

MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Anderson, Laurie Halse

Wintergirls

Eighteen-year-old Lia comes to terms with her best friend's death from anorexia as she struggles with the same disorder.

Arnold, David

Mosquitoland

When she learns that her mother is sick in Ohio, Mim confronts her demons on a thousand-mile odyssey from Mississippi that redefines her notions of love, loyalty, and what it means to be sane.

Avery, Lara

Anything but Ordinary

A slight error left Olympic-diving-hopeful Bryce Graham in a coma for five years. Now, at twenty-two, she must adjust to a world that went on without her and to visions that may or may not be real.

Baratz-Logsted, Lauren

Crazy Beautiful

In this contemporary retelling of "Beauty and the Beast," a teenage boy whose hands were amputated in an explosion and a gorgeous girl whose mother has recently died form an instant connection when they meet on their first day as new students.

Bingham, Kelly

Shark Girl (and sequel)

After a shark attack causes the amputation of her right arm, fifteen-year-old Jane, an aspiring artist, struggles to come to terms with her loss and the changes it imposes on her day-to-day life and her plans for the future.

Blair, Kate

Transferral

In London, England, the government is using the technology to cure the innocent by infecting criminals. Talia is sixteen years old and the daughter of a prime ministerial candidate. She discovers that the effort to ensure that bad things happen only to bad people has turned a once-thriving community into a slum and has made life perilous for two new friends.

Bray, Libba

Going Bovine

Cameron Smith, a disaffected sixteen year-old who has been diagnosed with Creutzfeld Jakob's (aka mad cow) disease, sets off on a road trip with a death-obsessed video gaming dwarf he meets in the hospital in an attempt to find a cure.

Brooks, Martha

Queen of Hearts

Shortly after her first kiss but before her sixteenth birthday in December 1941, Marie Claire and her younger brother and sister are sent to a tuberculosis sanatorium near their Manitoba farm.

Buckingham, Dorothea N.

Staring Down the Dragon

Fifteen-year-old Dell DeMillo tries to adjust to life when she returns to high school after being treated for cancer.

Bunting, Josiah

All Loves Excelling

Having failed to get into Dartmouth after her senior year of high school, Amanda Bahringer is spending a year at St. Matthew's, an expensive prep school that prides itself on placing "underachieving" students in prestigious colleges.

Busby, Cylin

Blink Once

West, a high school senior with everything going for him until an accident leaves him paralyzed, connects with Olivia, a patient in the hospital room next to his, who seems to understand his dreams and nightmares but who has a secret.

Caletti, Deb

The Nature of Jade

Seattle high school senior Jade's life is defined by her anxiety disorder and dysfunctional family until she spies a mysterious boy with a baby who seems to share her fascination with the elephants at a nearby zoo.

Caletti, Deb

Wild Roses

In Washington State, seventeen-year-old Cassie learns about the good and bad sides of both love and genius while living with her mother and her brilliant, yet disturbed, violinist stepfather and falling in love with a gifted young musician.

Chappell, Crissa-Jean

Total Constant Order

Resentful and upset when her family moves from Vermont to Miami, Florida, and her parents' fighting escalates, high-schooler Fin develops OCD and becomes consumed with numbers, counting, irrational worrying, and avoiding germs.

Coley, Liz

Pretty Girl-13

Sixteen-year-old Angie finds herself in her neighborhood with no recollection of her abduction or the three years that have passed since that time--not until alternate personalities start telling her their stories through letters and recordings.

Cook, Robin

Coma

A third-year medical student in a Boston teaching hospital uncovers a medical black market dealing in human organs when she investigates why two young patients have lapsed into comas.

Cook, Robin

Contagion

Ophthalmologist-turned-forensic pathologist John Stapleton investigates a series of virulent and lethal illnesses targeting more costly patients of a giant for-profit medical conglomerate.

Cook, Robin

Fatal Cure

Leaving their urban hospital for a modern medical facility in Bartlet, Vermont, doctors Angela and David Wilson begin to notice puzzling details in the deaths of several terminal patients there.

Cook, Robin

Invasion

Medical experts seek the cause of a sudden outbreak of strange new symptoms that defy diagnosis.

Cook, Robin

Mortal Fear

Internist Jason Howard believes that eminent geneticist Dr. Alvin Hayes was murdered and that the key to his death lies hidden in the Boston Health Care Clinic's molecular genetics lab.

