

COPING WITH LIFE AND ITS PROBLEMS

Abawi, Atia

A Land of Permanent Goodbyes

After their home in Syria is bombed and many of his family members killed, Tareq, his father, and his younger sister seek refuge, first with extended family in Raqqa, a stronghold for the militant group, Daesh, and then abroad.

Alcaraz, Hailey

Up in Flames

Eighteen-year-old Ruby's sole concern is capturing the heart of Ashton, the boy next door, but when devastating wildfires engulf her world, she suddenly becomes responsible for her family's survival and works to aid the displaced undocumented community with tough choices to make.

Anderson, Laurie Halse

The Impossible Knife of Memory

Hayley Kincaid and her father move back to their hometown to try a "normal" life, but the horrors he saw in the war threaten to destroy their lives.

Arcos, Carrie

Out of Reach

Accompanied by her brother's friend, Tyler, sixteen-year-old Rachel ventures through San Diego and nearby areas seeking her brother, eighteen-year-old Micah, a methamphetamine addict who ran away from home.

Armstrong, C. H.

Roam

Seventeen-year-old Abby Lunde and her family are living on the streets. They had a normal life back in Omaha—but, thanks to her mother's awful mistake, they had to leave behind what little they had for a new start in Rochester. Abby tries to be an average teenager: fitting in at school, dreaming of a boyfriend, college, and a career in music. But Minnesota winters are unforgiving, and so are many teenagers.

Banash, Jennifer

Silent Alarm

Alys, a junior who dreams of studying violin at Julliard, must deal with the aftermath of a tragic high school shooting in which her older brother, Luke, was the shooter.

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.

Bloor, Edward

A Plague Year

A ninth-grader who works with his father in the local supermarket describes the plague of meth addiction that consumes many people in his Pennsylvania coal mining town from 9/11 and the nearby crash of United Flight 93 in Shanksville to the Quecreek Mine disaster in Somerset the following summer.

Brown, Jennifer

Bitter End

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

Brown, Jennifer

Hate List

Sixteen-year-old Valerie, whose boyfriend Nick committed a school shooting at the end of their junior year, struggles to cope with integrating herself back into high school life, unsure herself whether she was a hero or a villain.

Brown, Jennifer

Thousand Words

Talked into sending a nude picture of herself to her boyfriend while she was drunk, Ashleigh became the center of a sexting scandal and is now in court-ordered community service, where she finds an unlikely ally, Mack.

Caletti, Deb

A Heart in a Body in the World

Followed by Grandpa Ed in his RV and backed by her brother and friends, Annabelle, eighteen, runs from Seattle to Washington, D.C., becoming a reluctant activist as people connect her journey to her recent trauma.

Caletti, Deb

Plan A

Ivy can't entirely believe it when the plus sign appears on the test. Now, instead of spending the summer in her small Texas town working at the local drugstore and swooning over her boyfriend, Lorenzo, she's planning a cross-country road trip to her grandmother's house on the West Coast, where she can legally obtain an abortion. Ivy and Lorenzo hit the road, and while she can't run from the incessant pressure of others' opinions about her body or from her own expectations and insecurities, she discovers a new world of healing and hope. As the women she encounters share their stories, she chips away at the stigma, silence, and shame surrounding reproductive rights while those collective experiences guide her to her own choice.

Cardi, Annie

Red

When Tess's decision to get an abortion goes public, she is rejected and harassed by people in her community, but she soon finds solace in her music and uses her voice to end the cycle of abuse in her small town.

Carleson, J. C.

The Tyrant's Daughter

Exiled to the United States after her father, a Middle Eastern dictator, is killed in a coup, fifteen-year-old Laila must cope with a completely new way of life, the truth of her father's regime, and her mother and brother's ways of adjusting.

Cassidy, Anne

Looking for JJ

Seventeen-year-old Alice, released from prison with a new identity after serving six years for murdering a child, tries to keep her anonymity from the British tabloids while haunted by memories of her past trauma.

Choyce, Lesley

Off the Grid

When Cody's father becomes sick his family is forced to move from the wilderness to the city, where Cody has trouble adjusting.

