

MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Alene, Catherine

The Sky between You and Me

Becoming obsessed with winning rodeo nationals to honor her late mother's memory, Rae distances herself from her loved ones and develops anorexia in her determination to meet the sport's demanding requirements.

Anderson, Laurie Halse

Wintergirls

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

Ballard, Alexandra

What I Lost

When sixteen-year-old Elizabeth is sent to the Wallingfield Psychiatric Facility's Residential Treatment Center, she encounters girls whose problems seem much greater than her own anorexia.

Baratz-Logsted, Lauren

Crazy Beautiful

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

Barnard, Sara

A Quiet Kind of Thunder

Steffi has been a selective mute for most of her life—she's been silent for so long that she feels completely invisible. But Rhys, the new boy at school, sees her. He's deaf, and her knowledge of basic sign language means that she's assigned to look after him. It doesn't matter to Rhys that Steffi doesn't talk. As they find ways to communicate, Steffi finds that she does have a voice and that she's falling in love with the one person who makes her feel brave enough to use it.

Belanger, Michael

The History of Jane Doe

Williamsburg, Connecticut, is a one-stoplight town where everything interesting happened in the past—until a cool Brooklynite from the other Williamsburg turns up. High school juniors Ray and Simon are used to being outcasts—so utterly insignificant that they are ignored by peers, no longer even important enough to be bullied. Until Jane Doe (her name changed for privacy) walks into biology class, sits down beside Ray, and upends the order of the universe. Ray and Jane fall in love—and set Simon up with Mary, his first girlfriend—but even the caring attention of a sincere boy cannot rescue Jane from depression.

Bingham, Kelly

Shark Girl (and sequel)

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

Blair, Kate

Transferral

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

Caletti, Deb

The Nature of Jade

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

Coley, Liz

Pretty Girl-13

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

Cooner, Donna

Skinny

After undergoing gastric-bypass surgery, a self-loathing, obese teenaged girl loses weight and makes the brave decision to start participating in high school life, including pursuing her dream of becoming a singer and finding love.

Cooney, Caroline

Code Orange

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

Corrigan, Eireann

Remedy

It feels like Cara has been sick all her life, but she and her mom have never stayed in one place long enough for doctors to really understand what is happening to her. Now, at fourteen, Cara is tired of being tired and sick of being sick. And it's only getting

worse. Unable to afford the care she needs, Cara's mom starts a Caring for Cara campaign online. The money starts pouring in. But something is not right to Cara-- and the harder she looks, the less she understands.

Crichton, L. D. **All Our Broken Pieces**

Musically gifted seventeen-year-old Kyler and his new neighbor Lennon, who is crippled by her OCD, discover that the strength to survive, live, and love can be found in unexpected places.

Crossan, Sarah **One**

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

Crow, Matthew **The Brilliant Light of Amber Sunrise**

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

Crutcher, Chris **Deadline**

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

Culley, Betty **Three Things I Know Are True**

Life changes forever for Liv when her older brother, Jonah, accidentally shoots himself with his best friend Clay's father's gun. Now Jonah needs round-the-clock care just to stay alive, and Liv feels like she's the only person who can see that her brother is still there inside his broken body. With Liv's mom suing Clay's family, there are divisions in the community that Liv knows she's not supposed to cross. But Clay is her friend, too, and she refuses to turn away from him--just like she refuses to give up on Jonah. Novel in verse.

Dessen, Sarah **Dreamland**

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

Dominy, Amy Fellner **A Matter of Heart**

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

Downham, Jenny **Before I Die**

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

Dunbar, Helene **These Gentle Wounds**

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

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.

Fischer, Breanna **Small Displays of Chaos**

Seventeen-year-old Rayanne Timko's biggest concern should be deciding on a university and career path, but instead she is struggling to overcome anorexia and must find herself before she loses everything.

Flores-Scott, Patrick **American Road Trip**

Brothers Teodoro and Manny Avila take a road trip to address Manny's PTSD following his tour in Iraq and to help T. change his life and win the heart of Wendy Martinez.

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.

Friend, Natasha

How We Roll

Quinn lost her friends along with her hair after developing alopecia, and former football player Jake lost his legs and confidence after an accident—but the two help each other believe in themselves and the possibility of love.

