The Alex Awards
2012-1998

Given annually to ten books written for adults that have special appeal to young adults.

The Alex Awards were created by the American Library Association to recognize that many teens enjoy and often prefer books written for adults, and to assist librarians in recommending adult books that appeal to teens. The award is named in honor of the late Margaret Alexander Edwards, fondly called "Alex" by her closest friends, a young adult specialist at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore. She used adult books extensively with young adults to broaden their experience and enrich their understanding of themselves and their world.

2012

**BIG GIRL SMALL** by DeWoskin (F Dewoskin)
Hiding out in a seedy motel room on the outskirts of Ypsilanti, Michigan, 3-foot-9-inch Judy Lohden narrates, in an epic dwarf download, what transpired when she transferred to a performing-arts high school her junior year.
IN ZANESVILLE by Beard (F Beard)
Set in the 1970’s, our nameless heroine is an everygirl from Zanesville, Illinois. Her family consists of a harried, brash, mother; a temperamental big sister; and a practically nonexistent little brother struggles financially while barely coping with her father's pathetic drunkenness.

THE LOVER’S DICTIONARY by Levithan (F Levithan)
Each word, from aberrant to zenith, defines the language of love, while adding to the reader's knowledge and understanding of the male lovers' partnership. Interestingly, each definition is told from the point of view and in the first-person voice of only one of the partners.

THE NEW KIDS: BIG DREAMS AND BRAVE JOURNEYS AT A HIGH SCHOOL FOR IMMIGRANT TEENS by Hauser (YA 373.18 HAU)
For a single school year (2008-2009), freelance writer Hauser tracked the staff and students at the International High School at Prospect Heights in Brooklyn, N.Y., whose particular mission is to serve "recent immigrants and new English-language learners." Hauser observes the counselors advising, the instructors teaching, and the students learning in and out of school, providing their personal histories as well as their day-to-day experiences.
THE NIGHT CIRCUS by Morgenstern (F Morgenstern)
The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking amazements. Behind the scenes, a fierce competition is underway - a duel between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood expressly for this purpose by their mercurial instructors.

READY PLAYER ONE by Cline (F Cline)
In the near future, scarce fossil fuels have ended America's era of prosperity, sent small-town Americans to precarious vertical trailer parks at urban fringes, and the entire population into the OASIS, an immersive virtual reality, for education and escape.

ROBOPocalypse: A NOVEL by Wilson (SF Wilson)
In the not-too-distant future, the first true artificial intelligence, Archos, awakens in a computer research center in northwest Washington State and decides that humanity's dominion over the planet has ended and the time of the machine has begun. Archos, unlike SkyNet in the Terminator movies, prefers more mundane but creepier methods.
**Salvage the Bones** by Ward (F Ward)
A hurricane is building over the Gulf of Mexico, threatening the coastal town of Bois Sauvage, Mississippi, and Esch's father is growing concerned. A hard drinker, largely absent, he doesn't show concern for much else. Esch and her three brothers are stocking food, but there isn't much to save. Lately, Esch can't keep down what food she gets; she's fourteen and pregnant.

**The Scrapbook of Frankie Pratt: A Novel in Pictures** by Preston (F Preston)
Small-town girl Frankie wants to get out of New Hampshire, get an education, and become a writer. She becomes a class of 1924 student at Vassar, finds a job in New York, publishes a short story in Collier's, and then makes her way to Paris. There she re-meets her college roommate's interesting brother as well as a ne'er-do-well older man from her past.

**The Talk-Funny Girl** by Merullo
In one of the poorest parts of rural New Hampshire, teenage girls have been disappearing, snatched from back country roads, never to be seen alive again. For seventeen-year-old Marjorie Richards, the fear raised by these abductions is the backdrop to what she lives with her own home, every day. Marjorie has been raised by parents so intentionally isolated from normal society that they have developed their own dialect, a kind of mountain hybrid of English that displays both their ignorance of and disdain for the wider world.
2011

**THE BOY WHO COULDN’T SLEEP AND NEVER HAD TO** by Pierson (F Pierson)
Fifteen-year-old Darren, a social misfit who spends his time at school trying not to be noticed while drawing characters for a planned film series and book tie-ins, befriends Eric, another outcast who reveals that he never sleeps.

**BREAKING NIGHT: A MEMOIR OF FORGIVENESS, SURVIVAL, AND MY JOURNEY FROM HOMELESS TO HARVARD** by Murray (362.74 MUR)
The author offers an account of her journey from a fifteen-year-old living on the streets and eating garbage to her acceptance into Harvard, a feat that prompted a Lifetime movie and a successful motivational-speaking career.

**GIRL IN TRANSLATION** by Kwok (F Kwok)
Emigrating with her mother from Hong Kong to Brooklyn, Kimberly Chang begins a secret double life as an exceptional schoolgirl during the day and sweatshop worker at night, an existence also marked by her first crush and the pressure to save her family from poverty.
**THE HOUSE OF TOMORROW** by Bognanni (F Bognanni)
The story of a young man's self-discovery, a dying woman's last wish, and a band of misfits trying desperately to be heard.

**THE LOCK ARTIST** by Hamilton (F Hamilton)
After surviving an act of violence as a child, Michael stops talking and grows up with the ability to open any lock or safe, a talent he sells to any buyer in the crime world, until a botched heist forces him to go home to face the secret that has kept him so quiet.