Christie, Judy

Wreath

Sixteen-year-old orphan Wreath Willis lives in a junkyard while trying to complete high school and pursue the good life. Her attempts to go unnoticed are threatened by the impact she has on the lives of various people in her community.

Christopher, Lucy

Stolen

Sixteen-year-old Gemma, a British city-dweller, is abducted while on vacation with her parents and taken to the Australian outback, where she soon realizes that escape attempts are futile. In time she learns that her captor is not as despicable as she first believed.

Clayton, Dhonielle

The Rumor Game

At Foxham Prep, a posh private school for Washington, D.C.'s elite, a rumor gains momentum as it collects followers on social media, pulling three girls into its path--Bryn, who wants to erase all memories of the mistake she made last summer; cheer captain Cora, who desperately wants to believe in her boyfriend's faithfulness; and shy Georgie, newly hot after a summer at fat camp and ready to reinvent herself--but who can stop a dangerous rumor once it takes on a life of its own?

Colasanti, Susane

Keep Holding On

Bullied at school and neglected by her self-absorbed, single mother at home, high school junior Noelle finally realizes she must do something to change her life after a classmate commits suicide.

Contis, Andrea

Out of the Fire

It wasn't the kidnapping that ruined Cass Adams's life. It was the letters that came after. The pink envelopes that appear in her car, her locker, her bedroom. Notes from the man she escaped, telling her that he's always there, always watching. The police say there's nothing they can do, and Cass resigns herself to live in fear until she reconnects with three old friends--three girls ready to exact vengeance on those who wronged them.

Crutcher, Chris

Ironman

While training for a triathlon, seventeen-year-old Bo attends an anger management group at school that leads him to examine his relationship with his father.

Cupala, Holly

Tell Me a Secret

Seventeen-year-old Rand's unexpected pregnancy leads her on a path to unravel the mystery of her sister's death and face her own more hopeful future.

Davis, Lane

I Swear

After persistent bullying leads to a high school senior's suicide, her tormentors examine their behavior and culpability.

Donoghue, Emma

Room

A five-year-old boy narrates a story about his life growing up in a single room where his mother tries to protect him from the man who kidnapped her when she was a teenager and has held her prisoner for seven years.

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.

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.

Gardner, Faith

How We Ricochet

Betty, her sister and mother were all shopping at the mall when the shooting happened -- and although they all survived, none of them would be the same after. Betty watches her mother throw herself into activism and away from her family, while her outgoing sister becomes a shadow of her former self. Desperate for answers, Betty finds herself reaching out to the shooter's brother, but all it does is reveal that nothing in life is simple to understand.

Gibbons, Kaye

Ellen Foster

Growing up in a small Southern town, eleven-year-old Ellen Foster has already learned some of life's most difficult lessons. Abused by her drunken father and cruel grandmother, she searches for a safe place to live.

Glasgow, Kathleen

You'd Be Home Now

After a fatal car accident that reveals Emory's brother Joey's opioid addiction, Emory struggles to help him on his road to recovery and make herself heard in a town that insists on not listening.

Graham, Rosemary

Stalker Girl

During a difficult time in her life, when her mother and stepfather have broken up and her father cancels a trip she has been anticipating, Carly becomes obsessed with her ex-boyfriend's new girlfriend.

Grove, Vicki

Everything Breaks

After his three best friends die in a car crash when he should have been driving, seventeen-year-old Tucker meets Charon, the Ferryman of Hades, and must decide whether to succumb to his grief or go on living.

Gurtler, Janet

I'm Not Her

Brainy Tess Smith is the younger sibling of the beautiful, popular, volleyball-scholarship-bound Kristina. When Kristina is diagnosed with bone cancer, it drastically changes both sisters' lives. Sometimes the things that annoy us the most about our siblings are the ones we'd miss the most if we lost them.

Gurtler, Janet

Who I Kissed

Samantha didn't mean to hurt anyone. She was just trying to fit in. She wanted to make Zee a little jealous after he completely ditched her for a prettier girl, so she kissed Alex. And then he died, right in her arms.

