

## DEATH /// GRIEF /// AFTERLIFE

**Albom, Mitch**

**The Five People You Meet in Heaven**

*Killed in a tragic accident, Eddie, an elderly man who believes that he had an uninspired life, awakens in the afterlife where he discovers that heaven consists of having five people explain the meaning of one's life.*

**Altebrando, Tara**

**The Pursuit of Happiness**

*Betsy knows that her summer job at a colonial village is going to ruin whatever slim chance she has of ever being popular. To make matters worse, Liza Henske, only the biggest freak from school--piercings, tattoos, you name it--works at the village, too. But when Betsy's mother dies, playing farm girl starts to feel like a great escape . . . from her shattered family, from the boyfriend who dumps her, from the friends who abandon her.*

**Andreani, Michelle**

**The Way Back to You**

*Cloudy and Kyle, both grieving the death of their close friend Ashlyn, embark on a spontaneous road trip across the Southwest to meet three strangers whose lives were saved by their friend's organs.*

**Arcos, Carrie**

**There Will Come a Time**

*Overwhelmed by grief and guilt after his twin sister Grace's accidental death, seventeen-year-old Mark Santos is persuaded by her best friend to complete the "bucket list" from Grace's journal.*

**Arnold, David**

**Kids of Appetite**

*Teens Victor Benucci and Madeline Falco sit in separate police interrogation rooms telling about the misfits who brought them together and their journey sparked by a message in an urn.*

**Arnold, Elana K.**

**Sacred**

*Since her older brother died, Scarlett has felt emotionally cut off from everyone on Catalina Island except for her horse, and she has become anorexic. When she meets a strange boy named Will Cohen, however, she begins to rediscover herself.*

**Asher, Jay**

**Thirteen Reasons Why**

*When high school student Clay Jenkins receives a box in the mail containing thirteen cassette tapes recorded by his classmate Hannah, who committed suicide, he spends a bewildering and heartbreakng night crisscrossing their town while listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death.*

**Avasthi, Swati**

**Chasing Shadows**

*Acting out superhero fantasies on the streets and rooftops of Chicago, best friends Corey, Holly, and Savitri are shattered by a murderous act of violence that leaves two of them disillusioned and unable to move on.*

**Barnaby, Hannah**

**Some of the Parts**

*A devastated teenaged girl sets out on a quest to track down transplant recipients after she discovers that her older brother was an organ donor.*

**Bedford, Martyn**

**Never Ending**

*Traumatized by grief and guilt after her younger brother dies during a family vacation, fifteen-year-old Shiv is sent away to an exclusive clinic that claims to "cure" people like her.*

**Belasco, Sonia**

**Speak of Me As I Am**

*Damon and Melanie, two teenagers who have lost loved ones, meet and help each other grieve. As their friendship deepens into romance, things get complicated fast.*

**Blume, Judy**

**Tiger Eyes**

*Resettled in Los Alamos, New Mexico with her mother and brother, Davey Wexler recovers from the shock of her father's death during a holdup of his 7-Eleven store in Atlantic City.*

**Bostic, Megan**

**Never Eighteen**

*Seventeen-year-old Austin, aware that life is short, asks his best friend and secret love, Kaylee, to take him to visit people and places in and around Tacoma, Washington, so that he can try to make a difference in the time he has left.*

**Bray, Libba**

**Going Bovine**

*Cameron Smith, a disaffected sixteen year-old 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.*

**Bunting, Eve**

**The Presence: A Ghost Story**

*While visiting her grandmother in California, seventeen-year-old Catherine comes in contact with a mysterious stranger who says he can help her contact a friend who died in a car crash for which Catherine feels responsible.*

**Burak, Kathryn**

**Emily's Dress and Other Missing Things**

*A new girl in Amherst, Massachusetts, comes to terms with her mother's suicide and her best friend's disappearance with the help of Emily Dickinson's poetry--and her dress.*

**Caletti, Deb**

**The Last Forever**

*After her mother's death, it's all Tessa can do to keep her friends, her boyfriend, her happiness from slipping away. Even the rare plant her mother entrusted to her care starts to wilt. Then she meets Henry. Though secrets stand between them, each has a chance at healing . . . if Tessa can find the courage to believe in forever.*

**Castle, Jennifer**

**The Beginning of After**

*In the aftermath of a car accident that killed her family, sixteen-year-old Laurel must face a new world of guilt, painful memories, and the possibility of new relationships.*

