

PREJUDICE /// RACISM

Abdel-Fattah, Randa

The Lines We Cross

Basketball enthusiast Michael attends anti-immigration rallies with his parents until a friendship with a Muslim refugee newcomer from Afghanistan compels him to question his family's politics.

Abike-Iyimide, Faridah

Ace of Spaces

At Niveus Private Academy, Devon and Chiamaka are the only students chosen to be Senior Prefects who are also black—which makes them targets for a series of anonymous texts revealing their secrets to the entire student body. Both students were on track toward valedictorian and bright college futures, but this prank quickly turns into a very dangerous game; they are at more than one disadvantage as it looks like things could turn deadly.

Adia, Jade

There Goes the Neighborhood

In order to stop the destructive forces of gentrification, three best friends use social media to create a fake gang and get justice for their South L.A. community.

Ahmed, Samira

Hollow Fires

After discovering the body of fourteen-year-old Jawad Ali in Jackson Park, seventeen-year-old journalism student Safiya Mirza begins investigating his murder and ends up confronting white supremacy in her own high school.

Ahmed, Samira

Internment

Two-and-a-half years after an election that brought about a Muslim ban, exclusion laws, and the internment of Muslims, Layla Amin, a 17-year-old Muslim, is enraged by the changes that her small liberal California community accepts: curfews, book burnings, required viewing of the U.S. president's weekly National Security Address. On a personal level, she was suspended from school for kissing her non-Muslim boyfriend in public, and her poet-professor father has lost his job. Still, her family's abrupt nighttime "relocation" to a camp is a shock. While her parents shrink into compliance, Layla quickly makes friends and allies who band together to bring public attention to the camps and put an end to the country's fascism and Islamophobia.

Alexie, Sherman

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Alyse, Charity

Other Side of the Tracks

In the racially divided towns of Bayside and Hamilton, New York, no one steps over the train tracks that divide them. Or else. When Zach Whitman, a white boy, moves in from Philly, he follows his dream across the tracks to meet his idol, the famous jazz musician who owns The Sunlight Record Shop in Hamilton. Capri Collin plans to follow her late mother's famous footsteps, dancing her way onto Broadway, and leaving this town for good. Her older brother, Justin, is planning to go off to college next year. One tragic night changes all their plans: Justin's friend, the star of Hamilton's football team, is murdered by a white Bayside police officer. Now the long-standing feud between Bayside and Hamilton becomes an all-out war. And Capri, Justin, and Zach are right in the middle of it.

Blackman, Malorie

Naughts & Crosses

In a world where the pale-skinned Naughts are discriminated against by the politically and socially powerful dark-skinned Crosses, teenagers Callum--a Naught--and Sephy--a Cross--test whether their love is strong enough to survive their society's racism.

Blum, Isaac

The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen

Hoodie Rosen's life isn't that bad. Sure, his entire Orthodox Jewish community has just picked up and moved to the quiet, mostly non-Jewish town of Tregaron, but Hoodie's world hasn't changed that much. He has basketball to play, studies to avoid, and a supermarket full of delicious kosher snacks to eat. The people of Tregaron aren't happy that so many Orthodox Jews are moving in at once, but that's not Hoodie's problem--that is, until he meets and falls for Anna-Marie Diaz-O'Leary--who happens to be the daughter of the headstrong mayor trying to keep Hoodie's community out of the town. And things only get more complicated when Tregaron is struck by a series of antisemitic crimes that quickly escalate to deadly violence. As his community turns on him for siding with the enemy, Hoodie finds himself caught between his first love and the only world he's ever known.

Brooks, Nick

Promise Boys

The Urban Promise Prep School vows to turn boys into men. As students, J.B., Ramón, and Trey are forced to follow the prestigious program's strict rules. Extreme discipline, they've been told, is what it takes to be college bound, to avoid the fates of many men in their neighborhoods. This, the Principal Moore Method, supposedly saves lives. When Moore ends up murdered, the trio emerges as the case's prime suspects. All three maintain their innocence, and they band together to track down the real killer before they are arrested. But is the true culprit hiding among them?

