

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.

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.

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 heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town while listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death.

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.

Benway, Robin

A Year to the Day

It's been a year--a year of missing Nina. A year of milestones--holidays, birthdays, everything without her. Leo feels like she should remember what happened that night. But all she knows is that she left the party and got into a car with Nina and Nina's boyfriend, East--who once promised Nina he'd watch out for her younger sister. East, who has been trying to keep that promise every day since. But East won't give Leo the one thing she wants--the one thing she needs. He won't tell her anything about the accident. He won't talk about that night at all.

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.

Bowman, Akemi Dawn

Summer Bird Blue

Rumi Seto plans to spend her life writing music with her younger sister, Lea. When Lea dies in a car accident, her mother sends Rumi to live with her aunt in Hawaii while she deals with her own grief. Struggling with the loss of her sister, abandoned by her mother, and without music in her life, Rumi turns to the friendship of a teenage surfer named Kai and an eighty-year-old named George Watanabe. And Rumi is determined to write the song she and Lea never had the chance to finish.

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.

Cervantes, J. C.

Always Isn't Forever

Hart Augusto and Ruby Armenta are poised to take on senior year together when Hart tragically drowns in a boating accident. Shattered, Ruby struggles to move on. Thanks to divine intervention, Hart is offered a second chance: his soul is transferred to the body of a local bad boy. As Jameson, he realizes that winning Ruby will be more challenging than he'd imagined. He is forbidden to tell her the truth, and, with each day, memories of his life as Hart fade away. Will their love be enough to bridge the distance between them?

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.

Daughtry, Mikki

All This Time

After a traumatic accident in which his girlfriend dies, Kyle is grieving and feels lost until he meets Marley, who seems like the girl of his dreams. As they grow closer, though, he fears he is headed for another crash.

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.

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)

1st 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.

Everett, Sarah

No One Here Is Lonely

Just as Eden's relationships with her best friend and family are falling apart, she discovers a means of communicating with Will, whom she had a crush on until his death two weeks before their graduation. In Good Company offers a chance to communicate with Will or at least those parts of him that he had uploaded into a complex computer program. Eden becomes obsessed with talking by phone to the disembodied voice of the simulated Will, running the risk of losing contact with real life and with Oliver, who loves her.

Foley, Jessie Ann

Sorry for Your Loss

Pup Flanagan is the youngest of eight siblings. Almost three years after his brother Patrick died suddenly while at college, the Flanagans seem to have moved on—except for Pup and his brother Luke, a law student. Luke has developed a drinking problem, and Pup has failed at romance and is in danger of failing Studio Art. As a last-ditch effort to save his grade, he tries photography at his teacher's suggestion. With the help of a mentor, Albrihet, an advanced art student and Eritrean immigrant who is navigating problems within her own close-knit family, Pup finds a way to use his camera as a vehicle to express the impact of his loss.

Forman, Gayle

If I Stay (and sequel)

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

Frank, E. R.

Wrecked

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.

Fuston, Margie

Vampires, Hearts, and Other Dead Things

As her father lies gravely ill with terminal pancreatic cancer, eighteen-year-old Victoria's last hope is to find a vampire in New Orleans, an impossible mission that rekindles a special friendship.

Garner, Paula

Phantom Limbs

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.

Gilbert, Barbara

Stone Water

Grant must decide whether or not to help his grandfather die.

Giles, Amy

That Night

The year since a mass shooting shook their Queens neighborhood has played out differently for Jess and Lucas, both of whom were affected by that night in eerily similar and deeply personal ways.

Glasgow, Kathleen

How to Make Friends with the Dark

Tiger, sixteen, has been pushing away from her overprotective mother--but when her mother dies suddenly, Tiger must learn to live when it feels like she is surrounded by darkness.

Green, John

Looking for Alaska

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

Griffin, Adele

Tighter

Based on Henry James' The Turn of the Screw. 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.

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.

Hand, Cynthia

The Last Time We Say Goodbye

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.

Hepler, Heather

We Were Beautiful

Fifteen-year-old Mia's scarred face is a constant reminder of the car crash that killed her sister, but a summer at her grandmother's Manhattan apartment and new friends help her cope with her grief and find happiness again.

Hubbard, Jenny

And We Stay

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.

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.