**THE PARTICULAR SADNESS OF LEMON CAKE: A NOVEL** by Bender (F Bender)
Being able to taste people's emotions in food may at first be horrifying. But young, unassuming Rose Edelstein grows up learning to harness her gift as she becomes aware that there are secrets even her taste buds cannot discern.
THE RADLEYS by Haig (F Haig)
Struggling with overwork and parenting angst, English village doctor Peter Radley endeavors to hide his family's vampire nature until their daughter's oddly satisfying act of violence reveals the truth, an event that is complicated by the arrival of a practicing vampire family member.

THE REAPERS ARE THE ANGELS: A NOVEL by Bell
Zombies have infested a fallen America, and a young girl named Temple is on the run. Haunted by her past and pursued by a killer, she moves back and forth between the insulated remnants of society and the brutal frontier beyond--seeking salvation and a place to make a home.

ROOM: A NOVEL by Donoghue (F Donoghue)
A five-year-old narrates a story about his life growing up in a single room where his mother aims to protect him from the man who has held her prisoner for seven years since she was a teenager.
**THE VANISHING OF KATHARINA LINDEN: A NOVEL** by Grant (F Grant)
Reviled in her German village home where her only friends are a fellow outcast and an elderly storyteller, eleven-year-old Pia investigates the disappearances of three local girls whom she believes are tied to unsolved missing persons cases from decades earlier.

**2010**

**THE BOY WHO HARNESSED THE WIND: CREATING CURRENTS OF ELECTRICITY AND HOPE** by Kamkwamba & Mealer (B Kamkwamba)
Young teen William, who taught himself enough physics and engineering to build a windmill and bring electricity to his drought-stricken village, discovered the magic of his Malawi homeland in the miracles of science.

**THE BRIDE’S FAREWELL** by Rosoff (F Rosoff)
Rather than marry without love, Pell Ridley absconds with a favorite horse and her brother, Bean. Both are quickly lost, and Pell’s perilous journey to find Bean leads to discovery of the things she ran away from: family, love, and herself.
**EVERYTHING MATTERS!** by Currie (F Currie)
While still in the womb, voices warn Junior of his impending death by comet in this unusually structured coming-of-age story. He has 36 years. How will he spend them?

**THE GOOD SOLDIERS** by Finkel (956.7044 FIN)
This eye-opening account of “the surge” in 2007 follows the troops of Battalion 2-16, revealing the gritty reality for all those good soldiers serving in Iraq.

**THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT: A MEMOIR** by Welch & Welch
This heart-wrenching memoir, collaboratively written from four different points of view, chronicles the ups and downs of the Welch siblings, who struggled to define the notion of home after their parents died.
**THE MAGICIANS** by Grossman (F Grossman)
Fantasy and reality meld in unexpected and tragic ways when 17-year-old Quentin Coldwater trades his ho-hum Brooklyn existence for the magical society of Brakebills College.

**MY ABANDONMENT** by Rock
Based on a true story, 13-year-old Caroline and her questionably sane father live in a nature preserve on the outskirts of Portland, Oregon. A haunting exploration of familial lore, survival, and hope.

**SOULLESS: AN ALEXIA TARABOTTI NOVEL** by Carriger
Wielding a parasol and hairpins, 25-year-old soulless spinster Alexia Tarabotti accidentally stakes a vampire lacking all common etiquette to open this delightfully dangerous romp.

If we do not have the book you’re looking for, we can have another library send it over for you!
**STITCHES: A MEMOIR** by Small (G B Small)
Replete with themes of anger, pain, and hope, and employing classic imagery from Alice in Wonderland, renowned illustrator Small chronicles the harrowing story of his childhood and adolescence in this dark graphic novel. A 2010 Best Book for Young Adults.

**TUNNELING TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH** by Wilson
In a wholly original collection of stories, Wilson turns down the odd side streets of reality to explore rentable relatives, unscrupulous Scrabble workers, Mortal Kombat–fueled romancers, and the adventures of other wildly quirky characters.

**2009**

**CITY OF THIEVES** by Benioff (F Benioff)
Two teenage boys encounter cannibals, murderers, prostitutes, and assassins as they struggle to complete an impossible task during the freezing Siege of Leningrad in this funny, shocking, and briskly written tome.
THE DRAGONS OF BABEL by Swanwick (SF Swanwick)
In this original steampunk fantasy, young Will embarks on a quest that takes him to the dizzying heights and gritty depths of the postindustrial world of Babel.

FINDING NOUF by Ferraris (F Ferraris)
After a 16-year-old girl from a wealthy Saudi family is found dead in the middle of the desert, a devout Muslim guide and a young medical examiner seek to unravel the mystery while facing the sanctions of Middle Eastern society.

THE GOOD THIEF by Tinti (F Tinti)
In this suspenseful and unpredictable adventure, Ren, a one-handed eighteenth-century orphan, becomes apprenticed to a con man. Surprisingly, Ren seems born to it.
**JUST AFTER SUNSET: STORIES** by King (F King)
Modern terrors abound - a porta-potty prison, class warfare on an apocalyptic afternoon - in this wickedly compelling collection of macabre, absurd, and gleefully vulgar stories. Scary, dirty fun.

**MUDBOUND** by Jordan (F Jordan)
At the close of WW II, two soldiers return to their home in the South to find racial tensions as explosive as the battlefields of Europe. This beautifully written story casts a spell as inescapable as the mud fields of the Mississippi Delta.

**OVER AND UNDER** by Tucker (F Tucker)
Andy and Tom’s fourteenth summer is defined by adventures in the woods and caves near their home, a strike that polarizes their small town, and secrets that test their friendship.
THE OXFORD PROJECT by Bloom (977.7 FEL)
In this riveting sociological study, the residents of Oxford, Iowa were photographed in 1984 and then again in 2005. Their compelling life stories, vividly expressed in brief biographical sketches, show just how much someone can change in 21 years.

