

FRIENDSHIPS

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.

Asher, Jay**The Future of Us**

Emma gets her first computer and an America Online CD-ROM in 1996. When her best friend Josh visits and they log on, they discover themselves on Facebook fifteen years in the future.

Ayarbe, Heidi**Freeze Frame**

Kyle Carroll and his friend Jason escape outside on a cold morning after Kyle insults his sister and angers his mother. The two teens decide to explore the work shed out back while waiting for things to settle down inside. The next thing Kyle knows, Jason is down, surrounded by blood, and Kyle is holding a gun. Kyle has no memory of the event that took his friend's life. Did he really kill Jason? How? Did he do it on purpose?

Bennett Wealer, Sara**Rival**

Rich, popular Brooke Dempsey and shy, middle-class Kathryn Pease see themselves as total opposites. The only thing they have in common is their love of music; both are top singers in the school's choir and are preparing for the prestigious Blackmore competition. Each girl narrates in alternating chapters, and the story jumps back and forth from junior year, when the girls are friends, to senior year, when they are not.

Benway, Robin**Emmy & Oliver**

Since her best friend Oliver was kidnapped ten years ago, Emmy's parents have smothered her with their relentless worry. When Oliver suddenly reappears in his hometown, he and Emmy struggle to face the messy, confusing consequences of the crime.

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.

Brody, Jessica**Boys of Summer**

Meet the Boys of Winlock Harbor—best friends since they were kids, Grayson, Mike, and Ian were hoping for another epic summer filled with clambakes, bonfires, and late-night swims in the ocean. But that was before Ian's dad never returned home from his last deployment. Before Mike had to take on more responsibility in order to help provide for his family. Before Grayson's accident left him with an injured throwing arm and an uncertain future. It's clear this summer on the island is shaping up to be very different from those Grayson, Mike, and Ian had come to rely on.

Brown, Jennifer**Bitter End**

When seventeen-year-old Alex starts dating Cole, a new boy at her high school, her two closest friends increasingly mistrust him as the relationship grows more serious.

Calonita, Jen**Summer State of Mind**

After her parents receive her latest exorbitant credit card bill, popular fifteen-year-old Harper is shipped off to summer camp where she is the new girl at the bottom of a social ladder and must work to make new friends.

Chapman, Lara**Flawless**

In this modern take on the Cyrano story, brilliant and witty Sarah Burke, who is cursed with an enormous nose, helps her beautiful best friend try to win the heart of a handsome and smart new student even though Sarah wants him for herself.

Chotjewitz, David**Daniel Half Human and the Good Nazi**

In 1933, best friends Daniel and Armin admire Hitler, but as anti-Semitism buoys Hitler to power, Daniel learns he is half Jewish which threatens the friendship even as life in their beloved Hamburg is becoming nightmarish.

Clark, Catherine**Eleven Things I Promised**

While competing in a bike race with her high school teammates, seventeen-year-old Frances is determined to complete ten tasks on the Fix-It List that her best friend, Stella, compiled before an accident left Stella unable to complete those tasks.

Dessen, Sarah**Keeping the Moon**

Fifteen-year-old Colie, a former fat girl, spends the summer working as a waitress and staying with her eccentric aunt.

Dessen, Sarah

Someone Like You

Halley's junior year of high school includes the death of the boyfriend of her best friend Scarlett, the discovery that Scarlett is pregnant, and Halley's own first serious relationship.

Echols, Jennifer

The One That I Want

Gemma thinks it is her lucky day when the star football player, Max, starts paying extra attention to her. Then he asks out her best friend, Addison, and she is persuaded to spend more time together with both of them. This complicates the situation since Gemma still has strong feelings for Max.

Eulberg, Elizabeth

The Lonely Hearts Club (and sequel)

Fed up with boys and the way they have treated her and her friends, high school junior Penny Lane--named after the Beatles song--forms a club whose members vow to stop dating, but the repercussions are surprising.

Finn, Katie

Top 8

When popular high school junior Madison's online profile is hacked while she is in the Galapagos Islands with her family, it sends her life into turmoil and forces her to reevaluate some important matters as she figures out who committed the crime.

Flinn, Alexandra

Breaking Point

Fifteen-year-old Paul enters an exclusive private school and falls under the spell of a charismatic boy who may be using him.

Fredericks, Mariah

Crunch Time

Four students who have formed a study group to prepare for the SAT exam sustain each other through the emotional highs and lows of their junior year in high school.

Graham, Hilary Weisman

Reunited

Alice, Summer, and Tiernan were best friends who broke up at the same time as their favorite band. Four years later, just before they are preparing to go off to college, the girls reluctantly come back together, each with her own motives, for a road trip from Massachusetts to Austin, Texas, for the band's one-time-only reunion concert.

Green, John

Looking for Alaska

Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash.

Griffin, Adele

Amandine

In her first week at a new school, shy, plain Delia befriends Amandine, not anticipating the dangerous turns their friendship would take.

