

YA Book Picks

SPRING

BOOK RATING:



No Opinion - You Be the Judge

So-So

Even Better

Good Read

Awesome, Don't Pass Up



What Light
Jay Asher

Sierra's family runs a Christmas tree farm in Oregon. Every year they pack up and move to California to set up their tree lot for the season. Her parents met at the lot and fell in love while they were still in high school. Sierra's father, worried that she might fall for one of the seasonal workers, has imposed strict dating rules to protect her. The rules never bothered Sierra until she met Caleb. He is not the perfect guy. Years ago, he made an enormous mistake and, when it is uncovered, it puts their relationship at risk. Recommendation:



Shade Me
Jennifer Brown

(Older Teens)

Nikki Kill has always been an outsider. Born with rare synesthesia, she sees the world differently. In Nikki's eyes, happiness is pink, sadness is a mixture of brown and green, and lies are gray.

To Nikki, Peyton Hollis, the ultra-rich it girl at school, was seemingly untouchable. That is, until Peyton is violently attacked and the only phone number the hospital finds in Peyton's cell is Nikki's. Suddenly Nikki is pulled into Peyton's glittering, fast-paced world as she tries to unravel an unfolding conspiracy.

As Nikki gets closer to the dark truth, and to Peyton's gorgeous older brother, the only thing she can be sure of is death is a deep, pulsing crimson. Recommendation:



The Many Lives of John Stone
Linda Buckley-Archer

Stella Park (Spark for short) has found summer work cataloging historical archives in John Stone's remote and beautiful house in Suffolk, England. She was not quite sure what to expect, and her uncertainty about living at Stowney House only increases upon arrival. What kind of people live in the twenty-first century without

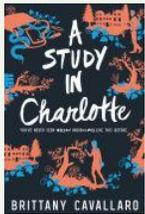
using electricity, telephones, or even a washing machine? Additionally, the notebooks she's organizing span centuries. They begin in the court of Louis XIV in Versailles but are written in the same hand. Something strange is going on for sure, and Spark's questions are piling up. Who exactly is John Stone? What connection does he have to these notebooks? And more importantly, why did he hire her in the first place? Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.



Take the Key and Lock Her Up
Ally Carter

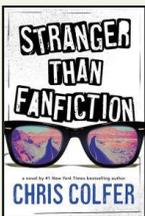
For the past three years, Grace Blakely has been desperate to find out the truth about her mother's murder. She thought it would bring her peace. She thought it would lead her to answers. She thought she could put the past to rest.

Centuries ago, the royal family of Adria was killed, or so everyone thought. Now Grace knows the truth: there was one survivor and that survivor's blood runs through her veins. This simple fact could cause a revolution which is why some people will stop at nothing to keep it from coming to light. There is only one way for Grace to save herself, her family and the boy she loves. She must outmaneuver her foes, cut through the web of lies that has surrounded her for years and go back to the source of all her troubles despite the risk. If she wins, she will inherit a throne. If she loses, she will inherit the fate of all the dead princesses who came before her. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.



A Study in Charlotte
Brittany Cavallaro

Jamie Watson has always been intrigued by Charlotte Holmes, after all, their great-great-great-grandfathers are one of the most infamous pairs in history. But the Holmes family has always been odd, and Charlotte is no exception. She has inherited Sherlock's volatility and some of his vice and, when Jamie and Charlotte end up at the same Connecticut boarding school, Charlotte makes it clear she is not looking for friends. But when a student they both have a history with dies under suspicious circumstances, ripped straight from the most terrifying of the Sherlock Holmes stories, Jamie can no longer afford to keep his distance. Danger is mounting and nowhere is safe, and the only people they can trust are each other. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖. Also available: *The Last of August* (#2 in the series).

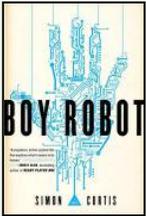


Stranger Than Fanfiction
Chris Colfer

(Older Teens)

Cash Carter is the young, world famous lead actor of the hit television show *Wiz Kids*. When four fans jokingly invite him on a cross-country road trip, they are shocked that he actually takes them up on it.

Chased by paparazzi and hounded by reporters, this unlikely crew takes off on a journey of a lifetime—but along the way they discover that the star they love has deep secrets he's been keeping. What they come to learn about the life of the mysterious person they thought they knew will teach them about the power of empathy and the unbreakable bond of true friendship. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.

