday, Felton Reinstein has a sudden growth spurt that turns him from a small, jumpy, picked-on boy to a powerful athlete. This leads to new friends, his first love, and the courage to confront his family's past and current problems.*

**Hobbs, Valerie**

**Anything But Ordinary**

*Bernie and Winifred have been in love since they were fourteen. When Winifred goes away to college in California and Bernie stays in New Jersey, however, things change for the two of them, and each must try to forge an identity separate from the other.*

**Hopkins, Ellen**

**Tilt**

*Three teens, connected by their parents' bad choices, tell in their own voices of their lives and loves as Shane finds his first boyfriend, Mikayla discovers that love can be pushed too far, and Harley loses herself in her quest for new experiences. Novel in verse.*

**Hubbard, Jenny**

**Paper Covers Rock**

*In 1982 Buncombe County, North Carolina, sixteen-year-old Alex Stromm writes of the aftermath of the accidental drowning of a friend as his English teacher reaches out to him while he and a fellow boarding school student try to cover things up.*

**Ingold, Jeanette**

**Hitch**

*To help his family during the Depression and to avoid becoming a drunk like his father, Moss Trawnley joins the Civilian Conservation Corps, helps build a new camp near Monroe, Montana, and leads the other men in making the camp a success.*

**Jellen, Michelle**

**Spain or Shine**

*Overshadowed at home by her over-achieving siblings, sixteen-year-old Elena Holloway spends a semester in Spain where she explores her talents in a theater class and tries to attract the attention of a handsome boy.*

**John, Antony**

**Five Flavors of Dumb**

*"Seriously, what family with a history of hereditary deafness names their child after the player of a musical instrument?" High school senior Piper, who began to lose her hearing at age six, has mixed feelings about her parents dipping into her college fund to pay for cochlear implants for her hearing-impaired baby sister. But one thing is clear: Piper has to replenish the funds. Opportunity knocks when a disorganized rock band named Dumb invites her to be their manager. However, it soon becomes apparent that the members' egos are more substantial than their talent.*

**Johnson, Maureen**

**13 Little Blue Envelopes (and sequel)**

*When seventeen-year-old Ginny receives a packet of mysterious envelopes from her favorite aunt, she leaves New Jersey to criss-cross Europe on a sort of scavenger hunt that transforms her life.*

**Jones, Frewin**

**The Faerie Path (and sequels)**

*1<sup>st</sup> book in the Faerie Path series. Anita, an ordinary sixteen-year-old girl, is transported from modern-day London to the realm of Faerie where she discovers that she is Princess Tania, the long-lost daughter of King Oberon and Queen Titania. Fantasy.*

**Kephart, Beth**

**Undercover**

*High school sophomore Elisa is used to observing while going unnoticed except when classmates ask her to write love notes for them, but a teacher's recognition of her talent, a "client's" desire for her friendship, a love of ice skating, and her parent's marital problems draw her out of herself.*

**King, A. S.**

**Ask the Passengers**

*Imagining that she is sending love to passengers in airplanes flying overhead, Astrid Jones, a teen from a small town torn by gossip and narrow-mindedness, struggles with her family's dysfunction and hides her love for another girl.*

**Klauss, Lucas**

**Everything You Need to Know to Survive the Apocalypse**

*Phillip becomes involved with an evangelical Christian girl in spite of his father's adamant atheism and his own confusion about life.*

**Laban, Elizabeth**

**The Tragedy Paper**

*While preparing for the most dreaded assignment at the prestigious Irving School, the Tragedy Paper, Duncan gets wrapped up in the tragic tale of Tim Macbeth, a former student who had a clandestine relationship with the wrong girl, and his own ill-fated romance with Daisy.*

**Larochelle, David**

**Absolutely, Positively Not**

*Sixteen-year-old Steven Denarski enjoys square dancing with his mother. He doesn't like sports. He's very neat. He's never had a girlfriend—but his best friend is a girl. Despite all of that, he is absolutely positively not gay. He's sure of it, so he sets out to prove it to himself and the world.*

**Leavitt, Lindsey**

**Going Vintage**

*When sixteen-year-old Mallory learns that her boyfriend, Jeremy, is cheating on her with his cyber "wife," she rebels against technology by following her grandmother's list of goals from 1962, with help from her younger sister, Ginnie.*

**Leitch, Will**

**Catch**

*Teenager Tim Temples must decide if he wants to leave his comfortable life in a small town and go to college.*