SHARP TEETH by Barlow (F Barlow)
A fast-paced ride through the brutality of L.A.’s wilderness of drugs, gangs, and the connections people make with one another. The fact that most of the characters in this bloody, sexy, free-verse tale are mostly lycanthropes is almost incidental.

THREE GIRLS AND THEIR BROTHER by Rebeck (YA Rebeck)
This witty satire of show-biz politics, told from the perspective of four New York teenage siblings in the eye of a publicity tornado, provides a fascinating insider’s look at the world of the rich and famous.
AMERICAN SHAOLIN: FLYING KICKS, BUDDHIST MONKS, AND THE LEGEND OF IRON CROITCH; AN ODYSSEY IN THE NEW CHINA by Polly (YA 796.815 POL)
A college student tells his fascinating, funny story about traveling from Kansas to China’s Shaolin Temple, where he attempts to master kung fu and find courage.

BAD MONKEYS by Ruff (YA Ruff)
Jane Charlotte earns her living by killing bad people for good reasons in this high-octane, clever thriller of conspiracies, revenge, and secret government agencies.

GENGHIS: BIRTH OF AN EMPIRE by Iggulden (YA Iggulden)
Temujin, the abandoned son of a khan, survives the harsh Asian tundra to become one of the world’s greatest military leaders in this absorbing historical tale.

If we do not have the book you’re looking for, we can have another library send it over for you!
**THE GOD OF ANIMALS** by Kyle (F Kyle)
After her older sister elopes, 12-year-old Alice is left behind on the family’s rundown Colorado horse farm to cope with her distant parents and the unsolved murder of a classmate.

**A LONG WAY GONE: MEMOIRS OF A BOY SOLDIER** by Beah (B Beah)
Beah tells, in his own words, his harrowing experiences as a child soldier in the Sierra Leone civil war.

**MISTER PIP** by Jones (F Jones)
On a war-torn Pacific island, 13-year-old Matilda describes how an eccentric white teacher fires the imaginations of the village children by reading *Great Expectations* aloud.
THE NAME OF THE WIND by Rothfuss (SF Rothfuss)
Homeless thief Kvothe wins a place at the school of magic, where he hopes to learn more about the mysterious Chandrian, who murdered his parents.

THE NIGHT BIRDS by Maltman
Asa, a Minnesota boy growing up in the nineteenth century, learns secrets about his family’s violent, complicated past following the bloody Dakota Conflict of 1862.

THE SPELLMAN FILES by Lutz (F Lutz)
Isabel can’t quit her private investigator job; she works for her family, and they’ll kill her if she tries to leave. A quickly paced, quirky mystery.
**TALES FROM THE FARM: ESSEX COUNTY, v.1** by Lemire (G F Lemire)
In this stark, moving graphic novel, Lester, a recently orphaned 10-year-old, finds escape in a private fantasy world of aliens and superheroes with his friend, a former hockey player.

**2007**

**THE BOOK OF LOST THINGS** by Connolly (F Connolly)
Stephen King meets the Brothers Grimm in this gruesome fairy tale about a motherless boy transported to a world where the path home leads home through a quest for the Book of Lost Things.

**THE WHISTLING SEASON** by Doig (F Doig)
Rose, "who can’t cook but doesn’t bite" arrives in Montana, bringing joy and order to three motherless boys and their father.
**Eagle Blue: A Team, A Tribe, and a High School Basketball Season in Arctic Alaska** by D’Orso (YA 796.353 DOR)
Life in a remote Alaskan village is transformed by the championship aspirations of the high-school basketball team.

**Water for Elephants** by Gruen (F Gruen)
Suddenly orphaned and penniless during the Depression, a veterinary student jumps a third-rate circus train and finds romance, danger, and a bond with a special elephant named Rosie.

**Color of the Sea** by Hamamura (F Hamamura)
Raised in the samurai tradition, a teenager struggles to live within this code, even as he decides to fight for the U.S. after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.
**The Floor of the Sky** by Joern (F Joern)
Toby, 72, is about to lose the family ranch when Lila, her pregnant granddaughter comes for the summer. Lila uncovers family secrets while trying to decide whether to keep her baby.

**The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game** by Lewis (B Oher)
A dying woman’s wish leads an abused 15-year-old from the streets of Memphis to a loving family, an education, and a professional football career.

**Black Swan Green** by Mitchell (F Mitchell)
In the British village of Black Swan Green, 13-year-old Jason survives ghost sightings, bullies, a first kiss, and his parents divorce.
THE WORLD MADE STRAIGHT by Rash (F Rash)
When 17-year-old Travis Shelton discovers a marijuana farm in the Appalachian woods, he begins a confrontation with the subtle evils within his rural world.

THE THIRTEENTH TALE by Setterfield (F Setterfield)
Margaret, a shy, unknown biographer, has to sift truth from fiction as she becomes the first person to hear the secrets of a reclusive best-selling author’s mysterious past.

2006

MIDNIGHT AT THE DRAGON CAFÉ by Bates (F Bates)
After leaving China with her mother, Su-Jen enjoys her comfortable new life in Canada, but dark secrets threaten her family’s stability.
**UPSTATE** by Buckhanon (YA Buckhanon)
Teens Antonio and Natasha try to keep their love alive through letters after he goes to prison. As Natasha excels in school, Antonio fights for survival.

**ANANSI BOYS** by Gaiman (F Gaiman)
After Fat Charlie Nancy’s father drops dead on a karaoke stage, Charlie meets Spider, a brother he never knew he had and isn’t sure he wants.