Gardner, Kati

Brave Enough

The lives of Davis Channing, a cancer-surviving recovering addict, and Cason Martin, a ballerina undergoing chemotherapy, intersect in a powerful way at a time when both are struggling to survive life-threatening diseases.

Gardner, Kati

Finding Balance

After spending a week together at Camp Chemo each summer for many years, Mari Manos and Jase Ellison are great friends whose serious flirtation indicates both might be interested in something more. During the school year, however, their paths don't really cross, as they go to different schools and live in different neighborhoods. Jase, who had leukemia when he was three, is actively trying to put his cancer experience behind him; no one at his private school knows he ever had it. However, Mari's experience with cancer is ever-present and very public: she navigates the world with one leg, following an amputation that saved her life. She can never just blend in. When Mari receives a scholarship and transfers into Jase's school, their worlds clash.

Garvin, Jeff

The Lightness of Hands

Highs and lows come in big waves for 16-year-old Ellie Dante, the bipolar daughter of a down-and-out magician with a heart condition whose career plummeted after his infamous Truck Drop trick went wrong 10 years ago. The Dantes are at rock bottom in Indiana, living in a rundown RV with no gigs and no money for much-needed medication when an offer comes that could put Ellie's father's career back on track. All he has to do is successfully perform the trick that ruined him on national television. Ellie accepts the offer, but it will take more than magic for her to overcome the obstacles--she'll have to get her father to agree, assemble the equipment they'll need to perform in L.A. in 10 days, and control her spiraling moods without meds.

Green, John

The Fault in Our Stars

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

Green, John

Turtles All the Way Down

Aza Holmes, a high school student with obsessive-compulsive disorder, becomes focused on searching for a fugitive billionaire.

Guest, Judith

Ordinary People

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

Haddon, Mark

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

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

Harrar, George

Not As Crazy As I Seem

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

Hayden, Chaz

The First Thing about You

When Harris moves to New Jersey with his family at the beginning of his sophomore year in high school, he views it as an opportunity to start fresh. At his old school everyone knew him as the kid who uses a wheelchair because of his spinal muscular atrophy; Harris wants more than that. He wants to have friends, stay out late, go to a party, go on a date, maybe even kiss a girl. These dreams start to feel possible when he meets Zander (nerdy but friend material) and Nory (definite girlfriend potential) on the first day of school. Soon thereafter Miranda, a youthful and cool nursing student, agrees to be his full-time nurse so his mom doesn't have to accompany him to school every day. Harris even manages to get a seat at the coveted football team's lunch table in the cafeteria due to his plucky charm and extensive knowledge of football. But it turns out being a teenager and growing up is hard, and the path is bumpy, no matter where you sit. What's important is figuring out who you are.

Haydu, Corey Ann

OCD Love Story

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

Henry, Katie

Let's Call It a Doomsday

Ellis Kimball, sixteen, whose anxiety disorder causes her to prepare for the imminent end of the world, meets Hannah, who claims to know when it will happen.

Hesser, Terry

Kissing Doorknobs

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

Hoban, Julia

Willow

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

Hopkins, Ellen

Impulse (and sequel)

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

Hoyle, McCall

The Thing with Feathers

A homeschooled girl with epilepsy reconsiders her beliefs about playing it safe during her first year in public school, where she hides her medical condition from her basketball athlete partner during a research project.

Hubbard, Jennifer R.

Try Not to Breathe

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

Joelson, Penny

I Have No Secrets

Sixteen-year-old Jemma, who has severe cerebral palsy, must grapple with dark truths that only she knows and is unable to communicate. Jemma knows who the murderer is-- because he told her. He thought his secret was safe because her severe cerebral palsy won't let her speak or move. When a new technology means she may be able to communicate and reveal all she knows, Jemma no longer feels powerless. But now she's in a race against time. The killer will act again-- to stop her from telling what she knows.

John, Antony

Five Flavors of Dumb

"Seriously, what family with a history of hereditary deafness names their child after the player of a musical instrument?" High school senior Piper, who began to lose her hearing at age six, has mixed feelings about her parents dipping into her college fund to pay for cochlear implants for her hearing-impaired baby sister. But one thing is clear: Piper has to replenish the funds. Opportunity knocks when a disorganized rock band named Dumb invites her to be their manager. However, it soon becomes apparent that the members' egos are more substantial than their talent.