**Levithan, David**

**Boy Meets Boy**

*Somewhere on the eastern coast of the U.S. is a town where six-foot-five drag queens play high-school football, kindergarten teachers write comments like "Definitely gay and has a very good sense of self" on student report cards, quiz-bowl teams are as important as football teams, and cheerleaders ride Harleys. Paul and his friends go to high school in this town.*

**Liu, Cynthia**

**The Great Call of China**

*Cece goes to China in an attempt to discover her roots and possibly find out about her birth parents. Born in China, but adopted at age 2 and living in Texas, Cece finds culture shock and romance as she pursues the information to satisfy her questions.*

**Lubar, David**

**Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie**

*While navigating his first year of high school and awaiting the birth of his new baby brother, Scott loses old friends and gains some unlikely new ones as he hones his skills as a writer.*

**Marchetta, Melina**

**Jellicoe Road**

*Abandoned by her drug-addicted mother at the age of eleven, high-school student Taylor Markham struggles with her identity and family history at a boarding school in Australia.*

**McCahan, Erin**

**I Now Pronounce You Someone Else**

*Seventeen-year-old Bronwen has long felt that she was switched with another child at birth, and so, although she loves Jared, she must decide if she is ready to be married or should live on her own first in order to find out who she is.*

**McCahan, Erin**

**Love and Other Foreign Words**

*Brilliant fifteen-year-old Josie has a knack for languages, but her sister's engagement has Josie grappling with the nature of true love, her feelings for her best friend Stu, and how anyone can be truly herself, or truly in love, in a social language that is not her own.*

**McDonald, Abby**

**Boys, Bears, and a Serious Pair of Hiking Boots**

*Seventeen-year-old Jenna, an ardent vegetarian and environmentalist, is thrilled to be spending the summer communing with nature in rural Canada until she discovers that not all of the rugged residents there share her beliefs.*

**Meaney, Flynn**

**Bloodthirsty**

*Finbar Frame is a shy, awkward, misunderstood sixteen-year-old who has spent his life in the shadow of his athletic and popular twin brother. He is tired of being seen as a freak and a loser. When his family moves from Indiana to New York, Finbar decides it is time for a change—that his only chance to get a girlfriend is to pretend to be a vampire. Armed with a new wardrobe, a silver Volvo, big sunglasses, and some attitude, he becomes something he has never been—popular. But he soon finds that being a player is not everything—a lesson he learns the hard way.*

**Mitchell, Todd**

**The Secret to Lying**

*In his old high school, James, 15, was unremarkable—"the guy no one noticed." When he's offered a scholarship to a public boarding school for intellectually gifted students, he accepts. He is done being a dull, boring nobody and sees ASMA (American Science and Mathematics Academy) as a chance to reinvent himself. How hard could it be to impress a bunch of overachieving nerds and geeks? With purple spiked hair, grunge clothes, and a few little lies, James has most of them convinced he's a street-fighting punk. Despite his new guise, James realizes he must confront the demons that give him nightmares and induce him to cut himself.*

**Monninger, Joseph**

**Finding Somewhere**

*Hattie, 18, and Delores, 16, love a retired horse that is scheduled to be euthanized. Neither teen is willing to accept this fate for Speed, so they borrow a horse trailer, load him up in the middle of the night, and head west to find pastureland where they can leave him to live his final days as a horse, not a pony ride.*

**Moriarty, Jaclyn**

**Feeling Sorry for Celia**

*An epistolary novel uses letters written between teenage friends, refrigerator notes from a crazy mother, and epistles that express the narrator's own internal feelings of self-doubt to weave this coming of age story.*

**Myers, Walter Dean**

**Monster**

*While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.*

**Na, An**

**The Fold**

*Joyce never used to care that much about how she looked, but that was before she met JFK—John Ford Kang, the most gorgeous guy in school. And it doesn't help that she's constantly being compared to her beautiful older sister, Helen. Then her rich plastic-surgery-addict aunt offers Joyce a gift to "fix" a part of herself she'd never realized needed fixing—her eyes. Joyce has heard of the fold surgery—a common procedure meant to make Asian women's eyes seem "prettier" and more "American"—but is that what she really wants?*

**Na, An**

**A Step from Heaven**

*A young Korean girl and her family find it difficult to learn English and adjust to life in America.*

**Nelson, Blake**

**Destroy All Cars**

*Through assignments for English class, seventeen-year-old James Hoff rants against consumerism and his classmates' apathy, puzzles over his feelings for his ex-girlfriend, and expresses disdain for his emotionally distant parents.*