**Chapman, Erica M.**

**Teach Me to Forget**

*After a failed suicide attempt, Ellery tries to return the gun she bought to the store and runs into Colter Sawyer, a boy from her school, who does everything he can to prevent her from trying to take her life again.*

**Cooney, Caroline**

**The Terrorist**

*Sixteen-year-old Laura, an American living in London, tries to find the person responsible for the death of her younger brother, Billy, who has been killed by a terrorist bomb.*

**Danticat, Edwidge**

**Untwine**

*Identical twin teenagers Giselle and Isabelle Boyer have always been inseparable, and expected to stay that way even though their Haitian American parents are separating--but when the entire family is involved in a car crash, everyone's world is shattered forever.*

**Deriso, Christine Hurley**

**. . . Then I Met My Sister**

*It's not exactly easy living in a shrine to your dead sister. Since birth, I've known that everyone loved Shannon. She was perfect—beautiful, smart, talented. And me? Not so much. My parents always expected me to live up to her greatness. But I could never measure up to her, so why even try? This summer I've started reading the journal Shannon kept just before she died . . . and suddenly nothing is what I thought it was. The more secrets I learn about Shannon and our family, the more everything changes. And as it turns out, facing the truth is no cakewalk, either.*

**Dessen, Sarah**

**The Truth About Forever**

*The summer following her father's death, Macy plans to work at the library and wait for her brainy boyfriend to return from camp, but instead she goes to work at a catering business where she makes new friends and finally faces her grief.*

**Dogar, Sharon**

**Waves**

*While spending the summer with the family away from his comatose sister, Hal discovers their bond is stronger than he thought as her visions begin to fill his head and the truth surrounding her accident becomes clearer with every passing day.*

**Donnelly, Jennifer**

**Revolution**

*An angry, grieving seventeen-year-old musician facing expulsion from her prestigious Brooklyn private school travels to Paris to complete a school assignment and uncovers a diary written during the French revolution by a young actress attempting to help a tortured, imprisoned little boy--Louis Charles, the lost king of France.*

**Downham, Jenny**

**Before I Die**

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

**Draper, Sharon**

**Tears of a Tiger (and sequels)**

*1<sup>st</sup> book in the Hazelwood High series. The death of high school basketball star Rob Washington in an automobile accident affects the lives of his close friend Andy, who was driving the car, and many others in the school.*

<b>Easton, Kelly</b>	<b>Aftershock</b>	<i>In shock and unable to speak after being in a car accident in Oregon which has killed his parents, seventeen-year-old Adam journeys across the country to his home in Rhode Island.</i>
<b>Ellsworth, Loretta</b>	<b>In a Heartbeat</b>	<i>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.</i>
<b>Forman, Gayle</b>	<b>If I Stay (and sequel)</b>	<i>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.</i>
<b>Frank, E. R.</b>	<b>Wrecked</b>	<i>After a car accident seriously injures her best friend and kills her brother's girlfriend, sixteen-year-old Anna tries to cope with her guilt and grief while learning some truths about her family and herself.</i>
<b>Garner, Paula</b>	<b>Phantom Limbs</b>	<i>Still reeling from the death of his little brother and the sudden departure of his first love Meg, Otis throws himself into swim training with Dara until Meg returns for the summer and Otis tries to rekindle their relationship.</i>
<b>Gilbert, Barbara</b>	<b>Stone Water</b>	<i>Grant must decide whether or not to help his grandfather die.</i>
<b>Giles, Gail</b>	<b>Dead Girls Don't Write Letters</b>	<i>Fourteen-year-old Sunny is stunned when a total stranger shows up at her house posing as her older sister Jazz, who supposedly died in a fire months earlier.</i>
<b>Green, John</b>	<b>Looking for Alaska</b>	<i>Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash.</i>
<b>Griffin, Adele</b>	<b>Tighter</b>	<i>Based on Henry James' <i>The Turn of the Screw</i>. When 17-year-old Jamie arrives on the idyllic New England island of Little Bly to work as a summer au pair, she is stunned to learn of the horror that precedes her. Seeking the truth surrounding a young couple's tragic deaths, Jamie discovers that she herself looks shockingly like the dead girl—and that she has a disturbing ability to sense the two ghosts. Jamie must navigate the increasingly blurred divide between the worlds of the living and the dead.</i>
<b>Grove, Vicki</b>	<b>Everything Breaks</b>	<i>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.</i>
<b>Halpin, Brendan</b>	<b>Forever Changes</b>	<i>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.</i>
<b>Hand, Cynthia</b>	<b>The Last Time We Say Goodbye</b>	<i>After her younger brother, Tyler, commits suicide, Lex struggles to work through her grief in the face of a family that has fallen apart, the sudden distance between her and her friends, and memories of Tyler that still feel all too real.</i>
<b>Hopkins, Ellen</b>	<b>Rumble</b>	<i>Matthew Turner doesn't have faith in anything—not in his family, which is in shambles after his younger brother was bullied into suicide; or his so-called friends or some all-powerful creator. When a horrific event plunges Matt into a dark, silent place, though, he begins to question everything he's ever disbelieved. Novel in verse.</i>
<b>Hubbard, Jenny</b>	<b>And We Stay</b>	<i>Sent to a boarding school after her ex-boyfriend shoots himself, seventeen-year-old Emily expresses herself through poetry as she relives their relationship, copes with her guilt, and begins to heal.</i>
<b>Huntley, Amy</b>	<b>The Everafter</b>	<i>After her death, seventeen-year-old Maddy finds a way to revisit moments in her life by using objects that she lost while she was alive. By doing so, she tries to figure out the complicated emotions, events, and meaning of her existence.</i>