Buckmire, Brian

Come Home Safe

When two Black siblings, Reed and Olivia, are accused of crimes they didn't commit, they must find a way to prove their innocence in this novel exploring the pain, truths, and hopes that come with growing up as a person of color in America.

Buford, Candace

Kneel

For guys like Russell Boudreaux, football is the only way out of their small Louisiana town. As the team's varsity tight end, Rus has a singular goal: to get a scholarship and play on the national stage. When his best friend is unfairly arrested and kicked off the team, Rus faces an impossible choice: speak up or live in fear. Desperate for change, Rus kneels during the national anthem. In one instant, he falls from local stardom and becomes a target for hatred. With the help of his best friend and an unlikely ally, Rus will fight for his dreams, and for justice.

Carlton, Susan Kaplan

In the Neighborhood of True

In the very white, very Christian world of Atlanta society in 1958, New York transplant Ruth decides not to tell her new high school friends and boyfriend that she is Jewish—but when a violent act rocks the city, Ruth must figure out where her loyalties lie.

Chee, Traci

We Are Not Free

For fourteen-year-old budding artist Minoru Ito, her two brothers, her friends, and the other members of the Japanese-American community in southern California, the three months since Pearl Harbor was attacked have become a waking nightmare. They have been attacked, spat on, and abused with no way to retaliate. Now things are about to get worse, their lives forever changed by the mass incarcerations in the relocation camps.

Courtney, Nadine Jolie

All-American Muslim Girl

Allie Abraham has it all going for her—she's a straight-A student with good friends and a close-knit family, and she's dating popular, sweet Wells Henderson. One problem: Wells's father is Jack Henderson, America's most famous conservative shock jock, and Allie hasn't told Wells that her family is Muslim. It's not like Allie's religion is a secret. It's just that her parents don't practice and raised her to keep it to herself. But as Allie witnesses Islamophobia in her small town and across the nation, she decides to embrace her faith—study it, practice it, and even face misunderstanding for it.

De Leon, Jennifer

Don't Ask Me Where I'm From

It's fine that Lilliana's best friend, Jade, is all caught up in her new boyfriend lately. It's fine that her inner-city high school is disorganized and underfunded. It's fine that her father took off again, and she's left with her increasingly crazy mom and her heathen little brothers. But it turns out before he left, her father signed Lilliana up for a school desegregation program called METCO. At Westburg. Lilliana-- half-Guatemalan and half-Salvadorian-- must struggle with being a minority. The only way to survive is to whiten up. When she discovers the truth about her father-- he's undocumented, and he's been deported back to Guatemala-- nothing is fine. Lili is done changing who she is and denying her culture

Feinstein, John

Backfield Boys

When best friends Tom and Jason leave New York City for an elite, sports-focused boarding school in Virginia to play football, they find some coaches and teammates to be steeped in racism.

Fukuda, Andrew

This Light between Us

In 1935, ten-year-old Alex Maki of Bainbridge Island, Washington, is horrified to discover that his new pen pal, Charlie Lévy of Paris, France, is a girl. In spite of his initial reluctance, their letters continue over the years. They fight to continue their friendship even as Charlie endures the Nazi occupation and Alex leaves his family in an internment camp at Manzanar to join the 442nd Combat Regiment of the Army.

Gaines, Ernest J.

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman

Miss Jane Pittman is 110 when she recalls her childhood and the arrival of both Union and Confederate troops on the plantation where she lived.

Gaines, Ernest J.

A Lesson Before Dying

A young illiterate African American man witnesses two black robbers kill a white store owner in Louisiana in the late 1940s, and he is the one convicted.