Cook, Robin

Mutation

Biomolecular researcher Victor Stein creates a son through the surrogacy process. While his superior being develops fantastically well for a time, things soon begin to change horribly.

Cook, Robin

Toxin

When his daughter, Becky, becomes ill from bacterial poisoning, Dr. Kim Reggis, a cardiac surgeon, is determined to track down the cause no matter what the cost.

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

Code Orange

While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York.

Crossan, Sarah

One

Despite problems at home, sixteen-year-old conjoined twins Tippi and Grace are loving going to school for the first time and making real friends when they learn that a cardiac problem will force them to have separation surgery--something they have never before considered.

Crow, Matthew

The Brilliant Light of Amber Sunrise

Life-threatening cancer brings Francis and Amber together, but when Francis's recovery takes a different path from Amber's, he has no idea how to live--or how to let go.

Crutcher, Chris

Deadline

Given the medical diagnosis of one year to live, high school senior Ben Wolf decides to fulfill his greatest fantasies, ponders his life's purpose and legacy, and converses through dreams with a spiritual guide.

Dessen, Sarah

Dreamland

After her older sister runs away, sixteen-year-old Caitlin decides that she needs to make a major change in her own life and begins an abusive relationship with a boy who is mysterious, brilliant, and dangerous.

Dominy, Amy Fellner

A Matter of Heart

Sixteen-year-old Abby Lipman is on track to win the state swim championships and qualify for the Olympic trials when a fainting incident at a swim meet leads to the diagnosis of a deadly heart condition and forces her to discover who she is without the one thing that has defined her entire life.

Downham, Jenny

Before I Die

Downham holds nothing back in her wrenching and exceptionally vibrant story about a 16-year-old girl with leukemia determined to do ten things before her imminent death (have sex, commit a crime, fall in love, etc.). Although her rage feels palpable, she has decided to spend her remaining time living instead of dying.

Dunbar, Helene

These Gentle Wounds

Fifteen-year-old Gordie is trying to build a new life after tragically losing his family, but when his abusive father returns, Gordie must confront the traumas of the past.

Edwards, Kim

The Memory Keeper's Daughter

In a tale spanning twenty-five years, a doctor delivers his newborn twins during a snowstorm and, rashly deciding to protect his wife from their baby daughter's affliction with Down Syndrome, turns her over to a nurse who secretly raises the child.

Efaw, Amy

After

In complete denial that she is pregnant, straight-A student and star athlete Devon Davenport leaves her baby in the trash to die. After the baby is discovered, Devon is accused of attempted murder.

Elkeles, Simone

Leaving Paradise (and sequel)

In alternating chapters, seventeen-year-olds Caleb and Maggie relate the difficulties of readjusting to school, and changing relationships with family, friends, and one another, a year after a drunk driving accident sent her to the hospital with a crippling leg injury and him to prison.

Ellsworth, Loretta

In a Heartbeat

Told in their separate voices, Eagan, who has died in a figure-skating accident, becomes a heart donor for Amelia, who then begins taking on some aspects of Eagan's personality.

Forman, Gayle

If I Stay (and sequel)

While in a coma following an automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen-year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weighs whether to live with her grief or join her family in death.

Frank, E. R.

America

America, a not-black, not-white, not-anything boy who has spent many years in institutions for disturbed, antisocial behavior, tries to piece his life together.

Genova, Lisa

Still Alice

Feeling at the top of her game when she is suddenly diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease, Harvard psychologist Alice Howland struggles to find meaning and purpose in her life as she begins to slip away.

Gibson, Marley

Radiate

Just after making the varsity cheerleading squad the summer before her senior year of high school in Maxwell, Alabama, Hayley Matthews learns she has an aggressive form of cancer in her leg, and she turns to her family, her cheerleading, and her Christian faith to sustain her through her treatment.

Green, John

The Fault in Our Stars

Despite the medical miracle that has bought her a few more years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, but when Augustus Waters suddenly appears at the Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be rewritten.

Griffin, Adele

Loud Awake and Lost

Eight months after a debilitating car accident leaves her with brain trauma and a back injury, amnesiac teen Ember tries to piece together the six weeks of her life leading up to the accident—and tries to determine why none of her friends or family are willing to talk about it.

