

IONA C.S.S. WHITE PINE BOOKLIST FOR GR.9 CPT: 2021 - 2022

The Iona Learning Commons has numerous White Pine novels to choose from for the Gr.9 English CPT. They are listed below in the order of the year they were nominated. Most of the options are AR novels and have the Reading Level followed by the Point Value in brackets after the author's name. ***The asterisk and bold font indicate the winner for that year.**

2002

Seven for a Secret – Sheppard (5.6, 9.0)

Rebecca, Kate and Melinda spend every summer in their small Newfoundland village....but now they are exposed to outside possibilities and the chance to fulfill their dreams.

Leslie's Journal – Stratton (4.1,7.0)

Leslie's journal records her troubles at school, home, with her best friend and the problems that come with a new relationship.

Double or Nothing – Foon (4.4, 6.0)

Kip has a gambling addiction, but when Kip starts dating Joey his gambling addiction is worsened by the fact that Joey's dad is a Master Illusionist and a gambler.

****Dancing Naked* – Hrdlitschka (4.3, 9.0)**

16-year-old Kia learns she is pregnant. She must then confront not only her own fears but also the feelings of her parents and her friends from her church youth group. Throughout the book, the teen matures and begins to understand that giving birth and raising a baby are two different things.

2003

Parvana's Journey – Ellis (4.5, 5.0)

After her father's death, Parvana, now thirteen-years-old, continues to search for her mother in war-torn Afghanistan, joining with two younger children who are also struggling to survive.

****A Foreign Field* – Chan (5.6, 7.0)**

"Stephen and Ellen grow up ahead of their time because of World War II. They discover that sometimes falling apart is only steps away from falling in love" Cf. Our choice, 2003.

The Loser's Club – Lekich (5.4, 10)

"Alex inadvertently becomes a hero at school when he fends off tough-guy Jerry Whitman. A highly-amusing and entertaining novel with colourful characters" Cf. Our choice, 2003.

The Maze – Hughes (4.6, 8.0)

"When Andrea is given a maze in a mysterious box, she is curious. A new fantasy adventure with plot twists and turns, from one of Canada's best-loved children's writers" Cf. Our choice, 2003.

True Confessions of a Heartless Girl – Brooks (5.0, 7.0)

A confused seventeen-year-old girl, a single mother and her young son, two elderly, women, and a sad and lonely man, with their own individual tragedies to bear, come together in a small Manitoba town and find a way to a better future.

The Road to Chlifa – Marineau (5.4, 4.0)

Karim has journeyed from war-torn Lebanon to Montreal and now he is haunted by memories of his dangerous passage to freedom. He finds himself faced with a new and troubling challenge, not to forget, but to build his new life and begin again.

Surviving Sam – Rivers (3.5, 8.0)

Surviving Sam is Pagan Riddler's story. It begins three years after her twin brother, Sam, dies in an avalanche that roars down the mountain they are climbing together. Now Pagan is in her final year of high school and struggling to come out from under the shadow of Sam's death. She has seen a string of doctors to repair her body and fix her deep depression, but she still wakes up every morning longing for Sam to be alive. Then comes the most difficult blow of all: Sam's body is found at last, and Pagan must accept that her brother is really and truly dead.

Truth and Lies – Williams (4.8, 4.0)

When Marcel falls victim to an unexplainable attack and lapses into a coma, Erin feels it necessary to take on an investigation of her own after police come up with no leads, to find out if his gay lifestyle was the attacker's motive.

2004

****The First Stone* – Aker (5.7, 10.0)**

Squeezing the rock in his clenched fist made Reef Kennedy feel powerful. And angry. It was easy, then, to look down from the overpass and choose an anonymous target. Now Leeza Hemming's world has exploded, her body twisted and broken from the car crash that nearly killed her. Facing months of torturous rehabilitation to cure her damaged body and spirit, Leeza finds a friend in an unlikely hospital volunteer, a young man about her age who looks like he would rather be anywhere than in a hospital.

Search of the Moon King's Daughter – Holeman (5.5, 12.0)

Emmaline tries to find her little brother who has been sold into servitude as a chimney sweep.

Shoulder the Sky – Choyce (5.3, 7.0)

Martin Emerson's family, friends, and even his therapist have trouble figuring him out. He never showed much of a reaction to the death of his mother, and his behaviour of late has been getting more and more bizarre. And yet, his website has made him something of a cult figure to followers who believe that, if not having all the right answers, "Emerso" at least has all the right questions.

Theories of Relativity – Hawarth-Attard (3.9, 7.0)

When his volatile mother throws him out of the house and he loses contact with his two younger brothers, sixteen-year-old Dylan is forced to live on the streets and beg for money, yet through it all, he finds a way to survive. At least he has his theories. No one can take those away from him. Like how every fourth person throws him spare change; how no one does anything for anyone without a price; and how he just might be able to find a place in this complicated world.

Tom Finder – Leavitt (3.9, 6.0)

Fifteen-year-old Tom is on the run, a kid on the streets out on his own, living by his wits. Tom also gets involved in a quest to find another lost teenager whose First Nations father is desperate for news of his son. In the process, Tom learns to survive and begins to get a sense of his own inner strengths.

Throwaway Daughter – Ye (6.0, 9.0)

Grace was adopted by Canadian parents after being abandoned as a baby in China - Years later, as teenager, she realizes that she needs to find out about her birth parents in China for her own peace of mind.

And In the Morning – Wilson (6.1, 7.0)

When fifteen-year-old Jim Hay's father is killed in World War I, Jim is compelled to leave his native Scotland to fight, and struggles with the horrors of war as he tries to survive in the trenches of France.

2005

Kate – Sherrard (5.5, 8.0)

Kate Benchworth refuses to give in to self-pity after being diagnosed with a brain tumor that could end her life at any time.

Take the Stairs – Crossing (4.2, 6.0)

Thirteen teenagers labor to overcome the challenges in their lives in the inner-city.

The Thought of High Windows – Kositsky (4.8, 6.0)

Esther is on the run from the Nazis and witnesses the harsh reality of war.

Flames of the Tiger – Wilson (5.2, 5.0)

Dieter has grown up in Germany during Hitler's rise to power, believing everything that he has been told, but as his involvement in the war increases, he finds himself questioning these beliefs as he fights for survival.

***Chanda's Secret* – Stratton (3.7, 7.0)**

A girl's struggle amid the African AIDS pandemic, Chanda, is an astonishingly perceptive girl living in the small city of Bonang, a fictional city in Southern Africa. When her youngest sister dies, and the first hint of HIV/AIDS emerges, Chanda must confront undercurrents of shame and stigma. Not afraid to explore the horrific realities of AIDS, *Chanda's Secrets* also captures the enduring strength of loyalty, friendship and family ties. Above all, it is a story about the corrosive nature of secrets and the healing power of truth.

***Kat's Fall* – Hrdlitschka (4.1 5.0)**

When 15-year-old Darcy's mother is released from prison, he finds it is much harder to love than to hate, until he too is accused of a horrific crime.

****More Than You Can Chew* – Tokio (3.5, 4.0)**

Marty Black, a high school senior, finds herself in a psychiatric institution where she is being treated for her eating disorder, and soon recognizes that her need for help is only the first tenuous step on a long road to recovery.