**AS SIMPLE AS SNOW** by Galloway (YA Galloway)
After his girlfriend mysteriously disappears, a high-school student looks for clues in her cryptic behavior during their five months together.

**NEVER LET ME GO** by Ishiguro (F Ishiguro)
There’s a dark secret at the Hailsham School, where the students live in carefully planned, idyllic isolation, ignorant of the future that’s been planned for them.
**Gil’s All Fright Diner** by Martinez (SF Martinez)
In this gruesome and wacky tale, can two travelers (one vampire, one werewolf) save a roadside diner, besieged by zombies and ghouls, from dark forces and find true love?

**The Necessary Beggar** by Palwick (SF Palwick)
A young merchant accused of murder and his family are banished from their otherworld home to begin a strange life of exile in an internment camp in the Nevada desert.

**My Jim** by Rawles
Sadie Watson’s love and courage carry through the cruelties of slavery into life as a free woman.
**JESUS LAND: A MEMOIR** by Scheeres (373.7293 SCH)
Scheeres’s unflinching memoir chronicles life in rural Indiana with her disciplinarian father, fundamentalist mother, and adopted African American brothers. Each child finds a way to survive, with very different endings.

**THE GLASS CASTLE: A MEMOIR** by Walls (YA B Walls)
This empowering memoir recounts the strength and creativity of the Walls children as they overcome the poverty and social challenges their parents brought upon them.

**CANDYFREAK: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE CHOCOLATE UNDERBELLY OF AMERICA** by Almond
Almond’s obsession with candy blends family memoir, reporting, and travelogue in a hilarious, unflinching examination of the world of sweets.
Swimming to Antarctica: Tales of a Long-Distance Swimmer by Cox (YA B Cox)
A long-distance swimmer describes her record-setting swims in the icy waters of the Bering Strait and Antarctica. An inspiring story of personal achievement and determination.

Donorboy by Halpin (F Halpin)
When her lesbian mothers are killed in an accident, 14-year-old Rosalind meets and moves in with her young sperm donor father. With humor and empathy, the author tells a moving story of strangers creating a family.

Shadow Divers by Kurson
In this vivid and thrilling account, a journalist recounts the adventures of the two deep-sea divers who discover a WWII German U-boat off the coast of New Jersey and become obsessed with uncovering its story.
WORK OF WOLVES by Meyers
In this moving, romantic novel, a gifted Lakota boy, a German exchange student, and a horse trainer rescue three abused horses, dramatically changing their lives.

TRUTH & BEAUTY: A FRIENDSHIP by Patchett (362.196 PAT)
As young writers Patchett and Lucy Grealy began a once-in-a-lifetime friendship that lasted until Lucy’s tragic death. With intimacy, grace, and humor, Patchett’s memoir captures Lucy’s rollercoaster life - her exuberance, partying and childlike affection and her struggle with a cruel disfigurement and insurmountable depression.

MY SISTER’S KEEPER by Picoult (F Picoult)
Thirteen-year-old Anna knows that she was conceived in order to provide organs and other life support for her critically ill sister. After enduring multiple surgeries, she sues her parents for the rights to her own body.
**THINNER THAN THOU** by Reed (F Reed)
Three teens embark on a rescue mission through an America in which bodily perfection has become a religion. This provocative novel satirizes a world of adults who have lost perspective and teens forced to respond with heroic action.

**PROJECT X** by Shepard (F Shepard)
School is a nightmare for eighth-grader Edwin, who suffers daily indignities and bullying. With his only friend, he plots a terrible revenge. A searing, startlingly real account of one boy’s path to violence.

**RATS:** **Observations on the History and Habitat of the City’s Most Unwanted Inhabitants** by Sullivan
Sullivan spent a year observing the lives and deaths of New York City’s rats in this surprising, graphic, and entertaining natural history.
2004

**Wonder When You’ll Miss Me** by Davis (F Davis)
After she is sexually assaulted under the school bleachers, 16-year old Faith runs away from home, accompanied by The Fat Girl, a taunting imaginary former self. At the circus, Faith finds a safe haven and healing environment.

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time** by Haddon (F Haddon)
In this acclaimed and engaging debut, Christopher, an autistic math wiz, takes his life too literally and can’t relate to others. Inspired by Sherlock Holmes, he investigates the death of his neighbor’s dog and unravels secrets closer to home.

**The Kite Runner** by Hosseini (F Hosseini)
Set amid the destruction of contemporary Afghanistan, this debut novel follows two boys, linked by love, lies, sacrifice, and betrayal, whose friendship endures, despite different life paths.

If we do not have the book you’re looking for, we can have another library send it over for you!
THE TIME TRAVELER’S WIFE by Niffenegger (F Niffenegger)
In this arresting debut romance, Henry travels through time and space and meets his bride Clare in all her stages of life, from childhood to old age.

DRINKING COFFEE ELSEWHERE by Packer (F Packer)
The predominantly African-American characters in this debut collection of short fiction struggle to maintain their sense of self while confronting unexpected life events.

STIFF by Roach (YA 611 ROA)
What happens to human cadavers if they fall into the hands of scientists and researchers? Salon columnist Mary Roach explores this question in her funny, informative, and highly original study.
TRUE NOTEBOOKS by Salzman (YA 808.042 SAL)
While teaching writing to 17-year-olds detained in the Los Angeles Central Juvenile Hall, Salzman was surprised by the boys’ talent. Their heartwarming and funny voices are included in this irresistible and provocative memoir.

PERSEPOLIS by Satrapi (YA G Persepolis)
In graphic novel format, the author describes her youth in revolutionary Iran. From the overthrow of the Shah to the establishment of the new regime, she witnesses heartbreak and struggle as life changes in her country.

