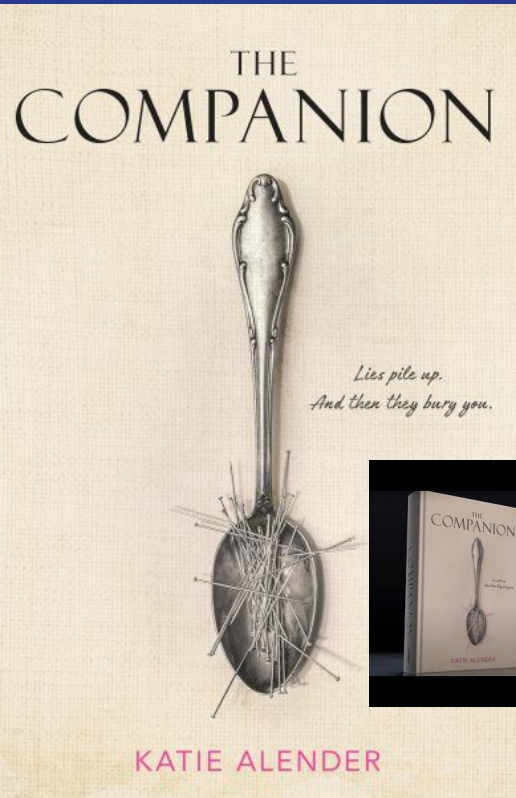


Lone Star Reading List 2020-2021

A collaborative creation
by Anna Modrow, Bonnie
McCormick,
Noel Hill, & Ryan
Feuerhelm



Author of *Bad Girls Don't Die* series

The Companion Katie Alender

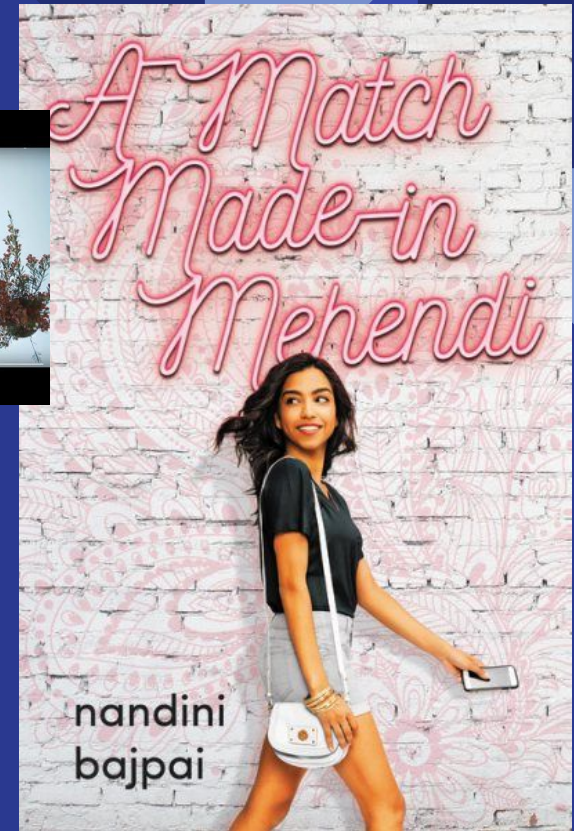
Groundhog Day meets *Scream Queens* in this creepy, fun teen read.

"The other orphans say Margot is lucky. Lucky to survive the horrible accident that killed her family. Lucky to have her own room because she wakes up screaming every night. And finally, lucky to be chosen by a prestigious family to live at their remote country estate. But it wasn't luck that made the Suttons rescue Margot from her bleak existence at the group home. Margot was handpicked to be a companion to their silent, mysterious daughter, Agatha. At first, helping with Agatha--and getting to know her handsome older brother--seems much better than the group home. But soon, the isolated, gothic house begins playing tricks on Margot's mind, making her question everything she believes about the Suttons . . . and herself. Margot's bad dreams may have stopped when she came to live with Agatha - but the real nightmare has just begun"



A Match Made in Mehendi Nandini Bajpai

Wanting to be popular at school, Simi starts a matchmaking service. But when she messes up the high school hierarchy by setting up a wallflower with a soccer star, she makes herself public enemy number one.