Guest, Judith

Ordinary People

17-year-old Conrad Jarrett, just returned from 8 months in a mental institution after a suicide attempt, tries to pick up his life at home and at school.

Haddon, Mark

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Halpin, Brendan

Forever Changes

Although encouraged to apply to colleges, Brianna Pelletier, a mathematically-gifted high school senior with cystic fibrosis, dwells on her mortality and the unfairness of life.

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.

Harrar, George **Not As Crazy As I Seem**

Devon Brown, 15, may be anxious, even weird, but he knows he's not crazy. He just has a fixation on the number four, an obsession about germs, and an intolerance of untidiness. Devon has obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), and this is his life--a life his mother is trying to comprehend, his father abhors, the kids at school ridicule, and Dr. Wasserman is helping to change.

Haydu, Corey Ann **OCD Love Story**

Bea felt almost normal with Beck—almost as if she could fall in love again. Things change when the psychotherapist who has been helping her deal with past romantic relationships puts her in a group with Beck—a group for teens with obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Hesser, Terry **Kissing Doorknobs**

Fourteen-year-old Tara describes how her increasingly strange compulsions begin to take over her life and affect her relationships with her family and friends.

Hill, Chelsie **Push Girl**

Kara, a high school junior, has a great group of friends, an amazing boyfriend, and expectations of being Homecoming Queen until she leaves a party angry and wakes up in a hospital bed, paralyzed from the waist down. As she is forced to adjust to her new physical reality, she also learns that her friends are not who they seemed to be.

Hoban, Julia **Willow**

Seven months ago, on a rainy March night, sixteen year- old Willow's parents died in a horrible car accident. Willow was driving. Now her older brother barely speaks to her, her new classmates know her as the killer orphan girl, and Willow is blocking the pain by secretly cutting herself. But when one boy—one sensitive, soulful boy—discovers Willow's secret, it sparks an intense relationship that turns the "safe" world Willow has created for herself upside down.

Hopkins, Ellen **Impulse (and sequel)**

Three teens who meet at Reno, Nevada's Aspen Springs mental hospital after each has attempted suicide connect with each other in a way they never have with their parents or anyone else in their lives. Novel in verse.

Howe, James **The Watcher**

As she sits watching a seemingly perfect family and a handsome lifeguard on the beach, a lonely, troubled girl projects herself into the fantasy lives she has created for them.

Hubbard, Jennifer R. **Try Not to Breathe**

The summer Ryan is released from a mental hospital following his suicide attempt, he meets Nicki, who gets him to share his darkest secrets while hiding secrets of her own.

Hurwin, Davida Wills **A Time for Dancing**

Seventeen-year-old best friends Samantha and Juliana tell their stories in alternating chapters after Juliana is diagnosed with cancer.

Jean, Emiko **We'll Never Be Apart**

Haunted by memories of the fire that killed her boyfriend, seventeen-year-old Alice Monroe is in a mental ward when, with support from fellow patient Chase, she begins to confront hidden truths in a journal, including that the only person she trusts may be telling her only half of the story.

Jocelyn, Marthe **Would You**

When her beloved sister, Claire, steps in front of a car and winds up in a coma, Nat's anticipated summer of working, hanging around with friends, and seeing Claire off to college is transformed into a nightmare of doctors, hospitals, and well-meaning neighbors.

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, J. J.

Believarexic

An autobiographical novel in which fifteen-year-old Jennifer Johnson convinces her parents to commit her to the Eating Disorders Unit of an upstate New York psychiatric hospital in 1988. The treatment for her bulimia and anorexia, however, is not what she expects.

Jonsberg, Barry

Dreamrider

Harangued by his father about his weight and bullied in all of the many schools he has attended, Michael finds some comfort in his ability to experience "lucid" dreaming but then starts to notice that the things that happen in his dreams are starting to occur in the real world, too.

Kantor, Melissa

Maybe One Day

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.

Kephart, Beth

One Thing Stolen

Nadia Cara is in Italy with her family because her professor father is researching the 1966 flood, but Nadia herself is in trouble--she has turned into a kleptomaniac and feels detached from everything except for an elusive Italian boy whom no one but herself has seen.

Kesey, Ken

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

McMurphy, a criminal who feigns insanity, is admitted to a mental hospital where he challenges the autocratic authority of the head nurse.

Kessler, Jackie Morse

Hunger

Seventeen-year-old Lisabeth has anorexia. Even turning into Famine--one of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse--cannot keep her from feeling fat and worthless.