2006

***Esther* – McKay (5.0, 13.0)**

Portrays the remarkable story of Esther Brandeau, a young girl who lived in the eighteenth century and who was the first Jew to set foot in New France.

***Blue Highway* – Tullson (3.5, 6.0)**

Truth and Skye are just like all their high-school friends. They love to drive cars, they love to party, and they booze it up whenever they can. And when the two girls find summer jobs at the local pizza shop, and befriend Vale who will soon have her license and a car, they see no reason to change their habits....until tragedy unfolds.

***B for Buster* – Lawrence (4.7, 11.0)**

In the spring of 1943, sixteen-year-old Kak, desperate to escape his abusive parents, lies about his age to enlist in the Canadian Air Force and soon finds himself based in England as part of a crew flying bombing raids over Germany.

****The Blue Girl* – de Lint (4.8, 13.0)**

New at her high school, Imogene enlists the help of her introverted friend Maxine and the ghost of a boy who haunts the school after receiving warnings through her dreams that soul-eaters are threatening her life.

***Angeline* – Bradford (5.1, 8.0)**

Stunned by the blistering heat, the noise, the sea of faces crowding in upon her in the teeming Egyptian market, Angeline cannot believe that she is being sold as a slave to one of the great princes of Cairo. Only a short time ago she left her small village in France to follow Stephen, a shepherd boy whose vision led him to mount a children's crusade to the Holy Land, but they were deceived by those who offered help. Now it seems they are doomed to a life of slavery in a foreign land and even Stephen has lost all hope.

***The First Vial* – Heinrichs (5.6, 14.0)**

Set against the backdrop of the inescapable horror of the fourteenth-century plague and medieval heroism and chivalry, *The First Vial* details the morbid reality of a time when the Black Death forced people to take the law into their own hands to survive the wave of chaos that was ushered in.

***Sun Signs* – Hrdlitschka (5.1, 4.0)**

Unable to attend school while she battles cancer, fifteen-year-old Kayleigh Wyse tries to complete her classes online by correspondence. Developing a science project on astrology, Kayleigh enlists other online learners as study participants. What starts as a collaborative and supportive project based on the scientific method, slowly becomes unwieldy and then flawed when it is apparent that all the project participants are hiding vital clues about their identities.

***A Winter's Tale* – Sobat (4.4, 7.0)**

A Winter's Tale tells the story of Ingamald, a young woman destined to be a powerful witch in a pre-industrial world known as Hinterlund. A fearmonger in the person of Morton Winter has bought himself into power and works to control the largely illiterate populace. *A Winter's Tale* is an exploration of the rewards and sacrifices of personal and social responsibility.

2007

The Penelopiad – Atwood (6.9, 5.0)

Author, Margaret Atwood states that this novel is a retelling of Homer's *Odyssey*. However, in her version, “[She has] drawn on material other than the *Odyssey*, especially for the details of Penelope's parentage, her early life and marriage, and the scandalous rumors circulating about her.” The author of *The Handmaid's Tale* and *The Blind Assassin* presents a cycle of stories about Penelope, wife of Odysseus, through the eyes of the twelve maids hanged for disloyalty to Odysseus in his absence.

The Bonemender – Bennett (6.0, 9.0)

Gabrielle is a healer and she meets Elf Deolan and falls in love.

How to be a Hero on Earth 5 – Payne (5.9, 12.0)

John is inadvertently sent to a parallel universe where he bands together with other inter-dimensionals to outwit the evil agents tracking them and return to their own dimensions.

The Sundog Season – Geddes (5.9, 8.0)

The Sundog Season is a nuanced portrayal of small-town life, seen through the eyes of a young boy growing up in a northern Ontario mining town. This part coming-of-age, part mystery novel is witty and wise, packed full of memorable characters and original situations, all beautifully written.

Me and the Blondes – Toten (4.0, 7.0)

Sophia, who would like to be known as Sophie, has attended far too many schools over her junior high years. Now, in 1974, stinging from constant rejection because her alcoholic father is doing time for murder (unjustly convicted as Sophie sees it), she is determined to forge a new identity as she begins yet again at a new school. She and her mother decide to pretend that Sophie's father has died, and if they can get their story straight, everyone will sympathize with them, but of course, the devil is in the details.

Wild Orchid – Brenna (5.0, 6.0)

Taylor Jane Simon, a teenager with an autistic condition, spends the summer with her mother in Prince Albert National Park, and learns how to make her own path in life.

Four Steps to Death – Wilson (6.1, 7.0)

A boy is caught up in the horrors of the Battle of Stalingrad.

Three Songs for Courage – Trottier (5.6, 11.0)

"Summer 1956. Life is cool in the lakeside town of Erie View...For sixteen-year-old Gordon Westley, this is the summer of first love, fast cars, the best buddies on earth, and heartrending tragedy...A glimpse into the rock-and-roll loss-of-innocence decade that signaled rebellious change in an awakening youth culture"--Jacket.

***Shattered** – Walters (4.4, 7.0)

In this gripping tale, fifteen-year-old Ian learns not only about Rwanda but about the world, and he is not at all prepared. But what will he do with his new-found knowledge? Can he help Jacques, a man who has lost everything but his nightmarish memories?

2008

Another Kind of Cowboy – Juby (5.0, 9.0)

What happens when you'd rather come out of the closet than the rodeo chute? Alex Ford doesn't know yet. But with his kooky Aunt Grace, his twin sisters the ninja wannabes, his horse Turnip, and his new friend Cleo O'Shea — posh dressage rider — on his side, Alex just might find a way to be himself.

The Blue Helmet – Bell (5.1, 6.0)

After he gets caught by police during a gang initiation, Lee is dispatched to Toronto to live with his aunt. Working as a delivery boy, he meets Cutter, a former peacekeeper once posted in the war-torn Balkans. In learning Cutter's story, Lee's own attitude towards others and his perspective on the world radically change in this poignant and thought-provoking novel by William Bell.

The Droughtlanders – Mac

Keylanders live in a world of privilege and excess, while Droughtlanders live with poverty and disease. As Eli is compelled to journey into the Droughtlands, he is followed by his twin brother, Seth. Both seek different truths and both are forced to confront the realities of a world without the protection of social status and family. Despite a setting in the distant future, the novel offers challenging insights into today's world.

The End of the World as We Know It – Choyce (5.0, 8.0)

Nicknamed "Flunked out Academy" by its students, Farnsworth Academy is seventeen-year-old Carson Sullivan's latest school. Carson hates everything in life. His friendship with local resident Christine forces Carson to re-examine himself and the world around him.

**Keturah and Lord Death* – Leavitt (5.3, 8.0)

In medieval times, Keturah is an anything but average girl with average desires. After standing up to Lord Death himself, she finds herself torn between all that she knows and her new confidant. What she decides will affect all those surrounding her and even Lord Death himself. It's a fairytale of love, death and the ability to be extraordinary in the face of that which frightens us most.

The Song of Kahunsha – Irani (4.5, 9.0)

This simply written but heart-wrenching tale shows Bombay in the 1990s through the eyes of Chamdi, a ten-year-old orphan. In the face of extreme poverty and violence, he idealistically searches with his friend Guddi and her brother Sumdi for his fantasy city, "the city of no sadness" he has named Kahunsha.