Grisham, John

A Time to Kill

Criminal lawyer Jake Brigance faces the fight of his life when he is asked to defend Carl Hailey, who, in a fit of rage, shot and killed the men on trial for the rape of his daughter.

Guterson, David

Snow Falling on Cedars

After returning from internment during World War II and trying to get his land back, Kabuo Miyamoto is arrested and tried for the murder of Carl Heine.

Harris, Pamela N.

This Town Is on Fire

A lot is up in the air in Naomi Henry's life--her spot as a varsity cheer flier, her classmates' reaction to the debut of her natural hair, and her crush on the guy who's always been like a brother to her. With so much uncertainty, she feels lucky to have a best friend like Kylie to keep her grounded. After all, they're practically sisters--Naomi's mom took care of Kylie and her twin brother for years. But then a video of Kylie calling the cops on two Black teens in a shopping store parking lot goes viral. Naomi is shaken, and her town is reeling from the publicity. While Naomi tries to reckon with Kylie, the other Black students in their high school are questioning their friendship with her, and her former friends are wondering where this new "woke" Naomi came from. Although Naomi wants to stand by her best friend, she now can't help but see everything in a different light. As tensions in her town escalate, Naomi finds herself engaging in protests that are on the cusp of being illegal. When a bomb explodes, will Naomi be caught in the center of the blast?

Harris, Pamela N.

When You Look Like Us

When you look like us (brown skin, brown eyes, black braids or fades), everyone else thinks you're trouble. No one even thinks twice about a missing black girl from public housing because she must've brought whatever happened to her upon herself. I, Jay Murphy, can admit that, for a minute, I thought my sister Nicole just got caught up with her drug-dealing boyfriend and his friends. But she's been gone too long. If I hadn't hung up on her that night, she would be at our house, spending time with Grandma. If I was a better brother, she'd be finishing senior year instead of being another name on a missing persons' list. It's time to step up, to do what the Newport News police department won't. I have to bring her home.

Henson, S. F.

Devils Within

Nate was eight the first time he stabbed someone; he was eleven when he earned his red laces-a prize for spilling blood for "the cause." And he was fourteen when he murdered his father (and the leader of The Fort, a notorious white supremacist compound) in self-defense, landing in a treatment center while the state searched for his next of kin. Now, in the custody of an uncle he never knew existed, who wants nothing to do with him, enrolled in school under a false name so The Fort can't find him, Nate struggles to navigate a world where people of different races interact without enmity.

Higgins, M. G.

I'm Just Me

Nasreen and Mia, who are Muslim and African American respectively, are the targets of bullies at Arondale High and together come up with a plan to fight back against their tormenters.

Ho, Joanna

The Silence That Binds Us

In the year following their son's death, May Chen's parents face racist accusations of putting too much pressure on their son and causing his death by suicide. May attempts to challenge the racism and ugly stereotypes through her writing, only to realize that she still has a lot to learn and that her actions have consequences for her family as well as herself.

Hopkins, Ellen

People Kill People

A gun is sold in the classifieds after killing a spouse, bought by a teenager for needed protection. But which was it? Each has the incentive to pick up a gun, to fire it. Was it Rand or Cami, married teenagers with a young son? Was it Silas or Ashlyn, members of a white supremacist youth organization? Daniel, who fears retaliation because of his race, who possessively clings to Grace, the love of his life? Or Noelle, who lost everything after a devastating accident, and has sunk quietly into depression? One tense week brings all six people into close contact in a town wrought with political and personal tensions. Someone will fire. And someone will die. But which person fires, and who dies?

Johnson, Kim

This Is My America

Every week Tracy Beaumont writes letters to Innocence X, a justice-seeking project, asking them to help her father, an innocent Black man on death row. After seven years, Tracy is running out of time: her dad has only 267 days left. Then the police arrive in the night, and Tracy's older brother, Jamal, goes from being a bright, promising track star to a thug on the run, accused of killing his white girlfriend. As Tracy investigates what really happened between Jamal and Angela down at the Pike, she uncovers their Texas town's racist history. Will she prove her brother's innocence-- or cause her world to explode?