Johnson, Abigail

Even if I Fall

Brooke Covington lost everything when her beloved older brother, Jason, confessed to the murder of his best friend, Calvin. When Brooke encounters Calvin's younger brother, Heath, on the side of the road and offers him a ride, everything changes. She needs someone to talk to ... and so does Heath. Soon they're meeting in secret and something tender begins to develop. But when a new secret comes out about the murder, Brooke has to choose whose pain she's willing to live with—her family's or Heath's—because she can't heal one without hurting the other.

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?

Kara, Jessica

Don't Ask If I'm Okay

It's been a year since Gage survived a car accident that killed his best friend, Hunter. Without the person who always brought out the best in him, Gage doesn't know who he is. He likes working as a fry cook and loves his small-town friends and family, but they weren't in the wreck and he can't tell them how much he's still hurting. He just wants to forget all his pain and move on. When his stepdad shows him a dream job opening in one of his idol's restaurants, Gage knows this is his chance to convince everyone and himself that he's fine--but the more Gage tries to ignore his grief, the more volatile it becomes. When his temper finally turns on the people he loves, Gage must decide what real strength is--holding in his grief until it destroys him or asking for help and revealing his broken heart for all to see.

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.

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.

Kostakis, Will The Sidekicks

Ryan, Harley and Miles are very different people—the swimmer, the rebel and the nerd. All they've ever had in common is Isaac, their shared best friend. When Isaac dies unexpectedly, the three boys must come to terms with their grief and the impact Isaac had on each of their lives.

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.

Lawson, Liz The Lucky Ones

When David Ecchles walked into the band room at Carter High School last year and shot and killed his classmates and teacher, May McGintee was the only survivor. Now May's trying to keep it together as she starts a new year at a different school, but mostly she's itching to punch everyone she sees, especially anyone offering sympathy or attempts at comfort. Meanwhile, as the son of the lawyer who is defending David, Zach is also having a difficult return to school, with his friends mostly abandoning him. A chance meeting brings May and Zach together, and though she's initially furious to find out his connection to David's trial, she takes comfort in his undemanding friendship. It all goes bust, however, when May falls apart completely on the anniversary of the shooting, revealing a secret that Zach struggles to forgive.

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.

Lippincott, Rachael The Lucky List

Rising high school senior Emily felt lucky until her mother's death, but now, with childhood friend Blake, she sets out to accomplish every exciting, scary, and intimidating task on her mother's bucket list.

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.

Mason, Lizzy Remind Me to Hate You Later

Natalie has barely begun to grieve her best friend Jules's death when Britt, Jules's mother, announces plans to publish an online memoir that will dissect Jules's life and death. Nat knows the truth behind Britt's "perfect" Instagram feed: Jules hated the pressure, the inauthenticity, the persona. There's so much more to Jules than Britt and her followers could ever know. As Nat connects with Jules's boyfriend, Carter, and their shared grief and guilt bonds them. Nat becomes determined to expose Britt—to place the blame--because if it was someone else's fault, maybe it wasn't hers.

Medema, Dante Message Not Found

Mourning the death of her best friend Vanessa, seventeen-year-old Bailey creates a chat bot using their text messages and emails. Unsatisfied with the result, Bailey seeks out more data for the app and uncovers Vanessa's secrets which forces her to reconcile what she thought she knew about her friend with what Vanessa kept hidden.

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.

Morgyn, Ava

Resurrection Girls

Drawn out of her grief by new neighbors, the Hallas women, sixteen-year-old Olivia Foster perceives a darkness surrounding them that goes beyond Kara Hallas's habit of writing to men on death row.

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.

Parsons, Mark H.

The 9:09 Project

Seventeen-year-old Jamison finds hope after the loss of his mother and recognizes the role that family, friends, and even strangers can play in the healing process if you are open and willing to share your experience with others.

Pass, Nina de

The Year after You

Cara has survived a car accident that killed her best friend, G. Battling grief, depression, and internal and external scars, Cara is sent to boarding school in Switzerland by her mother, who thinks all she needs is a clean slate. Cara journeys through the snowy Alps to Hope Hall with very little hope—but a unique trio, Ren, Hector, and Fred, have other things in mind. Not only do they want to befriend Cara, but they want to know all of her secrets. Cara shuts herself off, but the trio push back hard, and Cara reluctantly learns to open up to people who really care about her. She learns that with loyalty, love, and strong friendship, things get better, and she discovers the importance of forgiveness and acceptance.

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.

Reilly, K. J.