Griffin, Adele

The Julian Game

In an effort to improve her social status, a new scholarship student at an exclusive girls' school uses a fake online profile to help a popular girl get back at her ex-boyfriend, but the consequences are difficult to handle.

Halpern, Julie

Into the Wild Nerd Yonder

As her sophomore year begins, Jess knows she's growing apart from her best friends, Char and Bizza, a situation made much worse when Bizza goes poseur-punk in order to pursue Jess' long-time crush. When Jess, who loves math, sewing, and audiobooks, is invited to play Dungeons and Dragons by class nerd Dottie, she discovers that embracing life as a nerd isn't so bad -- especially when there's a cute boy involved who loves role-playing games, too.

Harazin, S. A.

Blood Brothers

With his best friend on life-support after he apparently took drugs at a party, seventeen-year-old Clay, a medical technician, recalls their long friendship, future plans, and recent disagreement and tries to figure out who is responsible for his friend's condition.

Headley, Justina Chen

North of Beautiful

Terra, a sensitive, artistic high school senior born with a facial port-wine stain, struggles with issues of inner and outer beauty with the help of her Goth classmate Jacob.

Hinton, S. E.

That Was Then, This Is Now

Sixteen-year-old Mark and Bryon have been like brothers since childhood, but now, as their involvement with girls, gangs, and drugs increases, their relationship seems to gradually disintegrate.

Hopkins, Cathy

Mates, Dates, and Cosmic Kisses

When Izzie's fascination with handsome Mark leaves her hanging around the house waiting for him to call, best friends Lucy and Nesta have to find a way to coax their friend back to reality.

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| Hosseini, Khaled | The Kite Runner | <i>Traces the unlikely friendship of a wealthy Afghan youth and a servant's son in a tale that spans the final days of Afghanistan's monarchy through the atrocities of the present day.</i> |
| Hurwin, Davida | A Time for Dancing | <i>Seventeen-year-old best friends Samantha and Juliana tell their stories in alternating chapters after Juliana is diagnosed with cancer.</i> |
| Kantor, Melissa | Maybe One Day | <i>For lifelong friends Zoe and Olivia, the first shake-up--no more elite ballet company for them--was bad enough. But when leukemia strikes, a recalibration of the "worst thing that will ever happen" scale is required.</i> |
| King, A. S. | Please Ignore Vera Dietz | <i>When her best friend, whom she secretly loves, betrays her and then dies under mysterious circumstances, high school senior Vera Dietz struggles with secrets that could help clear his name.</i> |
| Knowles, John | A Separate Peace | <i>Gene Forrester's fairly peaceful, protected life is being overshadowed by the uneasiness of war during his last year at a New England boys' preparatory school in 1942—particularly the draft ahead. The story focuses on his relationship with Finny, whose careless charm, disregard for and defiance of any rules, and dazzling athletic feats attract him--and also distract him from the academic success Gene is more interested in achieving.</i> |
| Lynch, Chris | Hothouse | <i>Teens D.J. and Russell, life-long friends and neighbors, had drifted apart. When their firefighter fathers are both killed, they try to help one another come to terms with the tragedy and its aftermath.</i> |
| Marcus, Kimberly | Exposed | <i>High school senior Liz, a gifted photographer, can no longer see things clearly after her best friend accuses Liz's older brother of a terrible crime.</i> |
| Martinez, Jessica | The Vow | <i>Mo is not only eighteen-year-old Annie's best friend, he is the one who helps her cope with the loss of her older sister, so when he learns he must leave Kentucky and return to Jordan with his family, Annie suggests a shocking alternative.</i> |
| Matson, Morgan | Since You've Been Gone | <i>Imagine the ominous stillness of waking up one day to find that your best friend and constant companion is suddenly gone—family and all. Emily and Sloane shared every thought via text since Sloane moved into town, and Emily became the faithful sidekick to Sloane's fearless personality. Now, without Sloane as her navigator, Emily is stuck with no friends, no job, and no plans. Then a to-do list arrives in the mail from Sloane, and Emily begins a transformative summer that she hopes will lead her to her friend.</i> |
| McBride, Kristina | One Moment | <i>High school senior Maggie remembers little about the accidental death of her boyfriend, Joey, but as she slowly begins to recall that day at the gorge with their long-time friends, she realizes he was keeping some terrible secrets.</i> |
| McGovern, Cammie | Say What You Will | <i>A girl confined to a wheelchair by cerebral palsy and a boy with an obsessive-compulsive disorder are assigned to spend time together in what becomes a blossoming friendship that neither expected.</i> |
| Moriarty, Jaclyn | The Year of Secret Assignments | <i>Three female students from Ashbury High write to three male students from rival Brookfield High as part of a pen pal program—which leads to romance, humiliation, revenge plots, and war between the schools.</i> |
| Myracle, Lauren | Shine | <i>When her best friend falls victim to a vicious hate crime, sixteen-year-old Cat sets out to discover the culprits in her small North Carolina town.</i> |
| Northrop, Michael | Rotten | <i>When troubled sixteen-year-old Jimmer "JD" Dobbs returns from a mysterious summer "upstate," he finds that his mother has adopted an abused Rottweiler that JD names Johnny Rotten, but soon his tenuous relationship with the dog is threatened.</i> |
| Ockler, Sarah | Twenty Boy Summer | <i>While on vacation in California, sixteen-year-old best friends Anna and Frankie conspire to find a boy for Anna's first kiss, but Anna harbors a painful secret that threatens their lighthearted plan and their friendship.</i> |

Papademetriou, Lisa**M or F?**

Gay teen Marcus helps his friend Frannie chat to her crush online but then becomes convinced that the crush is falling for him instead.