Jones, Kimberly

Why We Fly

Chanel and Eleanor's rocky start to senior year gets more complex when the cheerleading team kneels for the national anthem and each girl grapples with the consequences. When the cheer squad decides to take a knee at the season's first football game, what seemed like a positive show of solidarity suddenly becomes the reason for a larger fallout between the girls. Grappling with the school's actions as well as their own problems, can the girls rely on the friendship they have always shared?

Khan, Sabina

Zara Hossain Is Here

Ever since her family moved to Texas from Pakistan when she was a baby, seventeen-year-old Zara Hossain has only ever called Corpus Christi home. Being the only Muslim girl at her conservative Catholic school, blending in isn't really an option, especially with people like Tyler Benson always tormenting her. But one day Tyler takes things too far by defacing Zara's locker with a racist message which gets him suspended. As an act of revenge, Tyler and his friends vandalize the Hossains' house with Islamophobic graffiti, which leads to a violent crime that puts Zara and her family's entire future at risk.

Kidd, Sue Monk

The Secret Life of Bees

After her "stand-in mother," a bold black woman named Rosaleen, insults the three biggest racists in town, Lily Owens joins Rosaleen on a journey to Tiburon, South Carolina, where they are taken in by three sisters.

Latham, Jennifer

Dreamland Burning

When Rowan finds a skeleton on her family's property, investigating the brutal, century-old murder leads to painful discoveries about the past. Alternating chapters reveal information that help solve the mystery of what happened through the telling of the story of William, a teen who lived through the racial firestorm leading up to the 1921 Tulsa race riot.

Lee, Harper

To Kill a Mockingbird

Scout's father defends a black man accused of raping a white woman in a small Alabama town during the 1930s.

Littman, Sarah Darer

Anything but Okay

Life has suddenly turned chaotic for high school student Stella since her brother, Rob, got home from his second tour of duty in Afghanistan. Her school is on edge with ethnic tensions and her brother seems to be suffering from post-traumatic stress but will not talk about it. When Rob's anger finally spirals out of control, Stella realizes she has to find the courage to take a stand against the forces of hate in her hometown.

Lumbard, Rabiah York

No True Believers

High school senior Salma Bakkiou faces prejudice and hidden danger after being framed for a Muslim terrorist act she did not commit.

Mafi, Tahereh

A Very Large Expanse of Sea

It's 2002, a year after 9/11. It's an extremely turbulent time politically, but especially so for someone like Shirin, a sixteen-year-old Muslim girl who's tired of being stereotyped. Shirin is never surprised by how horrible people can be. She's tired of the rude stares, the degrading comments--even the physical violence--she endures as a result of her race, her religion, and the hijab she wears every day. So she's built up protective walls and refuses to let anyone close enough to hurt her. Instead, she drowns her frustrations in music and spends her afternoons break-dancing with her brother. But then she meets Ocean James. He's the first person in forever who really seems to want to get to know Shirin. It terrifies her--they seem to come from two irreconcilable worlds--and Shirin has had her guard up for so long that she's not sure she'll ever be able to let it down.

Magoon, Kekla

How It Went Down (and companion book)

When sixteen-year-old Tariq Johnson is shot to death, his community is thrown into an uproar because Tariq was black and the shooter, Jack Franklin, is white. In the aftermath, everyone has something to say, but no two accounts of the events agree.

McQueen, Daven

The Invincible Summer of Juniper Jones

It's the summer of 1955. For Ethan Harper, a biracial kid raised mostly by his white father, race has always been a distant conversation. When he's sent to spend the summer with his aunt and uncle in small-town Alabama, however, his blackness is suddenly front and center, and no one is shy about making it known he's not welcome there--and then he meets Juniper Jones. The town's resident oddball and free spirit, she's everything the townspeople aren't--open, kind, and accepting. Armed with two bikes and an unlimited supply of root beer floats, Ethan and Juniper set out to find their place in a town that's bent on rejecting them.