**Jabaley, Jennifer**

**Lipstick Apology**

*After her parents' sudden deaths, sixteen-year-old Emily leaves Pennsylvania for her aunt's New York City apartment, private school, and disconcerting new relationships, all the while puzzling over her mother's mysterious apology to her.*

**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.*

**Justesen, Kim Williams**

**The Deepest Blue**

*When Mike's dad is killed in a car wreck, Mike wants to stay in his hometown and live with his dad's girlfriend, who has been like a mother to him for the last five years. But Mike's mother reappears in his life and demands that he return to her custody. After losing his dad, now he's supposed to move to the other side of the country to live with a mom who deserted him?*

**Kade, Stacey**

**For This Life Only**

*A young man struggles to move forward after the death of his twin brother in this contemporary novel about loss, redemption, and love.*

**Keyser, Amber J.**

**The Way Back from Broken**

*After losing his infant sister, Rakmen's family is devastated. While his parents figure things out, they send Rakmen on a camping trip in the Canadian wilderness with another grieving family. Rakmen is far from thrilled about the trip, and he has to decide whether it's too late to find his way back from broken.*

**King, A. S.**

**Please Ignore Vera Dietz**

*When her best friend, whom she secretly loves, betrays her and then dies under mysterious circumstances, high school senior Vera Dietz struggles with secrets that could help clear his name.*

**Kirby, Jessi**

**In Honor**

*Three days after she learns that her brother Finn died serving in Iraq, Honor receives a letter from him asking her to drive his car from Texas to California for a concert. When his estranged best friend shows up suddenly and offers to accompany her, they set off on a road trip that reveals much about all three of them.*

**Kizer, Amber**

**Pieces of Me**

*After a car accident leaves her brain-dead, Jessica tries to prevent her parents from donating her organs and tissues—but then she follows the lives of four fellow teens who are able to survive because she did not.*

**Koertge, Ron**

**Strays**

*Sixteen-year-old Ted prefers animals to humans; animals never lie, and unlike the kids at school, he understands them. When Ted loses his parents in a car accident, he particularly identifies with strays--after all, as a foster kid, that's what he is.*

**LaCour, Nina**

**Hold Still**

*As she reads the journal left by her best friend, who committed suicide, Caitlin struggles with powerful feelings of loss, sadness, and guilt, but friends and a first love help her to cope with her negative emotions.*

**Lawrence, Michael**

**A Crack in the Line (and sequel)**

*Sixteen-year-old Alaric discovers how to travel to an alternate reality, where his mother is alive and where his place in the family is held by a girl named Naia. Fantasy.*

**Leaver, Trisha**

**The Secrets We Keep**

*When her identical twin sister, Maddy, is killed in a car accident, seventeen-year-old Ella assumes Maddy's life, only to discover that it was filled with dark secrets.*

**Longo, Jennifer**

**Six Feet Over It**

*When Leigh's father buys a graveyard and insists she work there after school, she learns much about life, death, and the power of friendship.*

**Lynch, Chris**

**Hothouse**

*Teens D.J. and Russell, life-long friends and neighbors, had drifted apart. When their firefighter fathers are both killed, however, they try to help one another come to terms with the tragedy and its aftermath.*