Johnson, J. J.

Believarexic

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

Kantor, Melissa

Maybe One Day

For lifelong friends Zoe and Olivia, the first shake-up--no more elite ballet company for them--was bad enough. But when leukemia strikes, a recalibration of the "worst thing that will ever happen" scale is required.

Kesey, Ken

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

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

Kim, Angie

Miracle Creek

Young and Pak Yoo live in Miracle Creek, a small town in Virginia, with their daughter, Mary. After immigrating to Virginia from Seoul, they start the business that operates in the barn behind their home: hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) sessions in a chamber designed like a submarine—but then a fatal explosion happens, leaving two people dead, Pak in a wheelchair, and Mary permanently scarred. One year later, the Yoos must testify in court against Elizabeth Ward, who's been accused of orchestrating the incident to kill her son, Henry, a child who'd been undergoing HBOT to treat his autism, and who died in the explosion.

Korman, Gordon

Pop

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

Leavitt, Martine

Calvin

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

Lyons, C. J.

Broken

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

Mangle, Bethany

Conditions of a Heart

Brynn Kwan is desperate for her high school persona to be real. That Brynn is head of the yearbook committee, the favorite for prom queen, and definitely not crumbling from a secret disability that's rapidly wearing her down. If no one knows the truth about her condition, Brynn doesn't have to worry about the pitying looks or accusations of being a faker that already destroyed her childhood friendships. She's even willing to let go of her four-year relationship with her first love, Oliver, rather than reveal that a necessary surgery was the reason she ignored his existence for the entire summer. But after Brynn tries to break up a fight at a pep rally and winds up barred from all her clubs and senior prom, she has nothing left to prop up her illusion of being just like everyone else. During a week-long suspension from school, she realizes that she doesn't quite recognize the face in the mirror--and it's not because of her black eye from the fight. With a healthy sister who simply doesn't understand and a confused ex-boyfriend who won't just take a hint and go away like a normal human being, Brynn begins to wonder if it's possible to reinvent her world by being the person she thought no one wanted: herself.

Mass, Wendy

A Mango-Shaped Space

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

Maurer, Shari

Change of Heart

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

Mazer, Harry

Somebody Please Tell Me Who I am

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

McCormick, Patricia

Cut

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

McCormick, Patricia

Purple Heart

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

McDaniel, Lurlene

Heart to Heart

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

McDowell, Beck

This Is Not a Drill

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

McGovern, Cammie

Just Breathe

David Scheinman, the popular president of his senior class, is battling cystic fibrosis. Jamie Turner is a quiet sophomore who is struggling with depression. The pair soon realizes that they're able to be more themselves with each other than they can be with anyone else, and their unlikely friendship starts to turn into something so much more. But neither Jamie nor David can bring themselves to reveal the secrets that weigh most heavily on their hearts--and their time for honesty may be running out.

McGovern, Kate

Fear of Missing Out

Despite the loving intentions of her mother and boyfriend, sixteen-year-old Astrid wants to make the decisions about her life and death when her cancer returns, including exploring the possibility of cryopreservation.

McInnes, Nicole

100 Days

A teen girl suffers from progeria, a rare disease that causes her to age rapidly. She, along with two unlikely friends, learns to live life to its fullest before ultimately letting it go.

McPhee, Peter

Every Move

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

Metzger, Lois

A Trick of the Light

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

Moskowitz, Hannah

Sick Kids in Love

Isabel has one rule: no dating. It's easier-it's safer-it's better-for the other person. She has issues. She has secrets. She has rheumatoid arthritis. But then she meets another sick kid. He has a chronic illness Isabel's never heard of, something she can't even pronounce. He understands what it means to be sick. He understands her more than her healthy friends. He understands her more than her own father, who's a doctor. But Isabel has one rule: no dating. It's complicated-it's dangerous-it's never felt better-to consider breaking that rule for him.

Mukherjee, Sonya

Gemini

In a small town, as high school graduation approaches, two conjoined sisters must weigh the importance of their dreams as individuals against the risk inherent in the surgery that has the potential to separate them forever.

Murphy, Julie

Side Effects May Vary

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

Murray, Tamsyn

Instructions for a Secondhand Heart

Jonny and Neve, both fifteen, bond after her twin brother, in whose shadow she has been living, becomes Jonny's just-in-time heart donor.