MAISIE DOBBS by Winspear (M Winspear)
In post World War I London, Maisie Dobbs takes her first case as a private investigator and experiences flashbacks to her modest upbringing and doomed wartime romance.
LEAVE MYSELF BEHIND by Yates
Secrets of the present and past complicate 17-year-old Nick’s life when he falls in love with the boy next door. A psychologically complex and emotionally satisfying debut novel.

2003

ONE HUNDRED DEMONS by Barry
Whether she’s talking about head lice, old boyfriends, or hippies who “forgot” to pay her wages, Barry playfully explores, in “autobifictionalographical” text and art, those demons common to the young - and to us all.

MY LOSING SEASON by Conroy (B Conroy)
In this powerful memoir, best-selling novelist Conroy explores the profound effect of his final year as a point guard for the Citadel’s basketball team, interweaving stories about the years leading up to college, his abusive father, his love-hate relationship with his school, and his growing fondness for books and writing.
SEEING IN THE DARK: HOW BACKYARD STARGAZERS ARE PROBING DEEP SPACE AND GUARDING EARTH FROM INTERPLANETARY PERIL by Ferris
Differentiating between the nature of stargazing done by professionals in well-equipped observatories and the work of backyard scientists using homemade telescopes, Ferris invites readers to join the scientific community by tracing contributions of amateur astronomers, ranging from Copernicus to Brian May.

THE EYRE AFFAIR by Fforde (F Fforde)
Meet Thursday Next, a literary detective for England’s Special Operations Network. Her mission: to stop a serial killer who enters books and kills literary characters. Mr. Quaverly has already disappeared from copies of Martin Chuzzlewit. Jane Eyre, beware! It’s mystery, science fiction, and social satire. It’s also lots of fun.

CROW LAKE by Lawson (F Lawson)
Now a successful zoology professor, Kate recalls her parents’ death and being brought up and sustained by her older brothers, especially Matt with whom she shares a love of the wonders of nature. An affecting novel about hardship, tragedy, choices, and family relationships.

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THE YEAR OF ICE by Malloy (973.3 SPI)
Malloy’s first novel is a memorable story of the emotional complexities of American families and the complications of coming of age. High-school senior Kevin Doyle is literally skating on thin ice: a self-described “alpha male,” he is secretly gay and increasingly estranged from his father, who has a secret of his own.

WHEN THE EMPEROR WAS DIVINE by Otsuka (YA Otsuka)
A short and understated, but also powerful novel in which members of a Japanese-American family, forced to move from a happy California home to cramped, humiliating detention camps set up by the American government, return home after World War II to find suspicious neighbors, a vandalized house, and a broken family.

THE DIVE FROM CLAUSEN’S PIER by Packer (F Packer)
A reckless attempt to impress Carrie, Mike’s dive off Clausen’s pier rendered him paralyzed. Now Carrie finds herself torn between the loyalty she’s expected to feel toward Mike and her need to transform herself. She takes a dive of her own - into adulthood - when she escapes to New York.
THE FALL OF ROME by Southgate
Southgate delves deeply into the social and emotional elements that unite and divide us. Issues of race, identity, and integrity are intensely explored through a tragic human triangle comprised of the lone African American instructor at an exclusive boys boarding school in Connecticut; a promising African American student from New York City; and a white divorcée.

10TH GRADE by Weisberg (YA Weisberg)
What Jeremy Reskin lacks in grammatical skill he more than makes up for in self-reflection in this record of the events of his sophomore year, which reveals his fascination with new-girl-in-town Renee Shopmaker, his changing relationships with his family, and his attempts to sort out the nature of friendship.

YEAR OF WONDERS: A NOVEL OF THE PLAGUE by Brooks (F Brooks)
A year after the plague strikes her village, Anna reflects on how the townfolk handled their minister's request to remain in town to prevent the illness from spreading. Faith, then healing herbs and potions keep everyone going - until doubt creeps in, and witch-hunting, greed, and madness take over the villagers' lives.
AN AMERICAN INSURRECTION: THE BATTLE OF OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI, 1962
by Doyle (YA 378.762 DOY)
When James Meredith became the first black man to enter the University of Mississippi, he "forced America to face the contradiction of second-class citizenship for multitudes of its black citizens, not with speeches, boycotts, or sit-ins, but on a battlefield."

GABRIEL'S STORY by Durham (F Durham)
Upset when he has to leave Baltimore to join his mother and her new husband on a Kansas farm, 15-year old African American Gabriel and his new friend, James, run away from their homes to join a group of mostly white cowboys herding cattle to Texas. Too late, they realize that their cowboy comrades are their worst enemies. A graphic, richly poetic view of frontier life during Reconstruction.

NICKEL AND DIMED: ON (NOT) GETTING BY IN BOOM-TIME AMERICA
by Ehrenreich (305.569 EHR)
To find out if individuals can survive on the "wages available to the unskilled," journalist Ehrenreich spent 12 months working at a variety of minimum-wage jobs. Her experiences offer a gritty glimpse into the world of day-to-day work, a stark picture of living from hand to mouth, and a personal perspective on the politics of welfare.

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**PEACE LIKE A RIVER** by Enger (F Enger)
Set in a quiet 1960s Minnesota community, this magical debut novel centers around 11-year-old asthmatic Reuben Land and his family - his father, his brother, and his precocious younger sister. Life turns upside down when Davy, Reuben's older brother, kills two intruders who plan to harm the family. After Davy breaks out of jail, the Lands leave their home and set out to find him.