Korman, Gordon

Pop

Lonely after a midsummer move to a new town, sixteen-year-old high-school quarterback Marcus Jordan becomes friends with a retired professional linebacker who is great at training him, but whose childish behavior (caused by the onset of Alzheimer's disease) keeps Marcus in hot water.

Leavitt, Martine

Calvin

Seventeen-year-old Calvin, who was born on the day that the last Calvin and Hobbes comic strip was published, is stricken by a schizophrenic episode and begins having conversations with the tiger, Hobbes. Struggling to regain control of his mind and destiny, Calvin becomes convinced that he'll get better if the strip's creator, Bill Watterson, will draw just one more comic.

Lyons, C. J.

Broken

Attending high school for the first time, chronically ill Scarlet, with the help of her new friends, faces down bullies, endures her school-nurse mother's smothering overprotectiveness, and eventually discovers the truth behind her illness--a truth that puts much more than her life at risk.

Mass, Wendy

A Mango-Shaped Space

Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the loss of something important to her.

Maurer, Shari

Change of Heart

When sixteen-year-old Emmi Miller learns she will die without a heart transplant, she becomes aware of all she has been taking for granted, from her parents' love to her soccer ability, but gains strength from new friend Abe.

Mazer, Harry

Somebody Please Tell Me Who I am

Wounded in Iraq while his Army unit is on convoy and treated for many months for traumatic brain injury, the first person Ben remembers from his earlier life is his autistic brother.

McBay, Bruce

Waiting for Sarah

An automobile accident that killed his parents and sister has left Mike Scott bitter, without legs, and with little will to live. A project researching and writing the 50-year history of Carlton High School helps engage Mike until eighth-grader Sarah is assigned to help him. Sarah reminds Mike of his little sister, and he works hard to drive her away. But her curiosity, frankness, and indefatigable good humor gradually nudge Mike out of his self-pity--until the day she disappears.

McCormick, Patricia

Cut

While confined to a mental hospital, thirteen-year-old Callie slowly comes to understand some of the reasons behind her self-mutilation and gradually starts to get better.

McCormick, Patricia

Purple Heart

While recuperating in a Baghdad hospital from a traumatic brain injury sustained during the Iraq War, eighteen-year-old soldier Matt Duffy struggles to recall what happened to him and how it relates to his ten-year-old friend, Ali.

McDaniel, Lurlene

Heart to Heart

After her best friend, Elowyn, is in a fatal car accident, Kasey finds out that Elowyn registered to be a donor while receiving her new driver's license. Her death brings new life to Arabeth, who has been on the heart-transplant list for years. As Kasey attempts to come to terms with her grief, Arabeth begins to realize that Elowyn may not be completely gone.

McDowell, Beck

This Is Not a Drill

Two teens must work together to protect a class of first-graders when a soldier with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder takes them hostage.

McMann, Lisa

Cryer's Cross

Seventeen-year-old Kendall, who suffers from obsessive-compulsive disorder, lives with her parents on a potato farm in a tiny community in Montana where two teenagers go missing within months of each other.

McPhee, Peter

Every Move

Emily has two boys interested in her, but one of them, Michael, is obviously obsessed. When Emily tries to get him to leave her alone, he escalates his advances.

Metzger, Lois

A Trick of the Light

The story of Mike Welles's descent into anorexia is narrated by the disease itself, the insidious voice inside his head preying on his every vulnerability. The voice waits patiently for an opening, which comes in the form of Mike's parents' marital crisis and his insecurity around a new crush, pushing Mike to exercise, coaching him to subsist on next to nothing, and encouraging a friendship with Amber, who is also anorexic.

Mitchard, Jacquelyn

Cage of Stars

Four years after the murder of her younger sisters, Veronica Swan moved to California to train as an EMT where she went to work as a nanny for Scott Early, the man who killed her sisters. Scott, a diagnosed schizophrenic, was deemed incompetent to stand trial and was committed to a mental institution. Although her Mormon family forgave Scott in order to get on with their lives, Veronica plans to avenge her sisters' murders.

Moon, Elizabeth

The Speed of Dark

Journeys inside the mind of Lou Arrendale, an autistic man, who is asked to undergo a new, experimental treatment designed to cure autism, as he decides whether or not he should risk a medical procedure that could make him "normal."