Hautman, Pete

Road Tripped

Seventeen-year-old Steven "Stiggy" Gabel tries to cope with his father's suicide, his mother's depression, and his girlfriend's departure by taking off down the Great River Road from Minnesota to Louisiana.

Hensley, Joy N.

Rites of Passage

Sixteen-year-old Sam McKenna discovers that becoming one of the first girls to attend the revered Denmark Military Academy means living with a target on her back.

Hill, Will

After the Fire

Moonbeam, seventeen, survives a devastating confrontation between government forces and the cult she grew up in, but will need a lot of help to heal mentally, emotionally, and physically. Based on the true events of the Branch Davidian religious sect near Waco, Texas.

Hopkins, Ellen

Crank (and sequels)

Kristina Snow is the perfect daughter, but she becomes a very different person when she meets a boy who introduces her to drugs. Novel in verse.

Hopkins, Ellen

Burned (and sequel)

Seventeen-year-old Pattyn, the eldest daughter in a large Mormon family, is sent to her aunt's Nevada ranch for the summer, where she temporarily escapes her alcoholic, abusive father and finds love and acceptance-- only to lose everything when she returns home. Novel in verse.

Hughes, Dean

Displaced

Toma and Malek, two thirteen-year-old Syrian children living in Beirut, struggle to provide for their families in a country that can be hostile against refugees like them, but they maintain hope that there is a way out of their seemingly impossible situation.

Jackson, Corrine

If I Lie

Seventeen-year-old Sophie Quinn becomes an outcast in her small military town when she chooses to keep a secret for her Marine boyfriend who is missing in action in Afghanistan.

Johnston, E. K.

Exit, Pursued by a Bear

At cheerleading camp, Hermione is drugged and raped, but she is not sure whether it was one of her teammates or a boy on another team. In the aftermath she has to deal with the rumors in her small Ontario town, the often awkward reaction of her classmates, the rejection of her boyfriend, the discovery that her best friend is gay, and—most importantly—the need to remember what happened so that the guilty boy can be brought to justice.

Kensie, Clara

Aftermath

Four years after being kidnapped, sixteen-year-old Charlotte returns home to find her family ripped apart, but before she can try to reunite them or help find the body of her captor's first victim, she must come to terms with her past.

Kenwood, Nina

It Sounded Better in My Head

In the months between high school and college, eighteen-year-old Natalie must deal with her parents breaking up, her best friends getting together, and her own budding romance.

Keplinger, Kody

That's Not What Happened

In the three years since the Virgil County High School Massacre, a story about one of the victims, Sarah McHale, says she died proclaiming her Christian faith--but Leanne Bauer was there and knows what happened. She has a choice—stay silent and let people believe in Sarah's martyrdom, or tell the truth.

King, A. S.

Everybody Sees the Ants

Overburdened by his parents' bickering and a bully's attacks, fifteen-year-old Lucky Linderman begins dreaming of being with his grandfather, who went missing during the Vietnam War-- but during a visit to Arizona, his aunt and uncle and their beautiful neighbor, Ginny, help him find a new perspective.

Kingsolver, Barbara

The Bean Trees (and sequel)

Taylor Greer has always been afraid of two things: tires, one of which she saw explode and cripple a local tobacco farmer; and pregnancy, the fate of her own mother and, generally, of young girls in Pittman County, KY, where she has grown up. To avoid the latter, Taylor, born Marietta, sets out to find a new life in the West. What she doesn't count on, however, is her flighty '55 Volkswagon temporarily "giving out" in the Oklahoma flatlands or the ditching of an Indian baby in the car while it's being fixed.

Kirby, Jessi

The Secret History of Us

Waking up after a week-long coma to discover that she has lost the last four years of her memory, Olivia bonds with the jaded young man who saved her life and resists the advances of friends whom she comes to realize are keeping secrets from her.

Klass, David

You Don't Know Me

Fourteen-year-old John creates alternative realities in his mind as he tries to deal with his mother's abusive boyfriend, his crush on a beautiful but shallow classmate, and other problems at school.