Four for the Road

Asher Hunting wants revenge on the drunk driver who killed his mom and got off on a technicality. He ends up in a bereavement group where he makes some unexpected friends: Sloane, who lost her dad to cancer; Will, who lost his little brother to a different kind of cancer; and eighty-year-old Henry, who was married to his wife for fifty years until she decided to die on her own terms. Asher invites them on a road trip from New Jersey to Graceland-- not telling them he is going to steal his dad's car or the real reason that he wants to go to Tennessee. What begins as the road trip to revenge might just turn into a path towards forgiveness.

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.

Reynolds, Jason

Long Way Down

Driven by the secrets and vengeance that mark his street culture, 15-year-old Will contemplates over the course of 60 psychologically suspenseful seconds whether or not he is going to murder the person who killed his brother.

Reynolds, Justin A.

Early Departures

What if you could bring your best friend back to life--but only for a short time? Jamal's best friend, Q, doesn't know that he died and that he's about to die again. He doesn't know that Jamal tried to save him. And that the reason they haven't been friends for two years is because Jamal blames Q for the accident that killed his parents. But what if Jamal could have a second chance? A new technology allows Q to be reanimated for a few weeks before he dies permanently. And Q's mom is not about to let anyone ruin this miracle by telling Q about his impending death. So how can Jamal fix everything if he can't tell Q the truth?

Reynolds, Justin A.

Opposite of Always

When Jack and Kate meet at a party, Jack knows he's falling—hard. But then Kate dies. And their story should end there. Yet Kate's death sends Jack back to the beginning, the moment they first meet, and Kate's there again. Jack isn't sure if he's losing his mind. Still, if he has a chance to prevent Kate's death, he'll take it—even if that means believing in time travel. However, Jack will learn that his actions are not without consequences.

Richards, Alex

Accidental

Johanna lost her mom in a car accident, and her father went AWOL when Johanna was just a baby. She is being raised by her grandparents who never talk about their daughter, her mother Mandy. When Robert Newsome, Johanna's father, comes back, he brings memories and pictures of Mandy. But a tragic car accident didn't kill Mandy-- it was Johanna who, at two years old, accidentally shot her own mother with an unsecured gun. Now she's trying to sort through the return of her absentee father, her grandparents' lies, and her part in her mother's death. Can Johanna ever find a way to forgive herself?

Rosenblum, Cameron Kelly

The Stepping Off Place

It's the summer before senior year. Reid is in the thick of Scofield High's in-crowd thanks to her best friend, Hattie, who has been her social oxygen since middle school. But summer is when Hattie goes to her family's Maine island home. Instead of sitting inside for eight weeks, waiting for her to return, Reid and their friend, Sam, enter into a pact to live it up, one party at a time. But days before Hattie is due home, Reid finds out the shocking news that Hattie has died by suicide. Driven by a desperate need to understand what went wrong, Reid searches for answers. In doing so, she uncovers painful secrets about the person she thought she knew better than herself. And the truth will force Reid to reexamine everything.

Rufener, Brenda

Since We Last Spoke

Estranged after a fatal car accident involving their older siblings leads to a restraining order between their bitter families, Aggi and Max reunite at a lakehouse party and reflect on how they had just fallen in love before they were separated.

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.

Sedgwick, Chantele

Switching Gears

17-year-old Emmy Martin, still mourning the loss of her girlhood crush, discovers her passion for mounting biking to fill the void of her grief.

Sheinmel, Alyssa

The Castle School (for Troubled Girls)

Paralyzed by grief, Moira feels punished when her parents send her to a therapeutic boarding school in Maine where she meets eleven other troubled girls and gradually begins to understand her parents' true intentions behind sending her there.

Sorosiak, Carlie

Wild Blue Wonder

Following a tragic boating accident during the summer before her senior year of high school, Quinn goes through life in a daze of grief until the new boy in town, Alexander, helps her begin to understand the truth about love and loss.

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.

Sweeney, Kate

Catch the Light

After the death of her father, Marigold ("Mary") leaves California behind to live with her aunt in rural New York. There she feels caught between her old life and new one when she forms a special connection with a fellow photographer. When things fall apart, Mary will have to come to terms with the way the loss of her dad has changed who she is.

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.

Vincent, Rachel

No One Is Alone

When Michaela's mom dies and she has to move in with her dad, she discovers that he's been married with kids all this time and that she's the product of an affair.

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.

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.

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

Zorn, Claire

Protected

Nearly a year after her popular older sister's accidental death, Hannah meets Anne, a guidance counselor, and Josh, a potential new friend, who offer her the chance to move forward.

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.