**THE WILDERNESS FAMILY: AT HOME WITH AFRICA'S WILDLIFE** by Kruger
Kruger eagerly embraced her husband's assignment to a remote ranger station in South Africa, where her life revolved around temperamental hippos, rambunctious badgers, and three beautiful, willful daughters. What she didn't count on was the starving lion cub that her husband brought home.

**KIT'S LAW** by Morrissey
Kit lives in a ramshackle cottage with her mentally challenged mother, Josie, the town tramp, and her loving, protective grandmother, Lizzy. When Lizzy dies, Kit fights to keep her mother out of an asylum, but Josie's wild ways make it difficult. Speculations about the identity of Kit's father and Kit's first love add more texture to this earthy but charming first novel, which is set in Newfoundland.
THE ROVER by Odom
Four-feet-tall Wick, Third Level Librarian in the Vault of All Known Knowledge, is an imaginative Halfer who longs for the drama he reads about in books. He finally gets a chance to experience adventure when he's kidnapped by pirates, sold into slavery, rescued by thieves, and sent to rob a tomb. Lighthearted, exuberant, and fun.

MOTHERLAND by Vijayaraghavan (YA Vijayaraghavan)
Fifteen-year-old Maya must reconcile her Indian heritage with her life as a modern American teen when she goes to spend the summer with her grandmother in India. An accident and an unexpected illness are the catalysts for the revelation of a family secret that gives Maya a profoundly different view of her mother - and ultimately herself.

BLACK, WHITE, AND JEWISH: AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A SHIFTING SELF by Walker (B Walker)
Born in 1969 to civil rights activists who defied convention, Walker was a "movement child." But when the movement changed course, and her white father and black mother divorced, Walker found herself without an identity - a misfit: too black for some; not black enough for others. A poignant, sometimes angry recollection about racism, growing up, growing away, and finding oneself.
**FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS** by Bradley & Powers (940.5426 BRA)
James Bradley’s father was one of the six men who raised the famous flag on Iwo Jima during World War II. Bradley investigated to learn more about the men and the event.

**THE SAND-RECKONER** by Bradshaw
Archimedes is known best for his mathematical abilities, but he was also one of the first army engineers. Both skills came in handy in ancient Greece when the Romans threatened to take over the known world.

**THE GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING** by Chevalier (F Chevalier)
Have you ever thought about the story behind a person in a painting? Griet is the name of the girl with a pearl earring painted by Vermeer, a famous Dutch artist. As the story unfolds, she is only sixteen and a servant in the household of the painter himself.
COUNTING COUP: A TRUE STORY OF BASKETBALL AND HONOR ON THE LITTLE BIG HORN by Colton (796.323 COL)
One player stands out on the Hardin High School's girls' basketball team. Her name is Sharon La Forge, a talented but troubled teenager. During a 15-month stay on the Crow Reservation where the high school is located, the author, a professional baseball player turned journalist, begins to understand how the conditions of life on the reservation affect the lives of teens like Sharon.

SOLDIER: A POET'S CHILDHOOD by Jordan (YA B Jordan)
Growing up as an African-American in a white world with a father who is harsh one minute and caring the next, means June Jordan's growing up years are difficult but not impossible. Her father's desire for her success makes her strong and able to achieve that success.

DAUGHTER OF THE FOREST by Marillier (SF Marillier)
A young girl must restore her six brothers who have been turned into swans by weaving each of them a shirt from a blistering plant that tears her skin to shreds. The first book in the Sevenwaters trilogy.
IN THE HEART OF THE SEA: THE TRAGEDY OF THE WHALESHIP ESSEX by Philbrick (910.9164 PHI)
The tragedy of the whaling ship Essex influenced Herman Melville when he wrote Moby Dick. Philbrick takes a close look at the whaling industry, whales and the men who hunted them.

THE MAN WHO ATE THE 747 by Sherwood
Unbeknownst to Wally Chubb he is going for a record. He will be the only person who ever ate a 747 airplane by grinding it into paste and using it like ketchup on his food. But Wally doesn't want the record - this amazing feat is an act of love!

CHANG AND ENG by Strauss (F Strauss)
Conjoined brothers, Chang and Eng, were sideshow celebrities. Eng tells the stories of their lives, both as individuals and as one entity. The emotional as well as the physical effects on the brothers is fascinating.
**Diamond Dogs** by Watt

Neil is a 17 year-old bully who has an abusive, demanding father. While driving drunk he hits and kills a pedestrian and hides the body in the trunk of his father's car.

**2000**

**High Exposure: An Enduring Passion for Everest and Unforgiving Places** by Breashears (796.52 BRE)

Admittedly stubborn and driven, Breashears recounts his life story - recollections of his abusive father and tumultuous childhood; his discovery and dedication to mountain climbing, which he has always equated with humankind's belief in hope; and his entry into filmmaking. His account of his 1996 Everest IMAX Filming Expedition, during which he and his crew sought to rescue survivors and reclaim the bodies of the people caught in the well-publicized Everest calamity, is a natural link to the book *Into Thin Air*.

**Ender’s Shadow** by Card (SF Card)

Bean, an orphan living on the streets, finds himself plucked from desperate straits and placed in Battle School, where his tactical skills earn him respect and a role with Ender Wiggin in battle. Wiggin's world is recognizable, but Bean's voice and character make this return to it extraordinarily fresh.
**RIVER, CROSS MY HEART** by Clarke (F Clarke)
Strong-willed Alice Bynam is convinced that by moving to Georgetown, her family will have more economic and educational opportunity. That's true, but "whites still rule the roost" in the 1920s, and they've barred 10-year-old Johnnie Mae and her friends from swimming in a local pool. When Johnnie Mae opts for the river, instead, her younger sister, Clara, drowns, leaving her family and community behind to struggle with the personal loss and the legacy of racial injustice.