Konigsberg, Bill

The Bridge

Aaron is a gay outsider struggling with depression and loneliness. Tillie isn't sure what her problem is, only that she will never be good enough. They arrive at the George Washington Bridge at the same time. There are four things that could happen: Aaron jumps and Tillie doesn't. Tillie jumps and Aaron doesn't. They both jump. Neither of them jumps. Or maybe all four things happen.... Includes resources about suicide prevention (including specific information for LGBTQIA+ youth).

Korman, Gordon

Born to Rock

High school senior Leo Caraway, a conservative Republican, learns that his biological father is a punk rock legend. Humorous.

Kronzer, Nicole

Unscripted

Zelda Bailey-Cho has her future all planned out: improv camp, then Second City, and finally Saturday Night Live. When she lands a spot on the coveted Varsity team at a prestigious improv camp, it means she'll get to perform for professional scouts. But Zelda is the only girl on Varsity and becomes a target for humiliation from her teammates. Her older coach, Ben, is cruel to her at practice and way too nice to her when they're alone. Zelda has to choose—is fighting back worth sacrificing her best shot at her dream?

Lange, Erin Jade

Butter

In a fit of spite, a 423-pound 16-year-old boy nicknamed Butter declares that he will eat himself to death on New Year's Eve—live on the web. Before he can even figure out whether he was serious, he is welcomed into the lives of the popular kids, who want to show him a good time before the big event (while making side bets on what his final menu will be). Butter knows they're jerks, but social inclusion is a dream, and it even allows him to get close to his crush—a girl he has only spoken to online under an alias. So he can't back down—and the day gets closer and closer.

Leonard, Connie King

Sleeping in My Jeans

Homeless and alone on the streets, sixteen-year-old Mattie Rollins and her six-year-old sister, Meg, race to discover the fate of their missing mother.

Levithan, David

Take Me With You When You Go

Ezra Ahern wakes up one day to find his older sister, Bea, gone. No note, no sign, nothing but an email address hidden somewhere only he would find it. Ezra never expected to be left behind with their abusive stepfather and their neglectful mother. How is he supposed to navigate life without Bea? Bea Ahern already knew she needed to get as far away from home as possible. But a message in her inbox changes everything, and she finds herself alone in a new city, without Ez, without a real plan, chasing someone who might not even want to be found. As things unravel at home for Ezra, Bea must confront secrets that will forever change the way they feel about their family. Although they may not be together in the present, they must help each other navigate the past in order to make their way to a better, safer future.

Levy, Debbie

Imperfect Spiral

When a teenaged girl's babysitting charge is killed in a car accident while in her care, she must come to terms with the aftermath of the tragedy and her community's search for someone to blame.

Light, Alex

Meet Me in the Middle

When a tragic accident tears Truman and Eden apart, setting them on different paths, grief-stricken Eden must decide whether or not to let Truman back into her life when he returns home.

Lindstrom, Eric

Not If I See You First

Demanding to be treated the same as everyone else in spite of her blindness, Parker doles out tough-love advice to her peers, refuses to cry after losing her father, and stubbornly shuns a boy who broke her heart years earlier.

Littman, Sarah Darer

Deepfake

Sara Simons and Will Halpern are competitors for valedictorian but also dating each other, a fact that they kept secret until Rumor Has It, an anonymous gossip site, spilled the beans—but worse is to come because the site posts a video that seems to show Dara accusing Will of paying someone to take the SAT for him. Suddenly Will is under investigation, and his relationship with Dara is on the rocks, even though she denies ever having said anything of the sort. Who is responsible for the fake video, and why they are trying to wreck two lives?

Longo, Jennifer

What I Carry

Found in a hospital lobby as an infant, Muiriel has only ever known life in the foster system. Soon she'll be 18 and free from Child Protective Services, but her habit of moving from foster family to foster family could sabotage her. This time she's determined to stay—but to do so, she'll have to learn to trust others and let them in.