**Lynch, Chris**

**Pieces**

*Eighteen-year-old Eric deals with the loss of his older brother Duane by meeting three of the seven recipients of Duane's organs a year after his death and pondering who they are to him, and he to them.*

**Matson, Morgan**

**Amy & Roger's Epic Detour**

*After the death of her father, Amy, a high school student, and Roger, a college freshman, set out on a carefully planned road trip from California to Connecticut but wind up taking many detours, forcing Amy to face her worst fears and come to terms with her grief and guilt.*

**Matson, Morgan**

**Second Chance Summer**

*When Taylor's dad gets devastating news, her parents decide that the family will spend one last summer all together at their old lake house in the Pocono Mountains. Crammed into a place much smaller and more rustic than they are used to, they begin to get to know each other again. As the summer progresses and the Edwards become more of a family, they're more aware than ever that they're battling a ticking clock. Sometimes, though, there is just enough time to get a second chance--with family, with friends, and with love.*

**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.*

**Miller, Mary Beth**

**Aimee**

*The question "Did Zoe really help best friend Aimee commit suicide?" hangs precariously between the lines of Zoe's journal, where (according to her psychologist) she is to write about her past—"what you felt, what you thought, what was important to you."*

**Mitchard, Jacquelyn**

**All We Know of Heaven**

*When Maureen and Bridget, two sixteen-year-old best friends who look like sisters, are in a terrible car accident and one of them dies, they are at first incorrectly identified at the hospital. As Maureen achieves a remarkable recovery, she must deal with the repercussions of the accident, the mix-up, and some choices she made while she was getting better.*

**Myers, Walter Dean**

**Shooter**

*Written in the form of interviews, reports, and journal entries, the story of three troubled teenagers ends in a tragic school shooting.*

**Nelson, Jandy**

**The Sky Is Everywhere**

*In the months after her sister dies, seventeen-year-old Lennie falls into a love triangle and discovers the strength to follow her dream of becoming a musician.*

**Ness, Patrick**

**A Monster Calls**

*Thirteen-year-old Conor awakens one night to find a monster outside his bedroom window—but not the one from the recurring nightmare that began when his mother became ill. This is an ancient, wild creature that wants him to face truth and loss.*

**Oliver, Lauren**

**Before I Fall**

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

**Patrick, Cat**

**Just Like Fate**

*With her Grandmother dying, Caroline is given a choice to either stay by her Gram's side or go to the biggest party of the year. The story is told in alternating chapters that reveal what happens if Caroline stays or if she goes.*

**Patrick, Cat**

**Revived**

*Having been brought back from the dead repeatedly by a top-secret government super drug called Revive and forced to move so the public does not learn the truth, fifteen-year-old Daisy begins to question the heavy-handed government controls she has dealt with for eleven years.*

**Picoult, Jodi**

**The Pact**

*The budding romance between two teenaged children of two families who have been lifelong friends and neighbors culminates tragically in an abortive suicide pact that leads to a gripping courtroom drama.*

**Reynolds, Jason**

**The Boy in the Black Suit**

*Soon after his mother's death, Matt takes a job at a funeral home in his tough Brooklyn neighborhood. While attending and assisting with funerals, he begins to accept her death and his responsibilities as a man.*

**Rothenberg, Jessq**

**The Catastrophic History of You and Me**

*Just before her sixteenth birthday, Brie Eagan literally dies of a broken heart when her boyfriend tells her he does not love her. She then must go through the five stages of grief, while watching her friends and family try to cope with her death, before her faith in love is restored, and she can move on to the afterlife.*

**Sabatini, Kim**

**Touching the Surface**

*In the afterlife for the fourth time, seventeen-year-old Elliot knows she has one last chance. Before she can begin her fourth life, though, she must delve into her past, earn the forgiveness of her best friend, reconnect with her soul mate, and set things right for the future.*

**Sebold, Alice**

**The Lovely Bones**

*Looking down from heaven, fourteen-year-old Susie Salmon recounts her rape and murder and watches her family as they cope with their grief and "the lovely bones" growing around her absence.*

**Shusterman, Neal**

**Everlost (and sequels)**

*1<sup>st</sup> book in the Skinjacker series. When Nick and Allie are killed in a car crash, they end up in Everlost, or limbo for lost souls. Nick is satisfied--but Allie will stop at nothing (even skinjacking) to break free.*