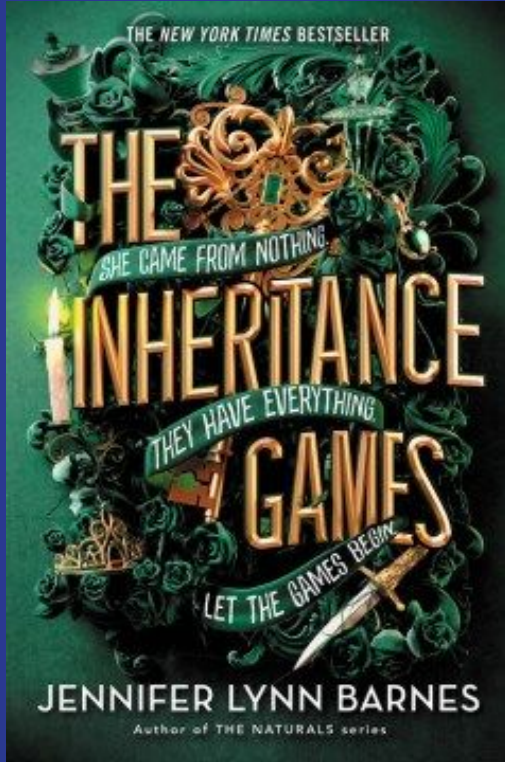


The Inheritance Games

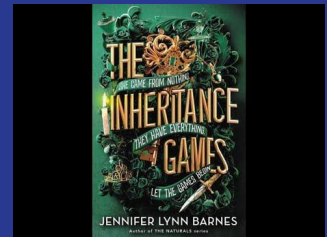
Jennifer Lynn Barnes

When a Connecticut teenager inherits vast wealth and an eccentric estate from the richest man in Texas, she must also live with his surviving family and solve a series of puzzles to discover how she earned her inheritance.

Don't miss this *New York Times* bestselling "impossible to put down" (Buzzfeed) novel with deadly stakes, thrilling twists, and juicy secrets--perfect for fans of *One of Us is Lying* and *Knives Out*.

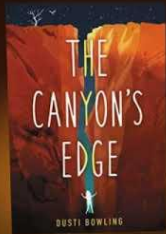
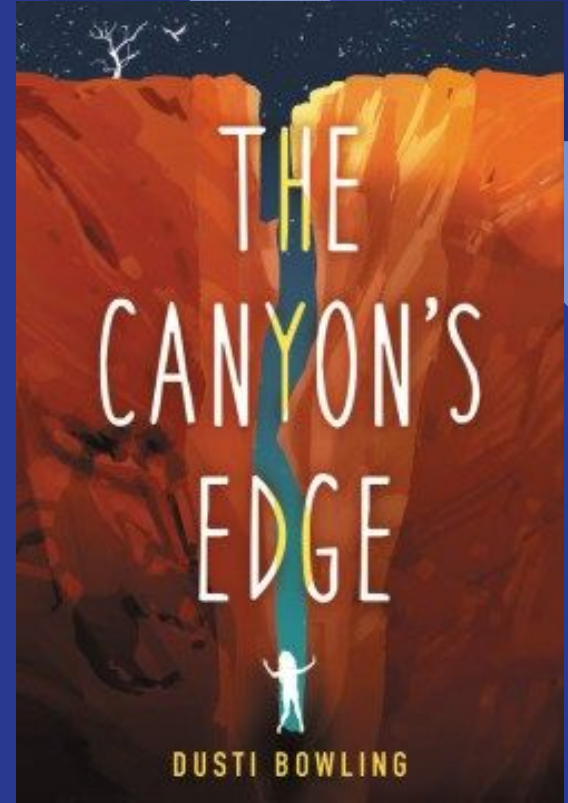