**Nelson, Blake**

**Rock Star, Superstar**

*When Pete, a talented bass player, moves from playing in the high school jazz band to playing in a popular rock group, he finds the experience exhilarating even as his new fame jeopardizes his relationship with girlfriend Margaret.*

**Nelson, Suzanne**

**The Sound of Munich**

*Siena Bernstein attends school in Munich for three months, where she perfects her German language skills and attempts to find the man who helped her father's family escape East Berlin in 1962.*

**Oaks, J. Adams**

**Why I Fight**

*Ever since he turned 12, Wyatt has been on the road with his cool uncle Spade, who lives by his wits and has a different “ladyfriend” in every new town they visit. For six years, his uncle’s Chevy “was my house.” It’s Spade’s idea that Wyatt, who is unusually tall and strong, should start bare-knuckle fighting for money, and the boy, heartbreakingly eager to please, complies, winning fight after fight . . . until the last one.*

**Oliver, Lauren**

**Before I Fall**

*If you could relive your last day, what would you do differently? This is what Samantha asks herself when, after a fatal accident driving from a party on Friday, she wakes in her bed to find she must repeat the entire day again. And again. As Samantha lives through multiple Fridays, desperate to prevent her death, she is struck by how even the most insignificant acts, like running late for school instead of being on time, can change everything. Suddenly she is noticing uncomfortable things—about her friends, about herself—she has never noticed before. It’s the ultimate learning experience, and it takes Samantha seven times—not to save her own life but to leave with one she can be proud of.*

**Ostow, Micol**

**Westminster Abby**

*Abby discovers her real self when she goes to London to pursue her studies.*

**Reinhardt, Dana**

**How To Build a House**

*When her father divorces her beloved stepmother and leaves her without her stepsister, Tess Harper decides to join a volunteer organization to build houses for tornado victims. Struggling to figure out her role in the mix upon her arrival, Harper is befriended by Teddy who inspires her to love and trust once again.*

**Resau, Laura**

**The Queen of Water**

*Living in a village in Ecuador, a Quechua Indian girl is sent to work as an indentured servant for an upper class “mestizo” family.*

**Schneider, Robyn**

**The Beginning of Everything**

*Star athlete and prom king Ezra Faulkner’s life changes forever after a tragic accident and the arrival of eccentric new girl Cassidy Thorpe.*

**Schreiber, Joe**

**Au Revoir, Crazy European Chick**

*Perry’s parents insist that he take Gobi, their quiet, Lithuanian exchange student, to senior prom. After an incident at the dance, he learns that Gobi is actually a trained assassin who needs him as a henchman, behind the wheel of his father’s precious Jaguar, on a mission in Manhattan.*

**Scott, Elizabeth**

**Between Here and Forever**

*When Abby’s older sister Tess slips into a coma as a result of an accident, Abby finds that she would prefer feeling second best again if she could just have her sister back, so she enlists the aid of handsome Eli to help get her back.*

**Shoup, Barbara**

**Everything You Want**

*Eighteen-year-old Emma, a freshman at Indiana University, has enough trouble trying to figure out relationships. When her father wins fifty million dollars in a lottery, life becomes even more confusing and complicated.*

**Shull, Megan**

**Amazing Grace**

*Tired of the endorsements, press conferences, and tournaments, Grace Kincaid, a beautiful tennis superstar, goes into hiding and starts a new life in Alaska, with the help of a former FBI agent, where she transforms herself into the girl she’s always wanted to be.*

**Skovron, Jon**

**Struts & Frets**

*Sammy wants to be a musician, as was his grandfather, but while the band he is in is self-destructing, Sammy is too distracted by his grandfather’s decline and by confused feelings about his best friend to fix it—and his mother stays too busy to help.*

**Sloan, Holly Goldberg**

**I’ll Be There**

*Raised by an unstable father who is constantly on the move, Sam Border has long been the voice of his silent younger brother, Riddle—but everything changes when Sam meets Emily Bell and, welcomed by her family, the brothers experience a normal life for the first time.*

**Smith, Jennifer E.**

**You Are Here**

*Sixteen-year-old Emma Healy has never felt that she fit in with the rest of her family, so when she discovers that she had a twin brother who died shortly after they were born, she takes off on an impulsive road trip to try to discover who she really is.*

**Spalding, Amy**

**The Reece Malcolm List**

*When her father dies suddenly, Devan is shipped off to Los Angeles to live with her estranged mother, Reece Malcolm, a best-selling novelist with little time for a daughter. While adjusting to life with her mother, Devan must navigate her way through her new performing arts school as well.*

**Standiford, Natalie**

**How to Say Goodbye in Robot**

*After moving to Baltimore and enrolling in a private school, high school senior Beatrice befriends a quiet loner with a troubled family history.*