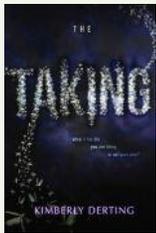


Boy Robot
Simon Curtis

In a single night, Isaak's life changed forever. His adoptive parents were killed, a mysterious girl saved him from a team of soldiers, and he learned of his own dark and destructive origin. An origin he doesn't want to believe, but one he cannot deny.

Isaak is a Robot: a government-made synthetic human, produced as a weapon and now hunted, marked for termination.

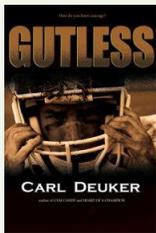
He and the Robots can only find asylum with the Underground, a secret network of Robots and humans working together to ensure a coexistent future. To be protected by the Underground, Isaak will have to make it there first. But with a deadly military force tasked to find him at any cost, his odds are less than favorable. Now Isaak must decide whether to hold on to his humanity and face possible death or to embrace his true nature in order to survive, at the risk of becoming the weapon he was made to be. Recommendation:    .



The Taking
Kimberly Derting

The last thing Kyra Agnew remembers is a flash of bright light. She awakens to discover that five whole years have passed. Everyone in her life has moved on. Her parents are divorced, her boyfriend is in college and dating her best friend, but Kyra's still the sixteen year-old she was when she vanished. She finds herself drawn

to Tyler, her boyfriend's kid brother, despite her best efforts to ignore this growing attraction. In order to find out the truth, the two of them decide to retrace her steps from that fateful night. They discover that there are others who have been "taken," just like Kyra. But Kyra is the first person to have been returned past the forty eight-hour taken mark. With a determined secret government agency after her, Kyra desperately tries to find an explanation and reclaim the life she once had. But what if the life she wants back is not her own? Recommendation: .



Gutless
Carl Deuker

With both good speed and good hands, wide receiver Brock Ripley should be a natural for the varsity team, but he shies away from physical contact. When he gets cut from varsity, he also loses his friendship with star quarterback Hunter Gates who begins lashing out at not only Brock, but also Brock's friend, the quiet and smart

Richie Fang. Brock wants to stand up for Fang, but he is younger, smaller, and doesn't want to cause problems. But when the bullying goes too far, will Brock be able to face his fears, stop being a bystander, and prove to himself that he is brave enough? Recommendation:    .



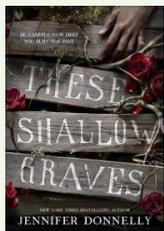
Tell Me Something Real
Calla Devlin

(Older Teens)

There are three beautiful blond Babcock sisters: gorgeous and foul-mouthed Adrienne, observant and shy Vanessa, and the youngest and best-loved, Marie. Their mother is ill with leukemia and the girls spend a lot of time with her at a Mexican clinic across the border from their San Diego home so she can receive alternative treatments.

Vanessa is the middle child, a talented pianist who is trying to hold her family together despite the painful loss that they all know is inevitable. As she and her sisters navigate first loves and college dreams, they are completely unaware that an illness far more insidious than cancer poisons their home. Their world is about to shatter under the weight of an incomprehensible betrayal.

Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.



These Shallow Graves
Jennifer Donnelly

(Older Teens)

Jo Montfort is beautiful and rich, and soon, like all the girls in her class, she'll graduate from finishing school and be married off to a wealthy bachelor - which is the last thing she wants. Jo dreams of becoming a writer, a newspaper reporter like the trailblazing Nellie Bly. Wild aspirations aside, Jo's life seems perfect until tragedy strikes: her father is found dead. Charles Montfort shot himself while cleaning his pistol. One of New York City's wealthiest men, he owned a newspaper and was a partner in a massive shipping firm, and Jo knows he was far too smart to clean a loaded gun. The more Jo hears about her father's death, the more something feels wrong. Suicide is the only logical explanation, and of course people have started talking, but Jo's father would never have resorted to *that*.

And then she meets Eddie, a young, smart, infuriatingly handsome reporter at her father's newspaper, and it becomes all too clear how much she stands to lose if she keeps searching for the truth. But now it might be too late to stop. The past never stays buried forever. Life is dirtier than Jo Montfort could ever have imagined, and this time the truth is the dirtiest part of all.