McWilliams, Kelly

Mirror Girls

As infants, twin sisters Charlie Yates and Magnolia Heathwood were separated after the lynching of their parents, who died for loving across the color line. Now Charlie is a young Black organizer in Harlem, while white-passing Magnolia is the heiress to a cotton plantation in Eureka, Georgia. When Magnolia finally learns the truth, her reflection mysteriously disappears from mirrors--the sign of a terrible curse. In Harlem, Charlie's grandmother falls ill, and her final wish is to go back to Eureka-- and, unbeknownst to Charlie, to see Magnolia one last time. Now teenagers, the sisters reunite. 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.

McWilliams, Kelly Your Plantation Prom Is Not Okay

After the death of her mother, Harriet Douglass lives with her historian father on an old plantation in Louisiana, which they have transformed into one of the South's few enslaved people's museums. Mother and daughter duo Claudia and Layla Hartwell plan to turn the property next door into a wedding venue and host an antebellum-themed wedding of two Hollywood stars. When Harriet's school announces that prom will be held on the plantation, Harriet snaps. Can Harriet use the power of social media to cancel the celebrity wedding and the plantation prom -- while trying to build a bridge between Layla and herself?

Moriarty, Laura American Heart

Fifteen-year-old Sarah Mary will do anything for her sensitive younger brother, but she never thought that would mean running from the law. The setting is the Midwestern United States; the time is the not-too-distant future. A Muslim registry is in effect, and Muslims are being bused to detention centers called "safety zones" en masse. Sarah Mary's indifference to this situation is forced to change when Caleb's compassion for a Muslim in hiding gets her involved in a plan to help this Iranian woman escape.

Moulite, Maika One of the Good Ones

Although distraught, Happi is also unsettled by the way people have idealized the memory of her sister who was killed after attending a social justice rally-- why do people have to be perfect in order to be missed? As a way to honor her memory, however, Happi and her other sister Genny go on a roadtrip using the original "Green Book"-- but the trip reveals secrets neither sister knew about Kezi.

Myers, Walter Dean Invasion

Josiah Wedgewood and Marcus Perry were friends in Virginia, but now that they are both involved in the Normandy invasion, the differences in their positions is uncomfortable. Josiah is a white infantryman and Marcus is a black transport driver, the only role the segregated army will allow him.

Perera, Anna Guantanamo Boy

Six months after the events of September 11, 2001, Khalid, a Muslim fifteen-year-old boy from England, is kidnapped during a family trip to Pakistan and imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where he is held for two years for reasons unknown to him.

Picoult, Jodi Small Great Things

A black neonatal nurse is charged with causing the death of a white supremacist's newborn baby. The story is told from the points of view of the nurse, her attorney, and the baby's father.

Reynolds, Jason All-American Boys

When sixteen-year-old Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing, classmate Quinn witnesses his brutal beating at the hands of a police officer who happens to be the older brother of his best friend. Told through Rashad and Quinn's alternating viewpoints.

Sabreen, Laila You Truly Assumed

Sabriya has her whole summer planned-- until a terrorist attack occurs near her home. When the terrorist is assumed to be Muslim and Islamophobia grows, Sabriya turns to her online journal for comfort. When the blog goes viral, fellow Muslim teens around the country flock to it and find solace and a sense of community. Two more teens, Zakat in Georgia and Farah in California, join Bri to run You Truly Assumed. The three form a strong friendship, but as the blog's popularity grows, so do the pushback, hateful comments, and threats. The search to find out who is behind it all begins. Now all three must decide whether to shut down the blog and lose what they have worked for or take a stand and risk everything to make their voices heard.