**Strasser, Todd**

**How I Changed My Life**

*Overweight high school senior Bo decides to change her image while working on the school play with a former star football player who is also struggling to find a new identity for himself.*

**Supplee, Suzanne**

**Somebody Everybody Listens To**

*Propelled by her best friend's belief in her musical talent, recent high school grad Retta Lee Jones leaves self-doubt, clingy parents, and her small-town life behind and heads to Nashville, determined to make her name in country music. Hard knocks (she damages the car she borrowed from her great-aunt right away) and kind strangers (the tow-truck driver becomes an ally) introduce her to her new home. Understanding that genuine talent alone won't open doors for her, Retta lives out of her car, bathes in public sinks, and studies the industry while searching for a way to succeed.*

**Tashjian, Janet**

**The Gospel According to Larry (and sequel)**

*Seventeen-year-old Josh, a loner-philosopher who wants to make a difference in the world, tries to maintain his secret identity as the author of a web site that is receiving national attention.*

**Thomas, Rob**

**Rats Saw God**

*High-school senior Steve York isn't doing well. The former straight-A student is flunking, and his new friends are dopers. Where did it all go wrong? A counselor steps in and suggests Steve can write something to bring up his failing English grade—so Steve writes his story from his former life in Texas to his present life in California.*

**Trembath, Don**

**Rooster**

*Rooster Cobb, a high school senior, has a bad attitude toward school until the principal and a guidance counselor offer him a deal--if he supervises a group of mentally handicapped bowlers, he will graduate instead of being kicked out.*

**Vaught, Susan**

**Trigger**

*Teenager Jersey Hatch must work through his extensive brain damage to figure out why he decided to shoot himself.*

**Waldorf, Heather**

**Tripping**

*Rainey Williamson, who has had to wear an artificial leg from birth, joins a program that will take her and five other teenagers on an eight-week road trip across Canada. On the eve of her getaway, she finds out that the mother who left when she was just a few months old is alive and well and now wants to see her.*

**Whitaker, Alecia**

**Wildflower**

*Sixteen-year-old Bird Barrett is discovered by a country music record label while playing in her family's bluegrass band. As her star rises, she must learn to stay true to her roots while navigating a brave new world of glamour and gold records in Nashville, Tennessee.*

**Williams, Carol Lynch**

**The Chosen One**

*In a polygamous cult in the desert, Kyra, not yet fourteen, sees being chosen to be the seventh wife of her uncle as just punishment for having read books and kissed a boy, in violation of Prophet Childs' teachings, and is torn between facing her fate and running away from all that she knows and loves.*

**Wittlinger, Ellen**

**Zigzag**

*A high-school junior makes a trip with her aunt and two cousins, discovering places she did not know existed and strengths she did not know she had.*

**Zarr, Sara**

**The Lucy Variations**

*Sixteen-year-old San Franciscan Lucy Beck-Moreau once had a promising future as a concert pianist. Her chance at a career has passed, and she decides to help her ten-year-old piano prodigy brother, Gus, map out his own future, even as she explores why she enjoyed piano in the first place.*

**Zarr, Sara**

**Once Was Lost**

*As the tragedy of a missing girl unfolds in her small town, fifteen-year-old Samara, who feels emotionally abandoned by her parents, begins to question her faith.*

**Zemser, Amy Bronwen**

**Dear Julia**

*Shy sixteen-year-old Elaine has long dreamed of being the next Julia Child, to the dismay of her feminist mother, but when her best friend, the outrageous Lucida Sans, convinces Elaine to enter a cooking contest, anything could happen.*

**Zevin, Gabrielle**

**Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac**

*After a nasty fall, Naomi realizes that she has no memory of the last four years and finds herself reassessing every aspect of her life.*

**Zulkey, Claire**

**An Off Year**

*Upon arriving at her dorm room, eighteen-year-old Cecily decides to postpone her freshman year of college and return to her Chicago home where she spends a year pondering what went wrong while forging new relationships with family and friends.*

**Zusak, Markus**

**I Am the Messenger**

*Nineteen-year-old cabbie Ed Kennedy has little in life to be proud of: his dad died of alcoholism, and he and his mom have few prospects for success. He has little to do except share a run-down apartment with his faithful yet smelly dog, drive his taxi, and play cards with his amiable yet similarly washed-up friends. After he stops a bank robbery, Ed begins receiving anonymous messages marked in code on playing cards in the mail and almost immediately his life begins to swerve off its beaten-down path.*