The Space Between – Aker

Do Jace's hot dreams of sand, sun and sex turn lukewarm when the girl, the jock, and his nine year old autistic brother get in the way of his mission to "get laid" on a Mexican holiday? Jace learns how to stay real while exploring his manhood in this humorous, heart-wrenching story.

The Warrior's Daughter – Bennett (6.5, 11.0)

The Warrior's Daughter beautifully evokes a time long past by re-working and re-imagining the Irish legend of Cuchulainn. The story focuses on Luaine, Cuchulainn's daughter, as she faces an undesirable suitor, threats to her life and turmoil in her country. Feisty and resourceful, Luaine is a remarkable character whose resilience and courage will resonate with readers of all ages.

Ysabel – Gavriel Kay (4.0, 17.0)

History, both personal and cultural, is always present as Ned Marriner discovers on a trip to France with his father. While shooting images for his father's next book, Ned quite literally falls into the compelling story of an ancient love triangle. As the pagan festival of Beltane draws near, Ned must face a past that is very much present on a night when the spirit world collides with his own.

2009

After River – Milner

Natalie grows up on a Canadian farm as part of a close, connected family. When River, a Vietnam War protester, comes to work for them, unsettling changes lead to catastrophe.

Chanda's Wars – Stratton/Trophy (3.5, 9.0)

Chanda's courage is sorely tested when her younger siblings are kidnapped and forced to become child soldiers. Don't miss this unforgettable African tale of adventure, suffering and redemption.

Dooley Takes the Fall – McClintock (4.7, 11.0)

Dooley, a teenager with a criminal record, witnesses another teen's violent death. Police suspect he is involved and the gritty mystery unfolds as Dooley is determined to prove his innocence.

Gotcha – Hrdlitschka (4.0, 8.0)

The graduating class has started their annual tradition, the "Bead Game." School administration bans the activity for everyone's safety. When the game goes underground, it takes a turn for the worse.

Gravity Journal – Sobat

While battling anorexia in rehab, Anise keeps a journal. Her poems, daily accounts and personal reflections reveal the destructive nature of anorexia as well as the amazing strength of the human spirit to survive.

***Little Brother – Doctorow (5.9, 17.0)**

After his city is attacked, Marcus is wrongfully taken into custody by Homeland Security. When he's released, one of his friends is missing, his rights are gone and his city has become a police state. The only computer the government isn't watching is his Xbox.

Mountain Girl, River Girl – Ye

Pan-pan and Shui-lian leave their small town homes with the hope of finding a better life in a modern Chinese city. They soon realize that only by working together will they have a chance at success.

Tweaked – Holubitsky (4.9, 6.0)

Tweaked is an honest, accurate, and non-judgemental portrait of a family dealing with methamphetamine addiction. Told from the perspective of the addict's little brother, *Tweaked* depicts the highs, the lows and everything in between.

2010

Cracked Up to Be – Summers (3.9, 8.0)

When Jessica disappears at a party, Parker and her friends struggle with the fallout. Exactly what happened to Jessica and who is responsible? There are no tidy resolutions to this hard-hitting tale

Getting the Girl – Jubly (4.4, 8.0)

Ninth-grader Sherman Mack investigates the "Defilers," a secret group at his British Columbia high school that marks certain female students as pariahs, at first because he is trying to protect the girl he has a crush on, but later as a matter of principle.

Half World – Goto (4.9, 8.0)

Aided by a rat, Melanie follows her mother into a dark, alternate reality called Half World in an attempt to save her. Can Melanie help her mom, or will she be caught in Half World's explosive cycle of deformity, defeat, and horror?

The Landing – Ibbitson (5.8, 5.0)

In a community starved of luxury, Ben's depression-era, small-town life leaves little room for dreaming. Enter Ruth Chapman whose wealth and unconventionality rock Ben's world and leave him wanting more from life.

***Mostly Happy – Bustin (3.2, 9.0)**

Bean, a memorable young heroine, learns to survive the perilous home life created by her troubled mother. Bean's story is about overcoming hardship and trying to be "mostly" happy.

The Perfect Cut – Burtinshaw (4.6, 9.0)

Brian's "perfect" sister, Michelle, died last year. In the midst of his grief Brian learns her secret: she was a cutter. Brian now must face his own problems before he can truly understand what happened to Michelle.

The Uninvited – Wynne-Jones (4.4, 11.0)

Travelling to Canada to escape a failing relationship, Mimi discovers her cottage destination is already inhabited. The attractive guy she finds there thinks that Mimi is stalking him! Exactly who is the uninvited guest?

Wondrous Strange – Livingston (5.5, 10.0)

Kelley Winslow can't start a new romance just when she's got her first leading role as Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* _ can she? After all, she's also got a faerie-world invasion to stop and a horse living in her bathtub. Plus, what's up with Bob?

2011

Borderline – Stratton (3.7, 7.0)

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

Gravity Brings Me Down – Ghent (4.4, 8.0)

Sioux Smith is sharp, funny, and wry, and is pretty certain that she sees the world of high school differently from everyone else – a belief that is cemented when she makes an uneasy discovery about one of her school's "popular" teachers.

Hearts at Stake – Harvey (4.5, 8.0)

As her momentous sixteenth birthday approaches, Solange Drake, the only born female vampire in 900 years, protected by her large family of brothers and her human best friend Lucy, must escape increasingly persistent attempts on her life by the powerful vampire queen and her followers.

***The Monkeyface Chronicles – Scarsbrook (5.8, 13.0)**

Philip Skyler learned early in his life that his face would get him into trouble and there was nothing he could do about it. Born with an extreme facial deformity, he became the object of attention. Though medical scientists named his condition Van der Woude syndrome, his classmates, especially the bullies, just called him "Monkeyface."

The Second Trial – Boll (4.7, 11.0)

When his father's sentencing for domestic abuse isn't enough to protect them, Danny and his family are put into protective custody.

Some Girls Are – Summers (3.9, 9.0)

Regina, a high school senior in the popular – and feared – crowd, suddenly falls out of favour and becomes the object of the same sort of bullying she used to inflict on others...until she finds solace with one of her former victims.

Swim the Fly – Calame (3.8, 10.0)

Fifteen-year-old Matt Gratton and his two best friends, Coop and Sean, always set themselves a summertime goal. This year's? To see a real-live naked girl for the first time — quite a challenge, given that none of the guys has the nerve to even ask a girl out on a date. The result? Razor-sharp, rapid-fire, and raunchy, of course. And beyond hilarious.

2012

Ashes Ashes – Treggiari (5.4, 12.0)

In a future Manhattan devastated by environmental catastrophes and epidemics, sixteen-year-old Lucy survives alone until vicious hounds target her and force her to join Aidan and his band, but soon they learn that she is the target of Sweepers, who kidnap and infect people with plague.

Beat the Band – Calame (3.8, 11.0)

Paired with the infamous "Hot Dog" Helen for a health class presentation on safe sex, tenth-grader Coop tries to salvage his social status by entering his musically challenged rock group in the "Battle of the Bands" competition.

Blood Red Road – Young (2.9, 12.0)

In a distant future, eighteen-year-old Lugh is kidnapped, and while his twin sister Saba and nine-year-old Emmi are trailing him across bleak Sandsea they are captured, too, and taken to brutal Hopetown, where Saba is forced to be a cage fighter until new friends help plan an escape.