Murphy, Julie

Side Effects May Vary

Alice is ready to go out in a blaze of glory—but then she discovers she's in remission from cancer and must deal with all of the mistakes she's made and the people she's hurt. The year she was meant to die became the year she started to live.

Nelson, R. A.

Breathe My Name

Since her adoption, seventeen-year-old Frances has lived a quiet suburban life, but soon after she begins falling for the new boy at school, she receives a summons from her birth mother who has just been released after serving eleven years for smothering Frances's younger sisters.

Neufeld, John

Lisa, Bright and Dark

Sixteen-year-old Lisa, with the help of her friends, struggles to convince her parents she needs help in her battle against mental illness.

Nolan, Han

Crazy

Fifteen-year-old loner Jason struggles to hide his father's declining mental condition after his mother's death. When his father disappears, he must confide in the other members of a therapy group he has been forced to join at school.

Pearson, Mary E.

The Adoration of Jenna Fox (and sequels)

In the not-too-distant future, when biotechnological advances have made synthetic bodies and brains possible but illegal, a seventeen-year-old girl, recovering from a serious accident and suffering from memory lapses, learns a startling secret about her existence.

Pena, Matt de la

I Will Save You

After running away from a group home, 17-year-old Kidd Ellison sets up camp at a beach where he is put to work by Mr. Red, an aging surfer who runs a maintenance shop. Hardworking and handsome, if somewhat slow, Kidd begins to make friends with some of the camp's teens, especially Olivia, a blond beauty who wears a ski cap that covers part of her face regardless of the weather. All is going well until Devon, Kidd's former best friend and nemesis, finds Kidd and threatens to destroy the peaceful life that he has found.

Picoult, Jodi

Change of Heart

Freelance carpenter Shay Bourne was sentenced to death for killing a little girl, Elizabeth Nealon, and her cop stepfather. Eleven years after the murders, Elizabeth's sister, Claire, needs a heart transplant, and Shay volunteers. Shay is scheduled to be executed—should the state follow through with those plans or allow him to be the donor?

Picoult, Jodi

House Rules

Unable to express himself socially but possessing a savant-like knack for investigating crimes, a teenage boy with Asperger's Syndrome is wrongly accused of killing his tutor when the police mistake his autistic tics for guilty behavior.

Picoult, Jodi

Handle with Care

Struggling to care for their daughter Willow, who was born with brittle bone disease, Charlotte and Sean O'Keefe add additional strain to their overburdened family life when they file a lawsuit against Charlotte's obstetrician.

Picoult, Jodi

My Sister's Keeper

Conceived to provide a bone marrow match for her leukemia-stricken sister, Anna begins to question her moral obligations in light of countless medical procedures and decides to fight for the right to make decisions about her own body.

Polsky, Sara

This Is How I Find Her

High school junior Sophie has always had the burden of taking care of her mother, who has bipolar disorder. After her mother's hospitalization, she must learn to cope with estranged family and figure out her own life.

Price, Nora

Zoe Letting Go

Zoe's mother unceremoniously tells her to pack a bag for six weeks and then drops her off at the remote Twin Birch Hospital. There she spends her days navigating complicated relationships with the other patients, most of whom have eating-related disorders. Zoe doesn't belong here; she belongs with Elise, her best friend, who won't reply to Zoe's deeply confessional letters. How did she end up in this place? Why can't she go home?

Reinhardt, Dana

The Things a Brother Knows

Although they have never gotten along well, seventeen-year-old Levi follows his older brother Boaz, an ex-Marine, on a walking trip from Boston to Washington, D.C. in hopes of learning why Boaz is completely withdrawn.

Scheier, Leah

Your Voice Is All I Hear

When her only friend transfers to a different high school, April braces for the worst year of her life, until she meets a charismatic boy named Jonah, who is diagnosed with schizophrenia. When his health declines, April must make an impossible choice: stick with the boy she loves or let him go so they can both heal.

Schmidt, Tiffany

Send Me a Sign

Superstitious before being diagnosed with leukemia, high school senior Mia becomes irrationally dependent on horoscopes, good luck charms, and the like when her life shifts from cheerleading and parties to chemotherapy and platelets, while her parents obsess and lifelong friend Gyver worries.