Sales, Leila**Mostly Good Girls**

Sixteen-year-olds Violet and Katie, best friends since seventh grade despite differences in their family backgrounds and abilities, are pulled apart during their junior year at Massachusetts' exclusive Westfield School.

Sandoval, Lynda**Who's Your Daddy?**

Lila, Meryl, and Caressa's overbearing fathers keep scaring away potential dates, so the girls decide to perform a romantic Celtic ritual that results in unexpected consequences for the trio.

Scott, Elizabeth**Perfect You**

High school sophomore Kate Brown spends her afternoons at the mall helping her dad sell vitamins, wishing her best friend Anna would stop being a popular snob, and not knowing how to act when Will--a gorgeous classmate but a total player--seems to be interested in her.

Scott, Elizabeth**The Unwritten Rule**

Petite and young-looking, seventeen-year-old Sarah has been best friends with the glamorous and seductive Brianna forever. When she starts liking Brianna's boyfriend, however, their friendship becomes precarious.

See, Lisa**Snow Flower and the Secret Fan**

A story of friendship set in nineteenth-century China follows an elderly woman and her companion as they communicate their hopes, dreams, joys, and tragedies through a unique secret language.

Sonnenblick, Jordan**Notes from the Midnight Driver**

After being assigned to perform community service at a nursing home, sixteen-year-old Alex befriends a cantankerous old man who has some lessons to impart about jazz guitar playing, love, and forgiveness.

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.

Stein, Garth**The Art of Racing in the Rain**

Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul (and an obsession with opposable thumbs), he has educated himself by watching television and by listening closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver. On the night before his death, Enzo takes stock of his life—recalling all that he and his family have been through and hoping to return as a human in his next life.

Strohmeyer, Sarah**Smart Girls Get What They Want**

Three sophomore best friends use their brains--and their wits--to find happiness in high school.

Thomas, Leah**Because You'll Never Meet Me**

Ollie, who has seizures when near electricity, lives in a backwoods cabin with his mother and rarely sees other people. Moritz, born with no eyes and a heart defect that requires a pacemaker, is bullied at his high school. When a physician who knows both suggests they begin corresponding, they form a strong bond that may get them through dark times.

Tracy, Kristen**Hung Up**

When a wrong number blossoms into a phone friendship for Lucy and James, James wants to meet in person—but Lucy is strangely reluctant to do so. Told in the form of telephone calls and voice mail messages.

Whaley, John Corey**Highly Illogical Behavior**

Agoraphobic sixteen-year-old Solomon has not left his house in three years, but Lisa is determined to change that--and to write a scholarship-winning essay based on the results.

Williamson, Debrah**Paper Hearts**

Chancy Deel, a teenager who has run away from her drunken, abusive mother, lands in Wenonah, Oklahoma. Broke and with no place to go, she sneaks into retired chemistry professor Max Boyle's garage and falls asleep in his ancient Lincoln. Adult Protective Services is intent on placing Max, 83, into an assisted-living facility, but he figures he can still fend for himself, and the thought of losing his house, his last link to his beloved wife, as well as his freedom, is too much to bear. When Max gets into his car to commit a carefully planned suicide, he discovers Chancy and realizes that he just might be her last hope.

Wittlinger, Ellen

Hard Love

After 16 years of studied disinterest in the opposite sex, John falls hard for Marisol, who, in one of life's little ironies, is thoroughly and proudly out of the closet. Having encountered each other through their self-written, confessional "zines," the two find commonality not only in their love of writing but in their bone-deep distrust of others.

Zarr, Sara

Sweethearts

As children, Jennifer Harris and Cameron Quick were both social outcasts. They were also one another's only friend. So when Cameron disappears without warning, Jennifer thinks she's lost the only person who will ever understand her. Now in high school, Jennifer has been transformed. Known as Jenna, she's popular, happy, and dating—everything "Jennifer" couldn't be—but she still can't shake the memory of her long-lost friend. When Cameron suddenly reappears, they are both confronted with memories of their shared past and the drastically different paths their lives have taken.

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.

Ziegler, Jennifer

How Not To Be Popular

Seventeen-year-old Sugar Magnolia Dempsey is tired of leaving friends behind every time her hippie parents decide to move, but her plan to be unpopular at her new Austin, Texas, school backfires when other students join her on the path to "supreme dorkdom."

Zindel, Paul

The Pigman (and sequel)

A teenage boy and girl, high school sophomores from unhappy homes, tell of their bizarre relationship with an old man.