Recommendation: 📖📖📖.



Thief of Lies (A Library Jumpers Novel)
Brenda Drake

Gia Kearns would rather fight with boys than kiss them. That is, until Arik, a leather clad hottie in the Boston Athenaeum, suddenly disappears. While examining the book of world libraries he abandoned, Gia unwittingly speaks the key that sucks her and her friends into a photograph and transports them into a Paris library, where Arik and his Sentinels-magical knights charged with protecting humans from the creatures traveling across the gateway books-rescue them from a demonic hound.

Jumping into some of the world's most beautiful libraries would be a dream come true for Gia, if she weren't busy resisting her heart or dodging an exiled wizard seeking revenge on both the Mystik and human worlds. Add a French flirt obsessed with Arik and a fling with a young wizard, and Gia must choose between her heart and her head, between Arik's world and her own, before both are destroyed. Recommendation:

📖📖📖📖. Also available in the series – *Guardian of Secrets* (#2).



Mirrored
Alex Flinn

Celine's life is the stuff fairy tales are made of. She is beautiful, talented, and brave. Unfortunately, her tale comes complete with a wicked stepmother. When Violet steps into Celine's life, everything changes and weird things begin to happen to her -

bizarre accidents, strange illnesses, and rabid animal attacks. Celine doesn't feel safe anywhere. It is almost as if some hateful witch is out to get her. And there is. Violet has been waiting all her life to have Celine's father to herself. Getting rid of his gorgeous daughter is child's play for a witch as powerful as she is. Happy-ever-after isn't enough for Violet. She wants to be the fairest of them all, and Celine is in the way, but not for long.

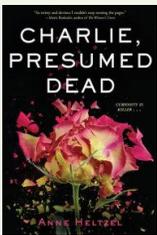
Forced to take refuge with her friend Goose and his family, Celine gives up everything she loves and goes deep undercover. But will it be enough to fool Violet or will Celine's fate be decided by a reflection in a magic mirror? Recommendation: 📖📖📖.



The Book Jumper
Mechthild Glaser

Amy Lennox doesn't know quite what to expect when she and her mother pick up and leave Germany for Scotland, heading to her mother's childhood home of Lennox House on the island of Stormsay.

Amy's grandmother, Lady Mairead, insists that Amy must read while she resides at Lennox House, but not in the usual way. Amy learns that she is a book jumper, able to leap into a story and interact with the world inside. As thrilling as Amy's new power is, it also brings danger: someone is stealing from the books she visits, and that person may be after her life. Teaming up with fellow book jumper Will, Amy vows to get to the bottom of the thefts at whatever cost. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.

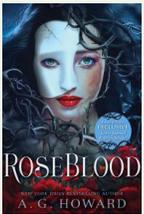


Charlie, Presumed Dead
Anne Heltzel

In Paris, family and friends gather to mourn the passing of Charlie Price, presumed dead after a horrific accident. At the funeral, his two girlfriends uncover their boyfriend's shocking betrayal. Charlie led a double life, and they are the casualties. Over the course of a week, the girls embark on a mind-bending search for answers.

Is Charlie still alive? What else was he hiding? As a trail of Charlie's deceptions carries them across Europe and Asia, it is the girls' deepening friendship that sustains them.

The truth is within their grasp but, when they each discover that the other has been harboring secrets of her own, will their own lies destroy them? Recommendation: 📖📖📖.



Roseblood
A.G. Howard

Rune Germain, whose voice has been compared to that of an angel, has a mysterious affliction linked to her talent that leaves her sick and drained at the end of every performance. Convinced creative direction will cure her, her mother ships her off to a French boarding school for the arts, rumored to have a haunted past. There, she discovers phantoms really do exist.

The mystery boy she's seen frequenting the graveyard beside the opera house doesn't have any classes at the school, and vanishes almost as quickly as he appears. When Rune begins to develop a secret friendship with the elusive Thorn, who dresses in clothing straight out of the 19th century, she realizes that, in his presence, she feels cured. Thorn may be falling for Rune, but the

phantom haunting Roseblood wants her for a very specific and dangerous purpose. As their love continues to grow, Thorn is faced with an impossible choice: lead Rune to her destruction, or save her and face the wrath of the phantom, the only father he's ever known. Recommendation:     .