Schneider, Robyn

Extraordinary Means

When Lane's drug-resistant tuberculosis lands him in a sanatorium, he finds that one of the other residents is a girl he met at summer camp years ago. College-bound Lane is in denial about his illness, assuming that he can keep up with his AP work and go home soon. Sadie's condition is neither improving nor getting worse; she's been at Latham House long enough to have formed a group of friends who go on nighttime excursions to buy contraband in the nearby town. In alternating chapters, Lane and Sadie narrate their gradual interest in and eventual love for each other as they await an upcoming drug trial that could mean an end to their quarantine.

Scott, Elizabeth

Miracle

Megan Hathaway, unable to remember the plane crash of which she was the sole survivor, feels like an empty shell and loses all interest in her life and her friends. Unlikely friends help her deal with her post-traumatic stress disorder and face life as a "miracle."

Sheinmel, Alyssa

Faceless

Maisie is a normal sixteen-year-old until an electrical fire caused by a lightning strike leaves her with severe burns, her face partially destroyed. She is lucky enough to get a full face transplant, but she soon discovers how much her looks shaped her own identity and her relationship with those around her, including her boyfriend.

Smith, Jennifer E.

The Comeback Season

High school freshman Ryan Walsh, a Chicago Cubs fan, meets Nick when they both skip school on opening day. Their blossoming relationship becomes difficult for Ryan when she discovers that Nick is seriously ill.

Stone, Tamara Ireland

Every Last Word

Consumed by a stream of dark thoughts and worries that she can't turn off, a girl coping with Purely-Obsessional OCD learns to accept herself and take control of her life through her experiences in poetry club.

Stork, Francisco X.

Marcelo in the Real World

Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm.

Stork, Francisco X.

The Memory of Light

When Victoria Cruz wakes up in the psychiatric ward of a Texas hospital after her failed suicide attempt, she still has no desire to live. As the weeks pass, however, and she meets Dr. Desai and three of the other patients, she begins to reflect on the reasons why she feels like a loser compared with the rest of her family and to see a path ahead where she can make a life of her own.

Tashjian, Janet

Fault Line

When seventeen-year-old Becky Martin, an aspiring comic, meets Kip Costello, she is caught in a mentally and physically abusive relationship.

Trueman, Terry

Stuck in Neutral

Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition as he believes his father is planning to kill him.

Van Draanen, Wendelin

The Running Dream

When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb. Her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again.

Vaught, Susan

Trigger

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

Vizzini, Ned

It's Kind of a Funny Story

Craig Gilner, a high-school student in New York City, can't deal with his grades, keep food in his stomach, or prevent himself from feeling disconnected from his friends and family. Finally, the urge to kill himself eats into his psyche, and he calls a suicide hotline that quickly recommends that he contact a nearby psychiatric hospital.

Wade, Krystal

Asleep

Rose Briar claims no responsibility for the act that led to her imprisonment in an asylum. She wants to escape, until terrifying nightmares make her question her sanity and reach out to her doctor. He's understanding and caring in ways her parents never have been, but as her walls tumble down and Rose admits fault, a fellow patient warns her to stop the medications. Phillip believes the doctor is evil and they'll never make it out of the facility alive. Trusting him might be just the thing to save her. Or it might prove the asylum is exactly where she needs to be.

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.

Walkup, Jennifer

This Ordinary Life

Jasmine dreams of winning an internship at a radio station, but she is forced to put her plans on hold when she has to deal with her brother's seizures and her mother's addiction to alcohol.

Weatherly, Lee

Kat Got Your Tongue

After being hit by a car, thirteen-year-old Kat wakes up in the hospital with no memory of her previous life.

Weaver, Will

Defect

After spending most of his life in Minnesota foster homes hiding a bizarre physical abnormality, fifteen-year-old David is offered a chance at normalcy, but he must decide if giving up what makes him special is the right thing to do.

Wilson, Rachel M.

Don't Touch

Caddie struggles with OCD, anxiety, and a powerful fear of touching another person's skin. This condition threatens her dreams of being an actress--until the boy playing Hamlet opposite her Ophelia gives her a reason to overcome her fears.

Young, Janet Ruth

The Opposite of Music

How does a family cope when a father becomes incapacitated by depression and the medical system fails to help him? For Billy's family, the solution is to take matters into their own hands by researching treatments and trading shifts so that the others can continue to go to school or work. Despite the family's efforts, Dad slips deeper into illness, and the family slips deeper into isolation and despair.

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.