Chance to Dance for You – Sobat (3.8, 6.0)

Ian is openly gay in his bigoted high school. He has been training in dance for a long time, and has plans to leave town and train to become a professional. Then he falls in love with Jess, the high school quarterback.

Death Benefits – Harvey (4.4, 7.0)

Royce is pressed into service as caregiver for his ninety-five-year-old grandfather and gradually comes to appreciate the cantankerous old man.

The Fifth Rule – Aker

Reef has been living in Calgary for the past year, but now he's back in Halifax for the funeral of Frank Colville, his former mentor. Memories of Frank compete with memories of Leeza and the terrible way their relationship ended. Mindful that the restraining order against him has been renewed by Leeza's mother, Reef has no intention of staying in Halifax for long.

***The Gathering – Armstrong (4.2, 11.0)**

Sixteen-year-old Maya suspects there may be a relationship between her paw-print birthmark, her connection with wild animals, and strange events occurring in her tiny Vancouver Island community, where a medical research facility harbors big secrets.

Motorcycles and Sweetgrass – Taylor (5.3, 14.0)

Recently widowed 35-year-old Maggie is struggling with the responsibilities of being chief of the Otter Lake native reservation while simultaneously raising her aloof teenage son, Virgil. Maggie and Virgil are both reeling from the recent death of Maggie's mother, Lillian, their last connection to the "old-fashion Indian" way of life.

The Way It Is – Reid

Ellen Manery is an academic overachiever new to small town life. Can she and Tony, who lives on an Indian reserve, forge a relationship in the midst of the 1960s?

2013

All Good Children – Austen (4.1, 10.0)

In the not-too-distant future, Max tries to maintain his identity in a world where the only way to survive is to conform and obey.

***Dark Inside** – Roberts (4.5, 13.0)

After tremendous earthquakes destroy the Earth's major cities, an ancient evil emerges, turning ordinary people into hunters, killers, and insane monsters; but a small group of teens comes together in a fight for survival and safety.

First Day on Earth – Castellucci (3.7, 4.0)

A startling novel about the true meaning of being an alien in an equally alien world.

Getting Over Garrett Delaney – McDonald (4.4, 10.0)

Seventeen-year-old Sadie Allen has spent the last two years pining for her best friend, Garrett, but when he heads off to literary camp for the summer without her, she decides to kick her unrequited crush for good, with the help of her co-workers, another boy, and her own summer twelve-step program.

The Opposite of Tidy – Mac

Fifteen-year-old Junie is barely coping. Her mother has started sleeping in the chair in front of the TV, and the house is so packed with junk that she can barely get in the front door. So when Wade Jaffre, the hot new guy at school, offers her a ride home, it seems too good to be true.

The Taming – Walters/Toten (4.3, 8.0)

Shy, poor, and vulnerable Kate likes to believe she is invisible. So getting up in front of an audience as the lead in her school's production of *The Taming of the Shrew* should be complete torture. But Kate discovers that she loves acting. Soon, she becomes involved with Evan, who is smart, rich, and charming. But he is concealing a darker truth.

Way to Go – Ryan (4.8, 6.0)

Danny is pretty sure he's gay, but he spends his summer trying to prove otherwise.

The Way We Fall – Crowe (5.2, 11.0)

Sixteen-year-old old Kaelyn challenges her fears, finds a second chance at love, and fights to keep her family and friends safe as a deadly new virus devastates her island community.

Witchlanders – Coakley (4.8, 13.0)

After the prediction of Ryder's mother, once a great prophet and powerful witch, comes true and their village is destroyed by a deadly assassin, Ryder embarks on a quest that takes him into the mountains in search of the destroyer.

Running on Empty – Aker

All Ethan Palmer wants is wheels of his own, and he's finally saved enough money to buy his dream car... when he accidentally rams his dad's Volvo into their garage. With all his hard-earned cash going into repairs, Ethan won't be sliding behind the wheel of that Mustang Cobra anytime soon. Or will he?

2014

The Waiting Tree – Moynihan (4.7, 9.0)

Eighteen-year-old Simon Peters wants to stand up for the truth about who he is. His love for Stephen is unwavering, but does he have the courage to defend it when his entire church community, including his eldest brother Paul, have ostracized him?

Seraphina – Hartman (6.0, 18.0)

In a world where dragons and humans coexist in an uneasy truce and dragons can assume human form, Seraphina, whose mother died giving birth to her, grapples with her own identity amid magical secrets and royal scandals, while she struggles to accept and develop her extraordinary musical talents.

The Fall – Nelson

Before Luke came into his life, all Ben cared about was skateboarding, and whether his father would ever remember that he was alive. But then Luke died, and everyone at school thinks it's his fault. Maybe it is. *The Fall* charts the lives of three boys as they deal with the death of their friend and brother. Ben needs to find a way to reconcile his role in Luke's death and prove that he was not to blame. He must also learn that the man he will become is his to define.

Old Man – Poulson (4.4, 8.0)

Nate takes an unexpected and unwanted trip with his estranged father, only to undergo changes in his perceptions of both himself and his dad, whose participation in the Vietnam War changed him forever.

***Live to Tell** – Harrington

Libby Thorne is going to be charged for a car accident that she does not remember, and she suspects that there is more to the story than she has been told.

Nix Minus One – MacLean (3.7, 5.0)

More skilled at woodworking than communicating, Nix Humbolt seeks the words to deal with high school expectations, his extroverted sister, and his neighbour's neglected dog.

This Is Not a Test – Summers (3.9, 9.0)

Barricaded in Cortège High with five other teens while zombies try to get in, Sloane Price observes her fellow captives become more unpredictable and violent as time passes although they each have much more reason to live than she has.

2015

Apparition – Gallant

The last time seventeen-year-old Amelia Mackenzie saw her best friend Matthew alive, he broke her heart. When he is found the next day in an abandoned barn at the edge of town, an apparent suicide, Amelia's whole world comes crashing down. And then she sees him again. Because Amelia has a secret that even Matthew didn't know: sometimes, she sees ghosts.

Baygirl – Smith

Growing up in a picturesque Newfoundland fishing village *should* be idyllic for sixteen-year-old Kit Ryan, but living with an alcoholic father makes Kit's day-to-day life unpredictable and almost intolerable. Forced to leave their rural community, the family moves to the city. Immediately pegged as a "baygirl," Kit struggles to fit in, but longstanding trust issues threaten to hold her back, even when a boy named Elliot expresses an interest in her.

Creeps – Hynes

Fifteen-year-old Wayne Pumphrey wishes he were courageous enough to actually send the heartfelt letters he writes to friends and family. He also wishes his father would drive on the right side of the street, his mother would stop packing her suitcase to leave, and his sister would stop listening to Nickelback. But most of all, he wishes that Pete "The Meat" would let him walk to school in peace. After all, how many times can one person eat yellow snow?