**EDUCATING ESMÉ: DIARY OF A TEACHER'S FIRST YEAR** by Codell (YA 372.11 COD)
Fifth-grader Melanie instinctively knows what Codell finds out when she begins as a 24-year-old first-year teacher in an inner-city Chicago school: "You got to know everything." And that doesn't mean just what the textbooks say.

**THE REAPPEARANCE OF SAM WEBBER** by Fuqua
There's a strong sense of place in this ultimately warm, reassuring novel set in a poor, racially tense Baltimore neighborhood. Sam Webber doesn't like his new home, a smelly apartment light years away from the middle-class area where he spent his first 11 years. Since his father's disappearance, he's felt responsible for protecting his mother, but he's so sad and scared he can't even help himself: druggies and muggers patrol the streets; bullies hound him in school. His only friend is the school's black janitor, who turns out to need Sam as much as Sam needs him.
STARDUST by Gaiman (F Gaiman)
17-year-old Tristran Thorn pledges to fetch for his beloved a star that has fallen on the far side of the wall that marks the edge of the village where he lives. His quest takes him into the land of Fairie, where nothing along the way is really what it seems.

THE HUNGRY OCEAN: A SWORDBOAT CAPTAIN'S JOURNEY by Greenlaw
Greenlaw, the captain of the Hanna Boden, sister ship to the Andrea Gail, whose loss was portrayed in novel The Perfect Storm by Sebastian Junger, tells a different but equally fascinating story of life at sea. Hers is a record of a typical month-long swordfishing trip - the backbreaking work, the danger, the uncertainty of the weather, and the thrill of a gritty job that makes the sea a home.

BAREFOOT HEART: STORIES OF A MIGRANT CHILD by Hart (B Hart)
"My whole childhood, I never had a bed," begins Hart's bittersweet recollections about growing up one of six children in a migrant family that made the circuit from Texas to Minnesota each year. Her stories about her family, especially her stern but caring father, and about breaking away only to return home, show the moving struggle of an immigrant population, but also the universal personal struggle of finding, then acknowledging, oneself.
PLAINSONG by Haruf (F Haruf)
They were always connected - in the way people in small towns are: the elderly McPherson brothers, unschooled but wise in other ways; high-school teacher Tom Guthrie and his mischievous sons, Bobby and Ike; and Victoria Roubideaux, 17 and pregnant, with nowhere to go.

IMANI ALL MINE by Porter (YA Porter)
This deceptively simple first-person novel takes readers into the heart and mind of 15-year-old Tasha, whose love for her baby, Imani, is as plain as her fear of the rapist who fathered the child. In the stark language of a tough urban neighborhood, Tasha comes alive on the page as she struggles to reconcile her love and hope for her daughter with the violence that resulted in Imani’s conception.

1999

THE ENDURANCE: SHACKLETON’S LEGENDARY ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION by Alexander (919.890 4 ALE)
The photos will grab you first: a three-masted wooden vessel broken and splintered; rugged ice-encrusted faces of the ship’s crew; fields of ice stretching into infinity. The Imperial Transatlantic Expedition, Sir Ernest Shackleton’s daring but ill-fated attempt to cross the South Pole, comes to life in pictures taken by one of the crew and in the words of the men who lived the extraordinary Antarctic adventure.
**GETTING IN** by Boylan
Boylan takes wicked aim at the college mystique, bringing together three adults and four high-school seniors for a whirlwind tour of swanky eastern colleges that turns into a journey of self-discovery none of them will ever forget. Long-kept secrets, betrayals, and complex relationships between teens and their parents mark this raucous, sexy, and also moving novel that gives new meaning to going off to college and coming of age.

**NEEDLES** by Dominick
"I know about needles. My sister leaves them everywhere." So begins this absorbing memoir of a growing up marked not by illegal drugs but by diabetes. In graceful yet unsparing prose, Dominick recalls the exacting routines, the doctors, the hospitals, and the struggle for normalcy that shaped her older sister's life and later ruled her own. Although a candid record of the ravages of illness on family and self, Dominick's story is also an inspirational account of hope and courage.

**AT ALL COSTS** by Gilstrap
That federal agents happened to be looking for someone else didn't matter once they learned that Jake and his wife, Carolyn, were on their Ten Most Wanted List. By that time, though, the Donovans, with their 13-year-old son, were already on the run and committed to proving that the 16 people whose lives they were accused of taking were viciously murdered by someone else.
SPACE by Kercheval
In a memoir so beautifully and seamlessly written that you will think it is fiction, Kercheval tells her own story, beginning when, at age 10, she moved with her family to a home in Cocoa Beach, Florida, in view of Cape Kennedy. Set against the promise implicit in the launching of Apollo, her touching recollection of her youth and teenage years speaks to universal concerns about growing up and resurrects a pivotal episode of American history and culture for a new generation.

LAST DAYS OF SUMMER by Kluger
"Dear Mr. Banks, I am a 12-year-old boy and I am dying of an incurable disease" begins the first of many letters sent by determined, perfectly healthy Joey Margolis to tough-talking, loose cannon Charlie Banks, rookie third baseman for the New York Giants. Filled with energy, heart, and laugh-out-loud humor, this poignant epistolary novel looks at loneliness, friendship, and love in a way that both transfixes and transcends its 1940s setting.