Lyga, Barry

Bang

Fourteen-year-old Sebastian lives in the past. When he was four years old, he accidentally shot and killed his four-month-old sister. This haunts him, leading to obsessive self-hate and suicidal feelings. He is waiting, in fact, for the voice in his head to tell him it's time to effect his end. That time seems imminent as his past and future seem to come together, faster and faster—until he meets Aneesa.

Maggi, Nicole

What They Don't Know

Alternating journal entries chronicle the powerful fight for Mellie's right to choose after she becomes pregnant by rape. Mellie has always been the reliable friend, the good student, the doting daughter. But when an unspeakable act leads her to withdraw from everyone she loves, she is faced with a life-altering choice—a choice she must face alone. Lise stands up—and speaks out—for what she believes in. When she notices Mellie acting strangely, she gets caught up in trying to save her while also protecting her own secret—one that might be the key to helping Mellie.

Mangle, Bethany

Prepped

Always be ready for the worst day of your life. This is the mantra that Becca Aldaine has grown up with. Her family is part of a community of doomsday preppers, a neighborhood that prioritizes survivalist training over class trips or senior prom. They're even arranging Becca's marriage with Roy Kang, the only eligible boy in their community. Roy is a nice guy, but he's so enthusiastic about prepping that Becca doesn't have the heart to tell him she's planning to leave as soon as she can earn a full ride to a college far, far away. Then a devastating accident rocks Becca's family and pushes the entire community, including Becca's usually cynical little sister, deeper into the doomsday ideology. With her getaway plans thrown into jeopardy, the only person Becca can turn to is Roy, who reveals that he's not nearly as clueless as he's been pretending to be. When Roy proposes they run away together, Becca will have to risk everything—including her heart—for a chance to hope for the best instead of planning for the worst.

Martin, Maggie Ann

To Be Honest

After her older sister goes to college, Savannah is left home alone with her weight-obsessed mother and finds consolation in a new relationship with George, who has insecurities of his own.

Mathieu, Jennifer

Afterward

When eleven-year-old Dylan Anderson is kidnapped, his subsequent rescue leads to the discovery of Ethan Jorgensen, who had disappeared four years earlier. Autistic Dylan is having difficulty recovering—so Dylan's sister Caroline befriends Ethan hoping to learn the truth about her brother's captivity.

McDowell, Kara

One Way Or Another

The average person makes 35,000 decisions every single day. Paige Collins lives in debilitating fear of making the wrong choice. The simple act of picking an art elective is enough to send her into a spiral of what ifs. When Paige is presented with two last-minute options for Christmas vacation, she's paralyzed by indecision. Should she go with her best friend (and longtime crush) Fitz to his family's romantic mountain cabin? Or accompany her mom to New York, a city Paige has spent her whole life dreaming about? A slip on a grocery store floor splits Paige's life into two very different parallel paths. Will either destiny give her a happy ending?

McWilliams, Kelly

Agnes at the End of the World

Agnes loves her home of Red Creek, its dusty roads, and its God. She cares for her younger siblings and follows the town's strict laws. When Agnes meets Danny, an Outsider boy, she begins to question what is and isn't a sin. Her younger brother, Ezekiel, will die without the insulin she barter for once a month, even though medicine is considered outlawed. Is she a sinner for saving him? But it isn't safe Outside either. A viral pandemic is burning through the population. In a world where faith, miracles, and cruelty have long been indistinguishable, will Agnes be able to choose between saving her family and saving the world?

Mitchell, Sandra

All the Things We Do in the Dark

Secrets don't stay buried for long, and the things we do in the dark aren't hidden forever. For years, Ava has struggled with the aftereffects of being sexually assaulted, including a scar on her face that reminds her of it daily. When Ava unexpectedly stumbles upon a secret no one was meant to find in the woods, she has to decide what to do. A part of her knows the right thing is to tell an adult or the police, but the burdens of her own past beg her to keep the secret.