The Oathbreaker's Shadow – McCulloch (6.0, 15.0)

In the land of Darhan, promises are bound by magic, tied into knots, and worn with pride. Those who break them are physically scarred, cast out into the desert, and stalked by vengeful shadows of their treachery. Fifteen-year-old Raim, the best young fighter ever to train for the elite Yun guard, has worn a simple knot around his wrist for as long as he can remember. He doesn't know where it came from and barely thinks about it at all. But on the most important day of his life, when Raim agrees to give his life as a warrior to the future king, that knot bursts into flames and sears a dark mark into his skin. Now scarred as an oathbreaker, Raim has two options: run or die.

***Rush** – Silver (4.4, 13.0)

Rush pulls you headlong into the thrilling, high-stakes world of Eve Silver's teen series *The Game*, about teens pulled in and out of an alternate reality where battling aliens is more than a game—it's life and death.

The Silent Summer of Kyle McGinley – Andrews

When no one listens, what's the point of talking? Kyle McGinley doesn't say a word. Fed up with being shuttled from one foster care home to another, he has stopped speaking. But at the home of Scott and Jill Wardman, with the help of a crow, a swamp, and an excess of black paint, he begins to think that maybe, just maybe, life could be better.

Tag Along – Ryan

It's junior prom night. Andrea is grounded for getting her older brother to buy booze for her, Paul is having panic attacks, Roemi has been stood up by his Internet date, and Candace is busy tagging a building (before she gets collared by a particularly tenacious cop). By happenstance, the four near-strangers end up together, getting into more trouble, arguing and ultimately helping each other out over the course of eight madcap hours.

The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B – Toten (4.6, 9.0)

When Adam meets Robyn at a support group for kids coping with obsessive-compulsive disorder, he is drawn to her almost before he can take a breath. He's determined to protect and defend her—to play Batman to her Robyn-whatever the cost. But when you're fourteen and the everyday problems of dealing with divorced parents and step-siblings are supplemented by the challenges of OCD, it's hard to imagine yourself falling in love.

2016

All the Rage – Summers (4.5, 11.0)

The sheriff's son, Kellan Turner, is not the golden boy everyone thinks he is, and Romy Grey knows that for a fact. Because no one wants to believe a girl from the wrong side of town, the truth about him has cost her everything—friends, family, and her community. Branded a liar and bullied relentlessly by a group of kids she used to hang out with, Romy's only refuge is the diner where she works outside of town. No one knows her name or her past there; she can finally be anonymous. But can she keep up her silence when history repeats itself?

The Art of Getting Stared At – Langston

After a school video she produced goes viral, sixteen-year-old Sloane Kendrick is given a chance at a film school scholarship. She has less than two weeks to produce a second video, and she's determined to do it. On the heels of this opportunity comes a horrifying discovery: a bald spot on her head. No bigger than a quarter, the patch shouldn't be there. Sloane is diagnosed with alopecia areata; an auto-immune disease with no cause, no cure, and no definitive outcome. The spots might grow over or Sloane might become completely bald.

**The Bodies We Wear* – Roberts

Heam: it's the hottest drug around. Users are able to see Heaven—a place so beautiful, so indescribably serene, many people never want to come back. And some don't, like Faye's best friend, Christian. But when Faye is forced to take Heam, she doesn't see Heaven; she sees Hell. And now she spends her nights training to take revenge on the men who destroyed her future and murdered Christian.

Delusion Road – Aker

Willa Jaffrey is beautiful, rich, dating the perfect guy and determined to have a fabulous senior year. Enter Keegan Fraser, a handsome new student who wants no part of the games everyone plays at Willa's school. Despite a rocky start, Keegan and Willa gradually become closer, even as Willa's carefully constructed universe begins to fall apart. But little does Willa know that Keegan's past holds the darkest of secrets—and it's about to catch up to him.

Rabbit Ears – De Vries

Kaya is adopted, multiracial, grieving the death of her father—and carrying a painful secret. Feeling ill at ease with her family and in her own skin, she runs away repeatedly, gradually disappearing into a life of addiction and sex work. Meanwhile, her sister, Beth, escapes her own troubles with food and a rediscovered talent for magic tricks. Though both girls struggle through darkness and pain, they eventually find their way to a moment of illumination and healing.

A Sense of the Infinite – Smith

It's senior year of high school, and Annabeth is ready—ready for everything she and her best friend, Noe, have been planning and dreaming. But there are some things Annabeth isn't prepared for, like the constant presence of Noe's new boyfriend. Like how her relationship with her mom is wearing and fraying. And like the way the secret she's been keeping hidden deep inside her for years has started clawing at her insides, making it hard to eat or even breathe.

***Soldier Doll* – Gold (4.3, 10.0)**

Fifteen-year-old Elizabeth Bryant is not happy. She's had to leave all her friends behind and move across the country for her dad's job in the military. She buys a soldier doll at a local garage sale and discovers it might be *the soldier doll*; a valuable and missing historical artifact. Fashioned with love by a father for his only child in England years ago, we follow the doll back to England during World War I, then on to Nazi Germany in the 1930s, a Czech concentration camp during World War II, Vietnam in 1970 and through the aftermath of 9/11.

***The Story of Owen* – Johnson (6.6, 13.0)**

From the moment Henry Ford hired his first dragon slayer, no small town was safe. Dragon slayers flocked to cities, leaving more remote areas unprotected. Such was Trondheim's fate until Owen Thorsgard arrived. At sixteen, with dragons advancing and his grades plummeting, Owen faced impossible odds armed only with a sword, his legacy, and the classmate who agreed to be his bard. Listen! I am Siobhan McQuaid. I alone know the story of Owen, the story that changes everything. Listen!

***The Troop* – Cutter**

Once a year, scoutmaster Tim Riggs leads a troop of boys into the Canadian wilderness for a three-day camping trip—a tradition as comforting and reliable as a good ghost story and a roaring bonfire. But when an unexpected intruder—shockingly thin, disturbingly pale, and voraciously hungry—stumbles upon their campsite, Tim and the boys are exposed to something far more frightening than any tale of terror. An inexplicable horror that spreads faster than fear. A harrowing struggle for survival that will pit the troop against the elements, the infected...and one another.

2017

***Calvin* – Leavitt (4.5, 5.0)**

As a child, Calvin felt an affinity with the comic book character from Bill Watterson's *Calvin & Hobbes*.

He was born on the day the last strip was published; his grandpa left a stuffed tiger named Hobbes in his crib; and he even had a best friend named Susie. Calvin pretty much forgot about the strip—until now. Now he is seventeen and has been diagnosed with schizophrenia. Hobbes is back, as a delusion, and Calvin can't control him.

***Dan vs. Nature* – Calame (4.5, 11)**

Dan Weekes has two dreams in life: to become a famous graphic novelist and to one day muster the courage to ask Erin Reilly out on a date. Dan's mom, however, has just one goal: to date every man in the state of California until she finally finds her Prince Charming. When Dan comes home to find a Hugh Jackman look-alike in his kitchen, he's prepared to write off this mountain-man-slash-dentist as another soon-to-be-ex. But then his mom drops a bomb: she and Hugh—er, Hank—are engaged, and she's sending her "two favourite men" on a survivalist camping trip in the wilds of Idaho to "bond."

****Fifteen Lanes* – Laidlaw**

Noor has lived all of her fourteen years in the fifteen lanes of Mumbai's red light district. Born into a brothel, she is destined for the same fate as her mother: a desperate life trapped in the city's sex trade. She must act soon to have any chance of escaping this grim future.