**Singer, Nicky**

**The Innocent's Story**

*Thirteen-year-old Cassina Dixon narrates her existence after being killed in a terrorist bombing when, as a "para-spirit," she passes through a series of hosts, including the bomber and the religious zealot who would force him to kill again.*

**Stevens, Courtney C.**

**The Lies about Truth**

*A teen struggles to overcome both the physical and emotional scars that resulted from an accident that killed her best friend.*

**Stork, Francisco X.**

**Irises**

*Kate, eighteen, and Mary, sixteen, must make some adult decisions about the course their lives should take when their loving but old-fashioned father dies suddenly, leaving them with their mother, who has been in a persistent vegetative state since an accident four years earlier.*

**Trout, Jenny**

**Such Sweet Sorrow**

*Never was there a tale of more woe than this of Juliet and her Romeo . . . but true love never dies. Though they're parted by the veil between the world of mortals and the land of the dead, Romeo believes he can restore Juliet to life, but he'll have to travel to the underworld with a thoroughly infuriating guide, Hamlet, Prince of Denmark. When the determined Romeo asks for help traversing the treacherous Afterjord, Hamlet sees an opportunity for adventure and the chance to avenge his father's death. In an underworld filled with Leviathan monsters, ghoulish shades, fire giants, and fierce Valkyrie warriors, Hamlet and Romeo must battle their way through jealousy, despair, and their darkest fears to rescue the fair damsel. Yet finding Juliet is only the beginning, and the Afterjord doesn't surrender souls without a price . . .*

**Turrsi, Kim**

**Just a Normal Tuesday**

*When her older sister Jen commits suicide, Kai struggles with her grief and begins taking the same pills that killed Jen.*

**Valentine, Jenny**

**Me, the Missing, and the Dead**

*When a series of chance events leaves him in possession of an urn with ashes, sixteen-year-old Londoner, Lucas Swain, becomes convinced that its occupant, Violet Park, is communicating with him, initiating a voyage of self-discovery that forces him to finally confront the events surrounding his father's sudden disappearance.*

**Vitello, Suzy**

**The Moment Before**

*Brady and Sabine Wilson are sisters born eleven months apart, but they couldn't be more different. Popular Sabine, the head cheerleader dating the high school hunk, seems to have all the luck, while her younger, artsy sister "Brady Brooder" is a loner who prefers the sidelines to the limelight. After Sabine dies in a horrific cheerleading accident, grief unravels Brady and her family. Once recognized for her artistic talent, 17-year-old Brady finds herself questioning the value of everything she once held dear.*

**Walton, K. M.**

**Ultimatum**

*When their mother dies, two very different brothers become even more distant—but when their father's alcoholism sends him into liver failure, the two boys must come face-to-face with their demons--and each other--if they are going to survive an uncertain future.*

**Warman, Jessica**

**Between**

*By weaving through her memories and watching the family and friends she left behind, eighteen-year-old Liz Valchar solves the mystery of how her life ended in the Long Island Sound.*

**Whitney, Daisy**

**When You Were Here**

*When his mother dies three weeks before his high school graduation, Danny goes to Tokyo, where his mother had been going for cancer treatments, to learn about the city his mother loved and, with the help of his friends, to come to terms with her death.*

**Williams, Carol Lynch**

**Waiting**

*As the tragic death of her older brother devastates the family, teenaged London struggles to find redemption and finds herself torn between her brother's best friend and a handsome new boy in town.*

**Wittlinger, Ellen**

**Blind Faith**

*While coping with her grandmother's sudden death and her mother's resulting depression and fascination with a spiritualist church whose ministers claim to communicate with the dead, fifteen-year-old Liz finds herself falling for a new neighbor whose mother is dying of cancer.*

**Zarr, Sara**

**How to Save a Life**

*Told from their own viewpoints, seventeen-year-old Jill, in grief over the loss of her father, and Mandy, nearly nineteen, are thrown together when Jill's mother agrees to adopt Mandy's unborn child—but nothing turns out as they had anticipated.*

**Zentner, Jeff**

**Goodbye Days**

*It was just a text: Carver wanted to know when his three best friends were going to pick him up—but those three best friends got into a car accident and never made it to him. Carver can't stop blaming himself and his text for their deaths, and things get worse after a judge is also interested in pointing the finger at him*

**Zusak, Markus**

**The Book Thief**

*Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.*