The Prey
Tom Isbell

Orphaned teens, soon to be hunted for sport, must flee their resettlement camps in their fight for survival and a better life. For in the Republic of the True America, it is always hunting season. After a radiation blast burned most of the Earth to a crisp, the new government established settlement camps for the survivors. At the camp, these sixteen-year-old "LTs," are eager to graduate as part of the Rite. Until they learn the dark truth: "LTs" doesn't stand for lieutenants but for Less Thans, feared by society and raised to be hunted for sport. They escape and join forces with the Sisters, twin girls who've suffered their own haunting fate. Together they seek the fabled New Territory, with sadistic hunters hot on their trail. Secrets are revealed, allegiances are made, and lives are at stake. As unlikely Book and fearless Hope lead their quest for freedom, these teens must find the best in themselves to fight the worst in their enemies. Recommendation:    . Also available – *The Capture* (Book 2).



Dotwav
Mike A. Lancaster

Fifteen year-old Ani Lee is a skilled hacker researching a strange .wav file that she's downloaded when it behaves as no file ever should. Joe Dyson is a seventeen year-old American transplant recruited into a secret teen division of the British intelligence service who's looking into the disappearance of a friend caught up in an underground music scene that might be more than it appears.

When Ani and Joe's investigations intertwine, they discover that the .wav file and the music are linked and that someone's embedding the file into tracks to create a mind-controlled teen army. But who's behind it? And why? And how do you stop a sound? Recommendation:   .



Dreamland Burning
Jennifer Latham

(Older Teens)

When seventeen year-old Rowan Chase finds a skeleton on her family's property, she has no idea that investigating the brutal century-old murder will lead to a summer of painful discoveries about the past and the present.

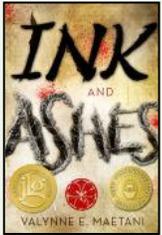
Nearly one hundred years earlier, a misguided violent encounter propels seventeen year-old Will Tillman into a racial firestorm. In a country rife with violence against blacks and a hometown segregated by Jim Crow, Will must make hard choices on a painful journey towards self discovery and face his inner demons in order to do what is right the night Tulsa burns. Recommendation:     .



Hit Count
Chris Lynch

(Older Teens)

Arlo Brodie loves being on the football field, getting hit hard and hitting back harder. That's where he belongs, leading his team to championships, becoming "Starlo" on his way to the top. Arlo's dad cheers him on, but his mother quotes head-injury statistics and refuses to watch. Arlo's girlfriend tries to make him see how dangerously he's playing; when that doesn't work, she calls time-out on their relationship. Even Arlo's coaches begin to track his hit count, ready to pull him off the field when he nears the limit. But Arlo's not worried about tallying collisions. The cheering crowds and the adrenaline rush convince him that everything is OK--in spite of the pain, the pounding, the dizziness, and the confusion. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖



Ink and Ashes
Valynne E. Maetani

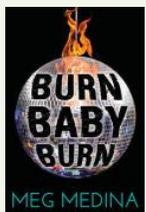
Claire Takata has never known much about her father who passed away ten years ago. But on the anniversary of his death, she finds a letter from her deceased father to her stepfather. Before now, Claire never had a reason to believe they even knew each other. Struggling to understand why her parents kept this surprising history hidden, Claire combs through anything that might give her information about her father – until she discovers that he was a member of the yakuza, a Japanese organized crime syndicate. The discovery opens a door that should have been left closed. The race to outrun her father's legacy reveals secrets of his past that cast ominous shadows, threatening Claire, her friends and family, her newfound love and ultimately her life. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.



This is All Your Fault, Cassie Parker
Terra Elan McVoy

Fiona and Cassie are supposed to be best friends forever. No one else listens or makes Fiona laugh like Cassie, and that meant everything when Fiona's parents were divorcing. They love each other in spite of their (many) differences, and even though Cassie cares a little too much about being popular, Fiona can't imagine life without her. Until Fiona's diary is stolen by the most popular girls at school, and her most secret thoughts are read out loud on the bus. Even worse: Cassie was there, and she didn't do anything to stop it. Now, for some reason, she's ignoring Fiona. Suddenly the whole world has shifted.