Smith, Sherri L. Flygirl

During World War II, a light-skinned African-American girl "passes" for white in order to join the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

Stone, Nic Dear Martin

Writing letters to the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., seventeen-year-old college-bound Justyce McAllister struggles to face the reality of race relations today and how it is shaping him.

Strasser, Todd The Wave

The powerful forces of group pressure that pervaded many historic movements such as Nazism are recreated in the classroom when history teacher Burt Ross introduces a "new" system to his students. Before long "The Wave," with its rules of "strength through discipline, community, and action," sweeps from the classroom through the entire school. As most of the students join the movement, Laurie Saunders and David Collins recognize the frightening momentum of "The Wave" and realize they must stop it before it's too late.

Stratton, Allan

Borderline

Despite the strained relationship between them, teenaged Sami Sabiri risks his life to uncover the truth when his father is implicated in a terrorist plot.

Thomas, Angie

The Hate U Give

Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this searing debut is about an ordinary girl in extraordinary circumstances and addresses issues of racism and police violence with intelligence, heart, and unflinching honesty.

Thomas, Angie

On the Come Up

When sixteen-year-old Bri, an aspiring rapper, pours her anger and frustration into her first song, she finds herself at the center of a controversy.

Tian, Xixi

This Place Is Still Beautiful

The Flanagan sisters are as different as they come. Seventeen-year-old Annalie is bubbly, sweet, and self-conscious, whereas nineteen-year-old Margaret is sharp and assertive. Margaret looks just like their mother, while Annalie passes for white and looks like the father who abandoned them years ago, leaving their Chinese immigrant mother to raise the girls alone in their small, predominantly white Midwestern town. When their house is vandalized with a shocking racial slur, Margaret rushes home from her summer internship in New York City. She expects outrage. Instead, her sister and mother would rather move on--especially once Margaret's own investigation begins to make members of their community uncomfortable. For Annalie, this was meant to be a summer of new possibilities, and she resents her sister's sudden presence and insistence on drawing negative attention to their family. Meanwhile Margaret is infuriated with Annalie's passive acceptance of what happened. For Margaret, the summer couldn't possibly get worse, until she crosses paths with someone she swore she'd never see again: her first love, Rajiv Agarwal. As the sisters navigate this unexpected summer, an explosive secret threatens to break apart their relationship, once and for all.

Upperman, Katy

The Impossibility of Us

Mati, a devout Muslim from Afghanistan, and Elise, a seventeen-year-old whose brother was killed there, try to keep their budding romance secret from their families.

Volponi, Paul

Black and White

Two star high school basketball players, one black and one white, experience the justice system differently after committing a crime together and getting caught.

Wiemer, Liza

The Assignment

When an assignment given by a favorite teacher instructs a group of students to argue for the Final Solution, a euphemism used to describe the Nazi plan for the genocide of the Jewish people, Logan March and Cade Crawford are horrified. Their teacher cannot seriously expect anyone to complete an assignment that fuels intolerance and discrimination. Logan and Cade decide they must take a stand. As the school administration addresses their refusal to participate in the appalling debate, the student body, their parents, and the larger community are forced to face the issue as well.

Woodson, Jacqueline

If You Come Softly (and sequel)

After meeting at their private school in New York, fifteen-year-old Jeremiah, who is black and whose parents are separated, and Ellie, who is white and whose mother has twice abandoned her, fall in love and then try to cope with people's reactions.

Zoboi, Ibi

Punching the Air

Amal Shahid has always been an artist and a poet. Even in a diverse art school, however, he's seen as disruptive and unmotivated by a biased system. Then one fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying neighborhood escalates into tragedy. "Boys just being boys" turns out to be true only when those boys are white. Suddenly, at just sixteen years old, Amal's bright future is upended. He is convicted of a crime he didn't commit and sent to prison. Despair and rage almost sink him until he turns to the refuge of his words, his art. This never should have been his story. But can he change it?