Monninger, Joseph

Whippoorwill

In rural New Hampshire, sixteen-year-old Clair Taylor and her neighbor, eighteen-year-old Danny Stewart, fall into an unlikely relationship as they work together to save Wally, a loveable but mistreated dog kept chained in a junk-filled yard by Danny's cruel father.

Morris, Brittney

Slay

Kiera Johnson is an honors student, a math tutor, and one of the few Black kids at Jefferson Academy. At home she joins hundreds of thousands of Black gamers who duel worldwide as Nubian personas in the secret multiplayer online role-playing card game, SLAY. When a teen in Kansas City is murdered over a dispute in the SLAY world, the game is labeled a racist, exclusionist, violent hub for thugs and criminals. No one knows Kiera is the game developer-- until an anonymous troll infiltrates the game, threatening to sue Kiera for "anti-white discrimination." Can she protect her game without losing herself in the process?

Murdoch, Emily

If You Find Me

A broken-down camper hidden deep in a national forest is the only home fifteen-year-old Carey can remember. The trees keep guard over her threadbare existence, with the one bright spot being Carey's younger sister, Jenessa, who depends on Carey for her very survival. All they have is each other as their mentally ill mother comes and goes with greater frequency. One fateful day their mother disappears for good, and two strangers arrive. Suddenly the girls are taken from the woods and thrust into a bright and perplexing new world of high school, clothes, and boys. Now Carey must face the truth of why her mother abducted her ten years ago, while haunted by a past that won't let her go.

Nielsen, Susin

Optimists Die First

When Petula de Wilde, who is anything but wild, meets Jacob in their school's dorky art therapy program, his friendship (and something more) helps her overcome intense fears since her sister died. Jacob, however, has secrets of his own.

Omololu, C. J.

Dirty Little Secrets

Sixteen-year-old Lucy has been painfully isolated from her peers for years, refusing to let anyone near her house lest they discover the towers of garbage and heaps of mold-encrusted dishes. Outwardly highly functional, her mother maintains the dysfunction in their home with an obsessive grip. When Lucy returns from a friend's house one morning and discovers her mother dead of an asthma attack, she is about to call 911--but quickly realizes this will expose the secret that her mother (and Lucy herself) worked so hard to protect.

Palmer, Ingrid

All Out of Pretty

For sixteen-year-old Andrea, beauty and friendships are a liability and academic achievement is the key to her future, but survival becomes paramount after her addicted mother claims custody and puts them at the mercy of her drug dealer boyfriend.

Penn, Farrah

Twelve Steps to Normal

Upon returning from a year in Oregon to Texas and her alcoholic father, Kira is distressed to find three of her father's rehab friends staying at her home, while her own friends seem distant.

Peyton, K. M.

Blind Beauty

Teenage Tessa's passion for riding and her love for an ugly horse named Buffoon help her endure an unhappy life in the English countryside with a hateful stepfather.

Picoult, Jodi

Wish You Were Here

Diana O'Toole is perfectly on track. She will be married by thirty, done having kids by thirty-five, and move out to the New York City suburbs, all while climbing the professional ladder in the cutthroat art auction world. She's an associate specialist at Sotheby's now, but her boss has hinted at a promotion if she can close a deal with a high-profile client. She's not engaged just yet, but she knows her boyfriend, Finn, a surgical resident, is about to propose on their romantic getaway to the Galapagos--days before her thirtieth birthday. Right on time. But then a virus that felt worlds away has appeared in the city, and on the eve of their departure, Finn breaks the news: It's all hands on deck at the hospital. He has to stay behind. You should still go, he assures her, since it would be a shame for all of their nonrefundable trip to go to waste. And so, reluctantly, she goes. Almost immediately, Diana's dream vacation goes awry. Her luggage is lost, the Wi-Fi is nearly nonexistent, and the hotel they'd booked is shut down due to the pandemic. In fact, the whole island is now under quarantine, and she is stranded until the borders reopen. Completely isolated, she must venture beyond her comfort zone. Slowly, she carves out a connection with a local family when a teenager with a secret opens up to Diana, despite her father's suspicion of outsiders. In the Galapagos Islands, where Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection was formed, Diana finds herself examining her relationships, her choices, and herself--and wondering if when she goes home, she too will have evolved into someone completely different.