Life without a best friend is confusing, scary, maybe impossible. But as Fiona navigates a summer of big changes, she learns more about herself—and friendship—than she ever thought possible. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖

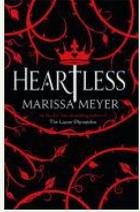


Burn Baby Burn
Meg Medina

(Older Teens)

It is 1977 in New York when a hot summer explodes with arson, a blackout and a serial killer named Son of Sam who is shooting young people on the street at random. The city is a disaster, but seventeen year-old Nora has troubles of her own. Her

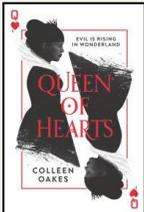
brother Hector is growing more uncontrollable every day, and her mother is helpless to stop him. Her father is too busy with his new family that he only calls on holidays. The super is after her mother for overdue rent, and her teachers keep trying to push her to apply for college. But all Nora wants to do is turn eighteen and be on her own. There is a cute new guy who started working with her at the deli, but is dating even worth the risk when the killer likes to pick off couples who stay out too late? Recommendation: 📖.



Heartless
Marissa Meyer

Long before she was the terror of Wonderland, she was just a girl who wanted to fall in love. Catherine may be one of the most desired girls in Wonderland, and a favorite of the unmarried King of Hearts, but her interests lie elsewhere. A talented baker, all she wants is to open a shop with her best friend. Bu, according to her mother, such a goal is unthinkable for the young woman who could be the next queen.

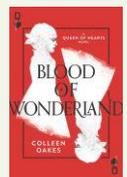
Then Cath meets Jest, the handsome and mysterious court joker. For the first time, she feels the pull of true attraction. At the risk of offending the king and infuriating her parents, she and Jest enter into an intense, secret courtship. Cath is determined to define her own destiny and fall in love on her terms. But in a land thriving with magic, madness, and monsters, fate has other plans. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.



Queen of Hearts
Colleen Oakes

This is not the story of the Wonderland we know. Alice has not fallen down a rabbit hole. This is a Wonderland where beneath each smile lies a secret, each tart comes with a demand, and only prisoners tell the truth.

Dinah is the princess who will one day reign over Wonderland. She has not yet seen the dark depths of her kingdom; she longs only for her father's approval and a future with the boy she loves. But when a betrayal breaks her heart and threatens her throne, she is launched into Wonderland's dangerous political game. Dinah must stay one step ahead of her cunning enemies or she'll lose not just the crown but her head. Evil is brewing in Wonderland and maybe in Dinah. Recommendation: 📖📖📖. Also available in the *Queen of Heart* series – *Blood of Wonderland*.



Lock & Mori
Heather W. Petty

In modern-day London, two brilliant high school students, one Sherlock Holmes and a Miss James “Mori” Moriarty, meet. A murder will bring them together. The truth very well might drive them apart. Before they were mortal enemies, they were much more.

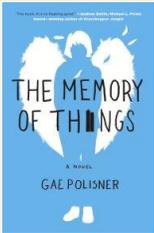
FACT: Someone has been murdered in London's Regent's Park. The police have no leads.

FACT: Miss James “Mori” Moriarty and Sherlock “Lock” Holmes should be hitting the books on a school night. Instead, they are out crashing a crime scene.

FACT: Lock has challenged Mori to solve the case before he does. Challenge accepted.

FACT: Despite agreeing to Lock's one rule, they must share every clue with each other, Mori is keeping secrets.

OBSERVATION: Sometimes you can't trust the people closest to you with matters of the heart. And after this case, Mori may never trust Lock again. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.



The Memory of Things
Gae Polisner

On the morning of September 11, 2001, sixteen-year-old Kyle Donohue watches the first twin tower come down from the window of Stuyvesant High School. Moments later, terrified and fleeing home to safety across the Brooklyn Bridge, he stumbles across a girl perched in the shadows, covered in ash, and wearing a pair of costume wings. With his mother and sister in California and unable to reach his father, a NYC detective likely on his way to the disaster, Kyle makes the split-second decision to bring the girl home. What follows is their story, told in alternating points of view, as Kyle tries to unravel the mystery of the girl so he can return her to her family. But what if the girl has forgotten everything, even her own name? And what if the more Kyle gets to know her, the less he wants her to go home? Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.