***The Emperor of Any Place* – Wynne-Jones (5.2, 14.0)**

The ghosts of war reverberate across the generations in a riveting, time-shifting story within a story from acclaimed thriller writer Tim Wynne-Jones. When Evan's father dies suddenly, Evan finds a hand-bound yellow book on his desk - a book his dad had been reading when he passed away. The book is the diary of a Japanese soldier stranded on a small Pacific island in WWII. Why was his father reading it? What is in this account that Evan's grandfather, whom Evan has never met before, fears so much that he will do anything to prevent its being seen? And what could this possibly mean for Evan?

***Exit, Pursued by a Bear* – Johnston (5.2, 9.0)**

Hermione Winters is captain of her cheerleading team, and in tiny Palermo Heights, this doesn't mean what you think it means. At PHHS, the cheerleaders don't cheer for the sports teams; they are the sports team—the pride and joy of a tiny town. The team's summer training camp is Hermione's last and marks the beginning of the end of... she's not sure what. She does know this season could make her a legend.

The Orange Grove – Tremblay

In an unnamed and war-torn country, twin brothers Amed and Aziz live in the sanctuary of the family's orange grove. But when a bomb comes from "the other side of the mountain" and kills their grandparents, their father must choose how best to avenge his parents' death, with tragic and unforeseen consequences.

Rodent – Lawrence

Just when Isabelle thinks her life can't get any worse, something happens to her at school that makes her wonder how she can continue to look after her younger siblings, Evan and Maisie, work at the local mini-mart and deal with her alcoholic mother. It's more than any sixteen-year-old should have to bear, but Isabelle can't think of a way out that won't hurt her brother and sister.

The Scorpion Rules – Bow (4.7, 13.0)

The world is at peace, said the Utterances. And really, if the odd princess has a hard day, is that too much to ask?

Greta is a duchess and crown princess—and a hostage to peace. This is how the game is played: if you want to rule, you must give one of your children as a hostage. Go to war and your hostage dies. Greta will be free if she can survive until her eighteenth birthday. Until then she lives in the Precepture school with the daughters and sons of the world's leaders. But everything changes when a new hostage arrives. Elián is a boy who refuses to play by the rules.

A Thousand Nights – Johnston (5.8, 12.0)

Lo-Melkhiin killed three hundred girls before he came to her village, looking for a wife. When she sees the dust cloud on the horizon, she knows he has arrived. She knows he will want the loveliest girl: her sister. She vows she will not let her be next.

Worlds of Ink and Shadow – Coakley (5.1, 11.0)

Charlotte, Branwell, Emily, and Anne. The Brontë siblings have always been close. After all, nothing can unite four siblings quite like life in an isolated parsonage on the moors. Their vivid imaginations lend them escape from their strict, spartan upbringing, actually transporting them into their created worlds: the glittering Verdopolis and the romantic and melancholy Gondal. But at what price?

2018

Every Hidden Thing – Opiel (4.8, 12.0)

Somewhere in the Badlands, embedded deep in centuries-buried rock and sand, lies the skeleton of a massive dinosaur, larger than anything the late nineteenth-century world has ever seen. Some legends call it the Black Beauty, with its bones as black as ebony, but to seventeen-year-old Samuel Bolt, it's the "rex," the king dinosaur that could put him and his struggling, temperamental archaeologist father in the history books. But Samuel and his father aren't the only ones after the rex. For Rachel Cartland this find could be her ticket to a different life, one where her loves of science and adventure aren't just relegated to books and sitting rooms. And if she can't prove herself on this expedition with her professor father, the only adventures she may have to look forward to are marriage or spinsterhood.

****Everything Beautiful is Not Ruined*** – Younge-Ullman

The story of a girl who must survive an extreme wilderness experience to prove to her mother that she has the strength to pursue her dreams. Ingrid traveled all over Europe with her opera star mother, Margot-Sophia. Life was beautiful and bright, and every day soared with music. Now Ingrid is on a summertime wilderness survival trek for at-risk teens: addicts, runaways, and her. The perfect read for fans of *Thirteen Reasons Why*, this is the story of a girl who must survive an extreme wilderness experience to prove to her mother that she has the strength to pursue her dreams.

Exo – Lee (6.1, 17.0)

The fight for the future begins. It's been a century of peace since Earth became a colony of an alien race with far reaches into the galaxy. Some die-hard extremists still oppose their rule on Earth, but Donovan Reyes isn't one of them. His dad holds the prestigious position of Prime Liaison, and Donovan's high social standing along with his exocel (a remarkable alien technology fused to his body) guaranteed him a bright future in the security forces. That is, until a routine patrol goes awry and Donovan's abducted by the human revolutionary group Sapience, determined to end alien control.

***The Fashion Committee* – Juby**

Charlie Dean is a style-obsessed girl who eats, sleeps, and breathes fashion. John Thomas-Smith is a boy who forges metal sculptures in his garage and couldn't care less about clothes. Both are gunning for a scholarship to the private art high school that could make all their dreams come true. Whoever wins the fashion competition will win the scholarship—and only one can win. Told in the alternating voices of Charlie's and John's journals, this hilarious and poignant YA novel perfectly captures what it's like to have an artistic drive so fierce that nothing—not your dad's girlfriend's drug-addicted ex-boyfriend, a soul-crushing job at Salad Stop, or being charged with a teensy bit of kidnapping—can stand in your way.

***Girl Mans Up* – Girard (4.1, 13.0)**

All Pen wants is to be the kind of girl she's always been. So why does everyone have a problem with it? They think the way she looks and acts means she's trying to be a boy—that she should quit trying to be something she's not. If she dresses like a girl, and does what her folks want, it will show respect. If she takes orders and does what her friend Colby wants, it will show her loyalty. But respect and loyalty, Pen discovers, are empty words. Old-world parents, disintegrating friendships, and strong feelings for other girls drive Pen to see the truth—that in order to be who she truly wants to be, she'll have to man up.

***The Marrow Thieves* – Dimaline (5.5, 10.0)**

Humanity has nearly destroyed its world through global warming, but now an even greater evil lurks. The indigenous people of North America are being hunted and harvested for their bone marrow, which carries the key to recovering something the rest of the population has lost: the ability to dream. In this dark world, Frenchie and his companions struggle to survive as they make their way up north to the old lands. For now, survival means staying hidden - but what they don't know is that one of them holds the secret to defeating the marrow thieves.

***Optimists Die First* – Nielson (4.1, 6.0)**

Petula's funny, and a crafting genius, but no social star at high school, and it doesn't help that she's isolated herself after her adored toddler sister died. Petula feels responsible for this death, though her parents say it was a tragic accident. No one's fault. Now, Petula sees danger everywhere: every activity and every bite of food could kill you. Then a new boy, Jacob, joins Petula's group in the school's lame art therapy program; he has a prosthetic arm and darkness behind his sunny surface. Petula and Jacob become friends, then, something more. But a secret behind why he's in the group could derail them.