LEGENDS: STORIES BY THE MASTERS OF MODERN FANTASY edited by Silverberg
With editor Silverberg carefully supplying background, 11 stellar genre writers reenter the well-established universes they so lovingly created in series. Series fans won't be disappointed in the least, and the novellas provide those who don't know the earlier books with a wonderful preview of what's in store.
**ANTARCTICA** by Robinson (SF Robinson)
The popular author of the Mars trilogy takes readers on a journey to a place with an equally inhospitable climate, bringing along a disparate group of characters with vastly different agendas for the frozen continent. Those who like multilayered sci-fi will be as pleased with the vivid blend of fact and fiction Robinson uses to depict the stark landscape as they are by the story’s diverse cast and its gradually widening circle of intrigue.

**ALMOST A WOMAN** by Santiago
In a patchwork of memories, she recalls her guilty longing to escape the Brooklyn barrio, where she lived with her mother and large, extended family, and what she finds (including an affair with an older man) when she leaves. The mixture of regret, joy, and confusion is unmistakable in this portrait of a daughter growing up in two cultures.

**CAUCASIA** by Senna
Questions about integration, intermarriage, identity, and the status of mixed-race children bubble beneath the surface of this dramatically rich, heartrending novel set in the 1970s. When her white mother, a civil rights activist, goes into hiding, Birdie, the lighter-skinned of two daughters, goes with her. The traumatic leave-taking not only separates Birdie from her beloved older sister but also loosens her grasp on her mixed-race heritage, a legacy that turns out to be increasingly important to her as she enters her teens.
THE SECRET FAMILY: TWENTY-FOUR HOURS INSIDE THE MYSTERIOUS WORLDS OF OUR MINDS AND BODIES by Bodanis
By following the activities of a family - mom, dad, baby, young son, and teenage daughter - through a typical day, from breakfast to bedtime, Bodanis makes readers active partners in a mysterious and fascinating science adventure. If you’re shocked to discover that there's embalming fluid on postage stamps, just wait till you find out what's floating around the local mall.

ALL OVER BUT THE SHOUTIN' by Bragg (B Bragg)
Bragg recalls this personal journey in a rags-to-riches memoir, which begins in 1959 in Alabama, where "white people had it hard and black people had it harder than that, because what are the table scraps of nothing?" In vivid prose, by turns comic and affecting, he recalls growing up white and poor in the South, his difficult relationship with his abusive, alcoholic father, and his love for his courageous mother, who raised him and taught him what really mattered.

SUGAR IN THE RAW: VOICES OF YOUNG BLACK GIRLS IN AMERICA by Carroll
Carroll captures the voices of the next generation of African American women in this collection of interviews. From a variety of backgrounds and in very different ways, they speak candidly about their personal lives, their race, their gender, and their future as black women.
**What Girls Learn** by Cook

This poignant, honest novel calls up many themes - family relationships, sibling rivalry, the death of a parent. With a fine ear for dialogue, Cook tells the story of two sisters - Tilden, quiet and good; Elizabeth, the family rebel - and their relationship with their beloved mother, Frances. When Frances marries Nick, the girls must adjust; when Frances is diagnosed with breast cancer, the girls' lives change in ways they never expected.

**Snow in August** by Hamill (F Hamill)

Eleven-year-old Michael Devlin lives with his widowed mother in a working-class neighborhood in 1940s Brooklyn, in the shadow of Ebbets Field. The last thing he expects to find is a friend in Rabbi Judah Hirsch, a refugee from Prague, who trades wonderful stories from Jewish folklore for lessons in English and American culture, especially the sport of baseball. When religious prejudice rears its ugly head, Michael's real world and Hirsch's fantastical one fold together in a powerful, unexpected way.

**The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men Against the Sea** by Junger (974.45 JUN)

In 1991, as Halloween nears, a cold front moves south from Canada, a hurricane swirls over Bermuda, and an intense storm builds over the Great Lakes. These forces converge to create the cruelest holiday trick of all, a 100-year tempest that catches the North Atlantic fishing fleet off guard and unprotected.
**INTO THIN AIR: A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF THE MT. EVEREST DISASTER** by Krakauer (796.522 KRA)
A true account of survival and death that will grab readers from the very first page. Krakauer had a front-row seat to the headline-making 1996 climbing disaster that resulted in the deaths of five people, and his account of the unfolding tragedy, filled with keenly observed details, is not only a transfixing drama but also an inquiry into survivor guilt and the outer limits of human strength and responsibility.

**LEST WE FORGET: THE PASSAGE FROM AFRICA TO SLAVERY AND EMANCIATION** by Thomas
Thomas’s simple yet descriptive words tell the story of slavery and the struggle for freedom - from the African villages to the boats, from the plantations to the end of the Civil War and Jubilee, the day of freedom.

**ONLY TWICE I’VE WISHT FOR HEAVEN** by Trice (F Trice)
Eleven-year-old Tempest doesn't like her new home in Lakeland, a planned community for African Americans. Most of her school classmates are boring, and their prissy airs anger and puzzle her. What saves her is a friendship with troubled Valerie, an outsider like herself, and the secret trips she makes each day to Miss Jonetta's liquor store on fascinating Thirty-fifth Street, where she discovers great courage and caring - and terrible secrets about the world of grown-ups and about her best friend.
TO SAY NOTHING OF THE DOG; OR, HOW WE FOUND THE BISHOP’S BIRD STUMP AT LAST by Willis (SF Willis)

Part time-travel, part mystery, part comedy of errors, this clever fantasy has lots to offer. The year is 2057, and rich Lady Schrapnell has promised to finance Oxford University’s time-travel project if she’s assisted in her endeavors to rebuild Coventry Cathedral, which was destroyed by the Nazis in 1940.