Nerve
Jeanne Ryan

(Older Teens)

When Vee is picked to be a player in NERVE, an anonymous game of dares broadcast live online, she discovers that the game *knows* her. They tempt her with prizes taken from her ThisIsMe page and team her up with the perfect boy, sizzling-hot Ian. At first it's exhilarating--Vee and Ian's fans cheer them on to riskier dares with higher stakes. But the game takes a twisted turn when they're directed to a secret location with five other players for the Grand Prize round. Suddenly they're playing all or nothing, with their lives on the line. Just how far will Vee go before she loses NERVE. (This book has been made into a major motion picture.) Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.



The Blackthorn Key
Kevin Sands

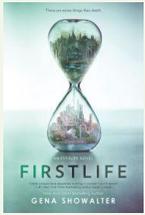
Tell no one what I've given you. Until he got that cryptic warning, Christopher Rowe was happy, learning how to solve complex codes and puzzles and creating powerful medicines, potions, and weapons as an apprentice to Master Benedict Blackthorn with maybe an explosion or two along the way. But when a mysterious cult begins to prey on London's apothecaries, the trail of murders grows closer and closer to Blackthorn's shop. With time running out, Christopher must use every skill he has learned to discover the key to a terrible secret with the power to tear the world apart. Recommendation: 📖📖📖.



The Hired Girl
Laura Amy Schlitz

Fourteen year-old Joan Skraggs, just like the heroines in her beloved novels, yearns for real life and true love. But what hope is there for adventure, beauty, or art on a

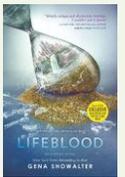
hardscrabble farm in Pennsylvania where the work never ends? Over the summer of 1911, Joan pours her heart out into her diary as she seeks a new, better life for herself because maybe, just maybe, a hired girl cleaning and cooking for six dollars a week can become what a farm girl could only dream of—a woman with a future. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.



Firstlife
Gena Showalter

Tenley "Ten" Lockwood has spent the past thirteen months locked inside the Prynne Asylum. She has earned her reputation as the craziest of crazies, but that does not stop the torture. Ten can leave, but only if she allows her parents to choose where she will live, after she dies. There is an eternal truth most of the world has come to accept: Firstlife is merely a dress rehearsal, and real life begins after death.

In the Everlife, two realms are in power: Troika and Myriad, longtime enemies and deadly rivals. Both will do anything to recruit Ten, including sending their top Laborers to lure her to their side. Soon, Ten finds herself on the run, caught in a wild tug-of-war between the boy she is falling for and the realm she wants to support. Who will she choose? Can she stay alive long enough to make a decision? Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖. Also available in the series – *Lifeblood* (#2)



Scythe
Neal Shusterman

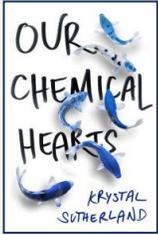
A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life, and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe, a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own. Recommendation: 📖.



Every Last Word
Tamara Ireland Stone

Samantha McAllister looks just like the rest of the popular girls in her junior class. But hidden beneath the straightened hair and expertly applied makeup is a secret that her friends would never understand: Sam has Purely-Obsessional OCD and is consumed by a stream of dark thoughts and worries that she can't turn off. Second-guessing every move, thought, and word makes daily life a struggle, and it doesn't help that her lifelong friends will turn toxic at the first sign of a wrong outfit, wrong lunch, or wrong crush. Yet Sam knows she'd be truly crazy to leave the protection of the most popular girls in school. So when Sam meets Caroline, she has to keep her new friend with a refreshing sense of humor and no style a secret, right up there with Sam's weekly visits to her psychiatrist.

Caroline introduces Sam to Poet's Corner, a hidden room and a tight-knit group of misfits who have been ignored by the school at large. Sam is drawn to them immediately, especially a guitar-playing guy with a talent for verse, and starts to discover a whole new side of herself. Slowly, she begins to feel more "normal" than she ever has as part of the popular crowd, until she finds a new reason to question her sanity and all she holds dear. Recommendation: 📖.