***The Pain Eater* – Goobie**

She hadn't told anyone. Not a single soul. Not one word about that night and what had been done to her had ever passed Maddy Malone's lips. She'd thought about it at, but then had come the shame, and the intimidation from the boys who raped her - and the one who held her down. Now it's the beginning of a new school year and Maddy is hoping that she can continue to hide, but when her English class is given the assignment of writing a collaborative novel about a fifteen-year-old girl, *The Pain Eater*, fact and fiction begin to meet up. When the boys spread rumors about Maddy, she realizes that continuing to hide the truth will only give them more control, and she slowly gains the courage to confront them.

***Speed of Life* – Kelly**

Twins Crystal and Amber have the same goal: to be the first in their family to graduate high school and make something of their lives. When one gets pregnant during their junior year, they promise to raise the baby together. It's not easy, but between their after-school jobs, they're scraping by. Crystal's grades catch the attention of the new guidance counsellor, who tells her about a college that offers a degree in automotive restoration, perfect for the car buff she is. When she secretly applies-and gets in-new opportunities threaten their once-certain plans, and Crystal must make a choice: follow her dreams or stay behind and honour the promise she made to her sister.

***Subject to Change* – Nesbitt**

Declan's life in small-town Quebec is defined by his parents' divorce, his older brother's delinquency and his own lackluster performance at school, which lands him with a tutor he calls Little Miss Perfect. He likes his job at the local ice rink, and he has a couple of good buddies, but his father's five-year absence is a constant source of pain and anger. When he finds out the truth about his parents' divorce, he is forced to reconsider everything he has believed about his family and himself.

2019

36 Questions That Changed My Mind About You - Vicki Grant

Two random strangers. Two secrets. Thirty-six questions to make them fall in love. Hildy and Paul each have their own reasons for joining the university psychology study that asks the simple question: Can love be engineered? The study consists of 36 questions, ranging from “What is your most terrible memory?” to “When did you last sing to yourself?” Told in the language of modern romance—texting, Q&A, IM—and punctuated by Paul’s sketches, this clever high-concept YA is full of humour and heart.

**The Agony of Bun O’Keefe* - Heather T. Smith

It's Newfoundland, 1986. Fourteen-year-old Bun O'Keefe has lived a solitary life in an unsafe, unsanitary house. Her mother is a compulsive hoarder, and Bun has had little contact with the outside world. Bun and her mother rarely talk, so when Bun's mother tells Bun to leave one day, she does. Bun ends up on the streets of St. John's, Newfoundland. Through her experiences with her new roommates, and their sometimes tragic revelations, Bun learns that the world extends beyond the walls of her mother's house and discovers the joy of being part of a new family -- a family of friends who care.

Black Chuck - Regan McDonell

Psycho. Sick. Dangerous. Réal Dufresne's reputation precedes him. When the mangled body of his best friend, Shaun, turns up in a field just east of town, Réal blames himself, but all he remembers is beating the living crap out of Shaun the night of his death. Shaun's girlfriend is pregnant, and the father of her baby is dead. And when Réal looks to her to atone for his sins, everything goes sideways. Fast.

Catching the Light - Susan Sinnott

The kids call her Lighthouse: no lights on up there. In a small town, everyone knows when you can't read. But Cathy is just distracted by the light, lines, and artistry of everyday life. She is a talented artist growing up in tiny Mariners Cove and yearns for acceptance. She dreams of enrolling in art school, but getting there will be a struggle. Hutch Parsons is everything Cathy is not: charismatic, popular, smart. Overflowing with energy, he is confident in his plans for the future. But one icy evening his world is upended and those plans are swept away.

Chaotic Good - Whitney Gardner

Cosplay, comic shops, and college applications collide in this illustrated novel. Cameron's cosplay creations are finally starting to earn her attention—attention she hopes to use to get into the CalArts costume design department for college. But after she wins a major competition, she inadvertently sets off a firestorm of angry comments from male fans online. At her twin brother's suggestion, Cameron waltzes into the male-dominated shop as Boy Cameron, where she's shocked at how easily she's accepted into the nerd inner sanctum. But as her “secret identity” gets more and more entrenched, Cameron's portfolio falls by the wayside and her feelings for Lincoln threaten to make a complicated situation even worse.

A Girl Like That - Tanaz Bhathena

Sixteen-year-old Zarin Wadia is many things: a bright and vivacious student, an orphan, a risk taker. She's also the kind of girl that parents warn their kids to stay away from. So how is it that eighteen-year-old Porus Dumasia and Zarin end up dead in a car together, crashed on the side of a highway in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia? As her story is pieced together, told through multiple perspectives, it becomes clear that Zarin was far more than just *a girl like that*.

The Mosaic - Nina Berkhout

Twyla Jane Lee has one goal. To finish senior year so she can get out of her military hometown of Halo, Montana. But to graduate, she needs to complete forty hours of community service, and that means helping out a rude and reclusive former Marine named Gabriel Finch. Gradually the two misfits form a bond, and Twyla begins to unearth the secrets that have left the Marine battling ghosts.

Munro vs. the Coyote - Darren Groth

Since the sudden death of his younger sister, Evie, sixteen-year-old Munro Maddux has been having flashbacks and anger-management issues. He has a constant ache in his right hand. And there's a taunting, barking, biting voice he calls "the Coyote." Munro knows a six-month student exchange will not be the stuff of teenage dreams, but in Brisbane he intends to move beyond his troubled past.

Prince of Pot - Tanya Lloyd Kyi

Isaac loves art class, drives an old pickup, argues with his father and hangs out with his best buddy, Hazel. But his life is anything but normal. His parents operate an illegal marijuana grow-op, Hazel is a bear that guards the property, and his family's livelihood is a deep secret.

Recipe for Hate - Warren Kinsella

Based on real events, Warren Kinsella tells the story of the X Gang's punk lives — the community hall gigs, the antiracism rallies, the fanzines and poetry and art, and what happened after the brutal murders of two of their friends.

2020

All Our Broken Pieces - L.D. Crichton

You can't keep two people who are meant to be together apart for long...

Lennon Davis doesn't believe in much, but she does believe in the security of the number five. If she flicks the bedroom light switch five times, maybe her new LA school won't suck. But that doesn't feel right, so she flicks the switch again. And again. Ten more flicks of the switch and maybe her new stepfamily will accept her. Twenty-five more flicks and maybe she won't cause any more of her loved ones to die. Fifty more and then she can finally go to sleep. Kyler Benton witnesses this pattern of lights from the safety of his tree house in the yard next door. Lennon, the lonely girl next door his father has warned him about, infiltrates his mind. Even though he has enough to deal with without Lennon's rumoured tragic past in his life, Kyler can't help but want to know the truth about his new muse.

Baggage - Wendy Phillips

A mysterious young African turns up abandoned at the Vancouver airport. He speaks no English, but would he tell his whole story even if he could? An enthusiastic teen throws herself into working for a cause. But whose cause is it that she's actually working for? Wendy Phillips uses multiple voices and points of view to present a fraught situation from multiple angles, to allow a more complete picture to emerge. Using this technique she delves into the murky world of third world refugees and human trafficking. And the way young Canadian people respond to so foreign, literally, a situation.

Beauty of the Moment - Tanaz Bhathena

Susan dreams of being an artist. Malcolm wants to move him and his sister out of a bad living situation. Sparks fly when the two teens meet at a fundraiser for Syrian refugees.