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.

Purcell, Kim

Trafficked

A seventeen-year-old Moldovan girl whose parents have been killed is brought to the United States to work as a slave for a family in Los Angeles.

Reichardt, Marisa

Underwater

Ever since the mass shooting at her California high school, junior Morgan Grant has become increasingly agoraphobic until even the idea of stepping outside her door can bring on a panic attack, a situation not made any easier by the fact that her parents are divorced--but when Evan moves in next door, she finds herself attracted to him and begins to find herself longing for the life she has been missing.

Rice, Luanne

The Beautiful Lost

Ever since her mother left, Maia has struggled with depression which has only gotten worse since her father remarried. Maia decides to run away to Canada to find her mother, together with Billy, a boy who now lives in a group home and has his own family tragedy. When they finally arrive in Tadoussac, Quebec, Maia discovers that her mother has been keeping secrets.

Roe, Robin

A List of Cages

When Adam Blake lands the best elective ever in his senior year, serving as an aide to the school psychologist, he thinks he's got it made. Sure, it means a lot of sitting around, which isn't easy for a guy with ADHD, but he can't complain, since he gets to spend the period texting his friends. Then the doctor asks him to track down the troubled freshman who keeps dodging her, and Adam discovers that the boy is Julian--the foster brother he hasn't seen in five years. Adam is ecstatic to be reunited. At first, Julian seems like the boy he once knew. He's still kind hearted. He still writes stories and loves picture books meant for little kids. But as they spend more time together, Adam realizes that Julian is keeping secrets, like where he hides during the middle of the day, and what's really going on inside his house. Adam is determined to help him—but at what cost?

Ryan, Darlene

Cuts Like a Knife

Mac's grandmother is dead, their house is about to be torn down, and she's been humiliated in front of the entire school. When Daniel finds out Mac has been saying goodbye to her friends, he realizes she's planning on leaving. Getting desperate as he searches the city, Daniel finds an unexpected and unlikely ally. But can he find Mac before he loses her forever?

Sedgwick, Chantele

Interlude

Flying to New York to attempt to talk her estranged birth mother into donating a kidney to her younger sister, eighteen-year-old Mia Cox forms an unexpected connection with her seatmate, a famous rock band's runaway lead singer.

Shaw, Liane

Fostergirls

Sadie, having been in and out of twelve foster homes, strives to go unnoticed, but it becomes difficult when she moves to her thirteenth group home in a small town. She is just starting to think it might be okay to let a few people into her life when a shocking revelation about her "real" family throws her into turmoil.

Sheinmel, Alyssa

What Kind of Girl

When popular Mike Parker's girlfriend informs North Bay Academy's principal that he has been hitting her, students react differently, revealing their own insecurities and problems.

Stewart, Erin

Scars Like Wings

One year after the fire that claimed her parents' and cousin's lives and left her severely disfigured, sixteen-year-old Ava faces the return to high school.

Stokes, Paula

This Is How It Happened

When seventeen-year-old Genevieve Grace realizes she may have caused the car accident that killed her boyfriend, a YouTube musician on the brink of superstardom, she must grapple with the consequences of honesty in a world where the Internet is always watching.

Strasser, Todd

No Place

When Dan and his parents can no longer pay their mortgage, they end up homeless and living in a local tent city. It's a bad situation, and it only gets worse when the leader of the tent city is brutally beaten. Who is trying to shut down the tent city, and why?

Strasser, Todd

Price of Duty

Wounded in combat, Pfc. Jake Liddell returns home a hero; he has one week to decide what to do next. Jake's grandfather's a general and Vietnam War hero; his father is a lieutenant colonel. Jake enlisted out of high school. After rehab, he's expected to return to war (set in an unnamed, generic Middle Eastern setting). Jake's family couldn't be prouder of him, but he's haunted by memories of taking lives and watching lives being taken by an enemy that includes malnourished children and the desperately poor, their country wasted by decades of war.