Na, An

The Place between Breaths

Grace, sixteen, fears that she will succumb to the schizophrenia that took her mother away, while she and her father work for a genetics lab rushing to find a cure.

Nash, Abbey Lee

Breathing Underwater

Seventeen-year-old competitive swimmer Tess Cooper grapples with the upheaval of her carefully planned future following an epilepsy diagnosis and works to get back in the pool despite her doctor's advice or her distracting feelings for the new guy.

Nolan, Han

Crazy

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

Pearson, Mary E.

The Adoration of Jenna Fox (and sequels)

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

Picoult, Jodi

Change of Heart

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

Picoult, Jodi

Handle with Care

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

Picoult, Jodi

House Rules

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

Picoult, Jodi

My Sister's Keeper

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

Polsky, Sara

This Is How I Find Her

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

Price, Nora

Zoe Letting Go

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

Ramey, Stacie

It's My Life

While facing disturbing revelations about the cause of her disability, a high school junior with cerebral palsy is on the verge of giving up on herself until she learns that her childhood crush has moved back into town.

Reed, Jaime

Sorry Not Sorry

When her ex-best friend Alyssa discovers that she is in urgent need of a kidney transplant as a result of acute renal failure due to juvenile diabetes, Janelle must decide how far a former friendship requires her to go.

Reinhardt, Dana

The Things a Brother Knows

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

Scheier, Leah

Your Voice Is All I Hear

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

Schmidt, Tiffany

Send Me a Sign

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

Schneider, Robyn

Extraordinary Means

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

Scott, Elizabeth

Miracle

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

Sheinmel, Alyssa

Faceless

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

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.

Sortino, Anna

Give Me a Sign

Seventeen-year-old Lilah, who wears hearing aids, returns to a summer camp for the Deaf and Blind as a counselor, eager to improve her ASL and find her place in the community, but she did not expect to also find romance along the way.

Stewart, Erin

The Words We Keep

When sixteen-year-old Lily Larkin's older sister, Alice, begins to struggle with her mental health, Lily attempts to keep everything together and perfect, despite her own growing anxiety.

Stone, Tamara Ireland

Every Last Word

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

Stork, Francisco X.

Marcelo in the Real World

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

Stork, Francisco X.

The Memory of Light

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

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.

Tashjian, Janet

Fault Line

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

Taylor, Whitney

Definitions of Indefinable Things

The lives of three teens in a small town intersect in ways they never expected, teaching them that there are no one-size-fits-all definitions of depression, friendship, and love.

Trueman, Terry

Stuck in Neutral

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

Van Draanen, Wendelin

The Running Dream

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

Vaught, Susan

Trigger

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

Vizzini, Ned

It's Kind of a Funny Story

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

Walkup, Jennifer

This Ordinary Life

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

Walton, Julia

Just Our Luck

Leo has always been told to stay away from Evey Paros, but after his anxiety disorder causes a fight at school, he has no choice but to ask for her help.

Walton, Julia

Words on Bathroom Walls

It's 2012, and a 16-year-old boy with schizophrenia starts fresh with a new drug trial and at a new high school. Adam's old friends didn't stand by him when they became aware of his schizophrenia, though he's been experiencing symptoms since he was 12. Will the experimental (fictional) drug he's taking allow him to control his symptoms enough to make new friends who don't know his history?

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.

Webb, Christine

The Art of Insanity

Hiding her mental illness from her classmates is going to be the hardest thing high schooler Natalie Cordova has ever done. It's her senior year, and she's just been selected to present her artwork at a prestigious show. With the stress of performing on her shoulders, Natalie finds herself juggling all kinds of feelings and responsibilities. Surely her newly prescribed medication is to blame for the funk she finds herself in. But as Natalie's plan to self-treat unravels, so does the perfect façade she's been painting for everyone else.

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.

Wilson, Rachel M.

Don't Touch

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

Young, Janet Ruth

The Opposite of Music

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

Yu, Jennifer

Four Weeks, Five People

Five teens who struggle with mental-health and social challenges bond over their respective difficulties and form unexpected connections in their efforts to prove that they are more than their problems.

Zevin, Gabrielle

Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac

After a nasty fall, Naomi realizes that she has no memory of the last four years and finds herself reassessing every aspect of her life.