Susan is the new girl — she's sharp and driven, and strives to meet her parents' expectations of excellence. Malcolm is the bad boy — he started raising hell at age fifteen, after his mom died of cancer, and has had a reputation ever since. Love is messy and families are messier, but in spite of their burdens, Susan and Malcolm fall for each other. The ways they drift apart and come back together are testaments to family, culture, and being true to who you are.

Comics Will Break Your Heart - Faith Erin Hicks

A sweet, funny contemporary teen romance for the inner geek in all of us from graphic novelist Faith Erin Hicks.

In her endearing debut novel, cartoonist Faith Erin Hicks pens a sensitive and funny Romeo and Juliet tale about modern romance, geek royalty, and what it takes to heal the long-festered scars of the past (Spoiler Alert: love).

Crown of Feathers - Nicki Pau Preto

In a world ruled by fierce warrior queens, a grand empire was built upon the backs of Phoenix Riders—legendary heroes who soared through the sky on wings of fire—until a war between two sisters ripped it all apart. Sometimes the title of queen is given. Sometimes it must be taken. *Crown of Feathers* is an epic fantasy about love's incredible power to save—or to destroy. Interspersed throughout is the story of Avalkyra Ashfire, the last Rider queen, who would rather see her empire burn than fall into her sister's hands.

Field Guide to the North American Teenager - Ben Philippe

A hilarious YA contemporary realistic novel about a witty Black French Canadian teen who moves to Austin, Texas, and experiences the joys, clichés, and awkward humiliations of the American high school experience—including falling in love. Norris Kaplan is clever, cynical, and quite possibly too smart for his own good. A Black French Canadian, he knows from watching American sitcoms that those three things don't bode well when you are moving to Austin, Texas.

The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali - Sabina Khan

A timely and honest portrait of what it's like to grow up feeling unwelcome in your own culture.

Seventeen-year-old Rukhsana Ali tries her hardest to live up to her conservative Muslim parents' expectations, but lately she's finding that impossible to do. She rolls her eyes when they blatantly favour her brother and saves her crop tops and makeup for parties her parents don't know about. Luckily, only a few more months stand between her carefully monitored life in Seattle and her new life at Caltech. But when her parents catch her kissing her girlfriend Ariana, all of Rukhsana's plans fall apart.

***Sadie** - Courtney Summers

Sadie hasn't had an easy life. Growing up on her own, she's been raising her sister Mattie in an isolated small town, trying her best to provide a normal life and keep their heads above water. But when Mattie is found dead, Sadie's entire world crumbles. After a somewhat botched police investigation, Sadie is determined to bring her sister's killer to justice. When West McCray—a radio personality working on a segment about small, forgotten towns in America—overhears Sadie's story at a local gas station, he becomes obsessed with finding the missing girl. He starts his own podcast as he tracks Sadie's journey, trying to figure out what happened, hoping to find her before it's too late.

Synchro Boy - Shannon McFerran

Sixteen-year-old Bart Lively desperately wants to feel comfortable in his own skin. Being a jock doesn't mean he isn't the target of gay jokes, and the macho culture of his swim team is wearing him down. When he gives in to his curiosity and tries synchronized swimming, he discovers he has a natural talent — not to mention a spark with one of the girls. So when Erika Tenaka asks him to swim the mixed duet with her, he commits to taking them all the way to the Olympics.

We Contain Multitudes - Sarah Henstra

An exhilarating and emotional LGBTQ story about the growing relationship between two teen boys, told through the letters written to one another. Thrown together by a zealous English teacher's classroom-mailbox assignment, notorious scrapper, Adam "Kurl" Kurlansky, and Jonathan Hopkirk, a flamboyant Walt Whitman wannabe, have to write an old-fashioned letter to each other every week. But with homophobia, bullying and familial abuse, Jonathan and Kurl must struggle to overcome their conflicts and hold onto their relationship, and each other.

2021

Break in Case of Emergency - Brian Francis

Toby Goodman, a teen whose father left their small town before she was born and whose mother died by suicide when she was a young girl. When she finds out that her estranged father is coming back to town and wants to meet her, Toby must try to make sense of her life amid surprising revelations about her family history.

Charming As A Verb - Ben Philippe

is a YA novel about Henri "Halti" Haltiwanger, a teen with swagger who is convinced he can charm just about anyone. As one of the most popular kids in his prestigious high school — and as the operator of a highly successful dog walking business — Henri has it made and his dream of attending his dream college awaits. But when Henri meets Corinne Troy, a girl who sees right through his charms and exposes his less-than-ethical business practices, it becomes a battle of wits — with potential love looming on the horizon.

***Fan the Fame* - Anna Priemaza**

After filming her famous YouTuber brother Cody aka Codemeister in a hateful rant at a video game convention, Lainey decides to out him to his beloved fans. The situation gets tricky when Lainey's path collides with streamers SamTheBrave who is trying to get his idol Codemeister's attention, and ShadowWillow, who fans have been shipping with Cody.

***Frying Plantain* - Zalika Reid-Benta**

Follows Kara Davis through elementary school to her high school graduation, as she comes of age while being perennially caught between her Canadian nationality and Jamaican heritage. Over a series of 12 stories, Davis visits her great aunt in Jamaica, endures a cruel prank by close friends and deals with her stubborn grandparents.

***He Must Like You* - Danielle Young-Ullman**

Follows high school senior Libby. Her older brother fled to a Greek island, her dad tells her she's going to be cut off after she graduates, she hooks up with a co-worker and there's a customer at the restaurant where she works who harasses her. As Libby struggles with how to deal with the men in her life, as well as figuring out what her future plan is, she has an outburst at work that makes everything worse.

★ *Hunted by the Sky* ★ - Tanaz Bhathena

An adventure novel set in medieval India. Gul, a young girl, has a birthmark on her arm that makes her a mark. So she's on the run. Her parents were murdered because Gul is marked. A group of female rebel warriors take Gul in and train her to become one of them. And she has one thing on her mind: revenge.

***Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up With Me* - Mariko Tamaki & Rosemary Valero-O'Connell**

A graphic novel about a teenage girl named Freddy who can't seem to quit her girlfriend, the popular, enigmatic Laura Dean. Though they keep breaking up and getting back together, Freddy frets over whether to forgive Laura's many indiscretions — all the while taking her friendships for granted.

***Like a Love Story* - Abdi Nazemian**

Describes the friendship of three New York teens in 1989, set against the backdrop of the AIDS crisis. Reza, a recent Iranian immigrant, is terrified people will find out he's gay and begins to date a young woman named Judy. While their friendship deepens, Reza starts to fall for Judy's best friend Art — their school's only out and proud student.

***The Starlight Claim* - Tim Wynne-Jones**

Story follows a boy named Nate who is suffering from bad dreams after his best friend goes missing. Nate decides to embark on a treacherous solo journey to find out what happened that fateful day. Nate is forced to rely on his wits in a wilderness full of strangers, secrets and a blustery winter storm.

***You Don't Have To Die in the End* - Anita Daher**

Eugenia Grimm lives a tough life in a Rocky Mountain town. Her father died by suicide on her eighth birthday and she's been hurting ever since. Eugenia left home at 14 and rebels by drinking and getting into fights. After a violent incident leaves her facing incarceration, she ends up in a treatment program where she is forced to choose between changing her life or spiraling back into her old life.