Our Chemical Hearts
Krystal Sutherland

(Older Teens)

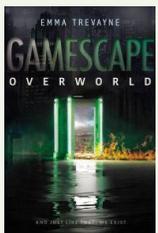
Henry Page has never been in love. He fancies himself a hopeless romantic, but the slo-mo, heart palpitating, can't-eat-can't-sleep kind of love that he's been hoping for just hasn't been in the cards for him, at least not yet. Instead, he's been happy to focus on his grades, on getting into a semi-decent college and finally becoming editor of his school newspaper. Then Grace Town walks into his first period class on the third Tuesday of senior year and he knows everything's about to change. Grace isn't who Henry pictured as his dream girl. She walks with a cane, wears oversized boys' clothes, and rarely seems to shower. But when Grace and Henry are both chosen to edit the school paper, he quickly finds himself falling for her. It's obvious there's something broken about Grace, but it seems to make her even more beautiful to Henry, and he wants nothing more than to help her put the pieces back together again. Recommendation: 📖📖📖.



Welcome to the Dark House
Laurie Faria Stolarz

For Ivy Jensen, it's the eyes of a killer that haunt her nights. For Parker Bradley, it's bloodthirsty sea serpents that slither in his sleep. And for seven essay contestants, it's their worst nightmares that win them an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look at director Justin Blake's latest, confidential project. Ivy doesn't even like scary movies, but she is ready to face her real-world fears. Parker's sympathetic words and perfect smile help keep her spirits up - at least for now.

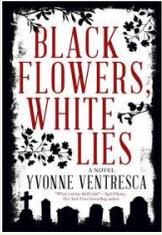
Not everyone is so charming, though. Horror-film fanatic Garth Vader wants to stir up trouble. It's bad enough he has to stay in the middle of nowhere with *this* group - the girl who locks herself in her room, the know-it-all roommate, "Mister Sensitive," and the one who's too cheery for her own good. Someone has to make things interesting. Except, things are already a little weird. The hostess is a serial-killer look-alike, the dream-stealing Nightmare Elf is lurking about, and the seventh member of the group is missing. By the time Ivy and Parker realize what's *really* at stake, it's too late to wake up and run. Recommendation: 📖📖📖📖.



Gamescape: Overworld
Emma Trevayne

(Older Teens)

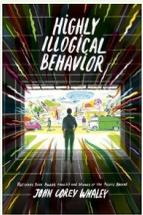
In a futuristic version of Earth, society is mostly controlled by a company that produces an addictive virtual reality game called Chimera. Everyone plays Chimera. Defeating the levels is how you earn enough points for clothes, food, even medical enhancements. Miguel Anderson is good at it. In fact, he's better than anyone he knows. He spends all of his free time playing, hoping to reach Level 25. At Level 25 you can pick any prize you want, and Miguel needs a new biometric heart. When the game runners announce a global competition to launch a new version with untold prizes, Miguel enters and becomes a team leader. That's new for him, playing on a team. And complicated, as the game becomes a delicate power play between wholly unexpected players. Recommendation: 📖📖📖.



Black Flowers, White Lies
Yvonne Ventresca

Her father died before she was born, but Ella Benton knows they have a supernatural connection. Since her mother discourages these beliefs, Ella keeps her cemetery visits secret. But she may not be the only one with secrets. Ella's mother might be lying about how Dad died sixteen years ago. Newfound evidence points to his death in a psychiatric hospital, not as a result of a tragic car accident as her mother always claimed. After a lifetime of just the two of them, Mom suddenly feels like a stranger.

When a handprint much like the one Ella left on her father's tombstone mysteriously appears on the bathroom mirror, at first she wonders if Dad is warning her of danger as he did once before. If it's not a warning, could her new too-good-to-be-true boyfriend be responsible for the strange occurrences? Or maybe it's the grieving building superintendent whose dead daughter strongly resembles Ella? As the unexplained events become more frequent and more sinister, Ella becomes terrified about who or what might harm her. Soon the evidence points to someone else entirely: Ella herself. What if, like her father, she's suffering from a breakdown? Ella desperately needs to find answers, no matter how disturbing the truth might be. Recommendation:  .



Highly Illogical Behavior
John Corey Whaley

(Older Teens)

Sixteen year-old Solomon is agoraphobic. He has not left the house in three years, which is fine by him.

Ambitious Lisa desperately wants to get into the second-best psychology program for college. But how can she prove she deserves a spot there? Solomon is the answer. Determined to "fix" Sol, Lisa thrusts herself into his life, sitting through Star Trek marathons with him and introducing him to her charming boyfriend Clark. Soon, all three teens are far closer than they thought they would be and, when their walls fall down, their friendships threaten to collapse as well. Recommendation:     .