Sundquist, Josh

Love and First Sight

Sixteen-year-old blind teen Will Porter undergoes an experimental surgery that enables him to see for the first time, all while navigating a new school, new friends, and a crush.

Torres Sanchez, Jenny

We Are Not From Here

Pulga has his dreams. Chico has his grief. Pequeña has her pride. These three teens have one another—but none of them have illusions about the town they've grown up in and the dangers that surround them. Even with the love of family, threats lurk around every corner. When those threats become all too real, the trio knows they have no choice but to run: from their country, from their families, from their beloved home. Crossing from Guatemala through Mexico, they follow the route of La Bestia, the perilous

train system that might deliver them to a better life—if they're lucky enough to survive the journey. With nothing but the bags on their backs and desperation driving them, Pulga, Chico, and Pequeña know there is no turning back.

Vaught, Susan

Going Underground

Interest in a new girl and pressure from his parole officer cause seventeen-year-old Del, a gravedigger, to recall and face the sexting incident three years earlier that transformed him from a straight-A student-athlete into a social outcast and felon.

Vivian, Siobhan

The List

Every year at Mount Washington High School somebody posts a list of the prettiest and ugliest girls from each grade--this is the story of eight girls, freshman to senior, and how they are affected by the list.

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.

Werlin, Nancy

The Rules of Survival

Seventeen-year-old Matthew recounts his attempts, starting at a young age, to free himself and his sisters from the grip of their emotionally and physically abusive mother.

Wiess, Laura

Such a Pretty Girl

Haunted by flashbacks, fifteen-year-old Meredith learns that three years in prison has not changed the abusive father who molested her.

Wilkinson, Lili

The Boundless Sublime

After an accident tears her family apart, Ruby Jane Galbraith is drawn by a charismatic new friend, Fox, to the Institute of the Boundless Sublime—but instead of peace, she finds sinister secrets.

Wilkinson, Sheena

Street Song

RyLee's career is over. After winning a national TV talent show and becoming a teen pop sensation, his fame and success has quickly been followed by addiction, media scrutiny, and career suicide. After a brief spell in rehab, 18-year-old Ryan has some rethinking to do.

Williams, Sean

Impossible Music

In an emotionally compelling tale crackling with originality, when a teen musician goes deaf, his quest to create an entirely new form of music brings him to a deeper understanding of his relationship to the hearing world, of himself, and of the girl he meets along the way.

Wolf, Jennifer Shaw

Breaking Beautiful

Allie is overwhelmed when her boyfriend, Trip, dies in a car accident, leaving her scarred and unable to recall what happened that night, but she feels she must uncover the truth, even if it could hurt the people who tried to save her from Trip's abuse.

Woods, Darcy

Smoke

Honor Augustine is an academic all-star, avid recycler, and dedicated daughter to her PTSD-afflicted father. When she discovers her father's VA benefits drying up, coupled with a terrifying bank letter threatening the family's greenhouse business, Honor vows to find a solution. She just doesn't expect to find it on the dry erase board of English Lit: "Nature's first green is gold." The quote becomes the seed of an idea, one that could germinate into a means of survival. Maybe marijuana could be more than the medicinal plant that helps quiet her father's demons. Maybe it could save them all. What lengths will we go to for the people we love?

Woodson, Jacqueline

Beneath a Meth Moon

Laurel Daneau, having lost her mother, grandmother, and home in Hurricane Katrina, thinks things are going well with her new life as a cheerleader and the girlfriend of basketball star T-Boom. After T-Boom introduces her to meth and she finds the drug helps her deal with her past, however, she must rely on the help of an artist named Moses and her friend Kaylee to overcome the addiction.

Zimmerman, Laura

My Eyes Are Up Here

Greer Walsh wants to rediscover her sense of self, but since the summer before ninth grade her body decided to change all the rules. Now she's the only Kennedy High student whose breasts are bigger than her head. She's entirely uncomfortable in her body, and avoids physical contact-- until she finds an unexpected community on the volleyball squad. Will Greer be able to find her way out of her oversized sweatshirt and back into the real world?