Author of *The Naturals* series



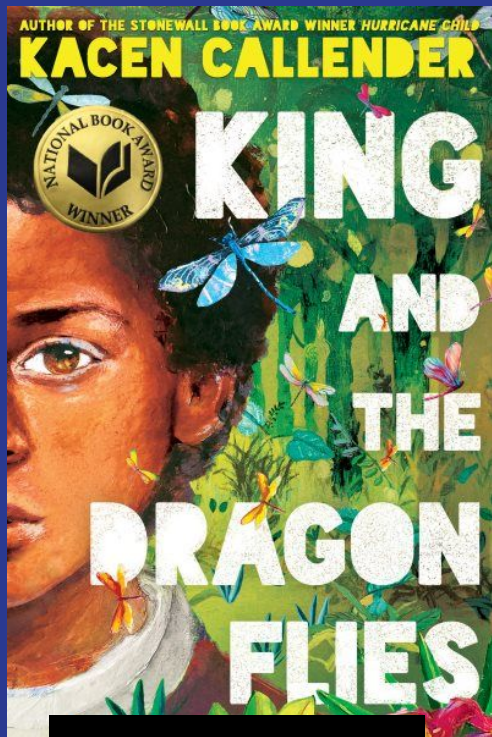
The Canyon's Edge Dusti Bowling

A year after the death of her mother in a restaurant shooting, Nora is left struggling to stay alive when a climbing trip with her father goes terribly wrong.



King and the Dragon Flies

Kacen Callender



In a small but turbulent Louisiana town, one boy's grief takes him beyond the bayous of his backyard, to learn that there is no right way to be yourself.

Twelve-year-old Kingston James is sure his brother Khalid has turned into a dragonfly. When Khalid unexpectedly passed away, he shed what was his first skin for another to live down by the bayou in their small Louisiana town. Khalid still visits in dreams, and King must keep these secrets to himself as he watches grief transform his family.

It would be easier if King could talk with his best friend, Sandy Sanders. But just days before he died, Khalid told King to end their friendship, after overhearing a secret about Sandy-that he thinks he might be gay. "You don't want anyone to think you're gay too, do you?"

But when Sandy goes missing, sparking a town-wide search, and King finds his former best friend hiding in a tent in his backyard, he agrees to help Sandy escape from his abusive father, and the two begin an adventure as they build their own private paradise down by the bayou and among the dragonflies. As King's friendship with Sandy is reignited, he's forced to confront questions about himself and the reality of his brother's death.

The Thing About Jellyfish meets The Stars Beneath Our Feet in this story about loss, grief, and finding the courage to discover one's identity, from the author of Hurricane Child.



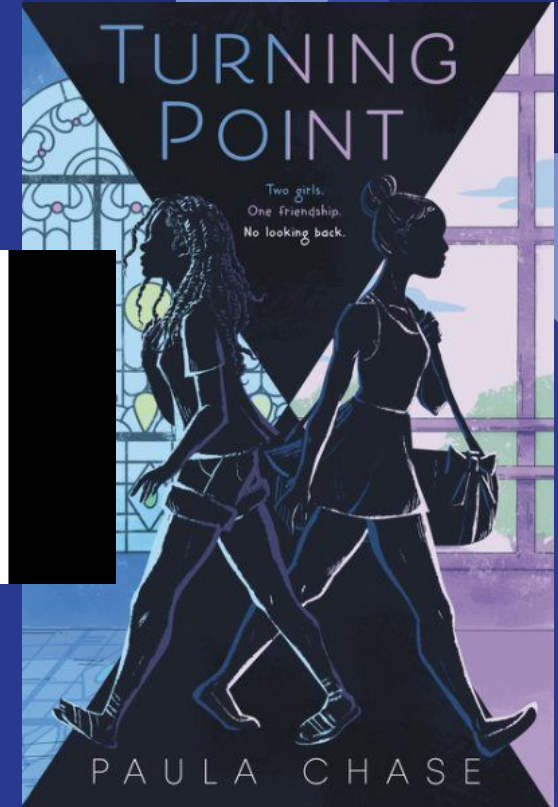
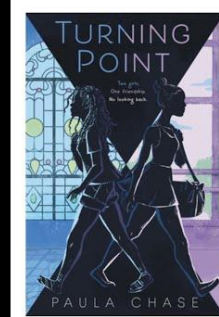
Turning Point Paula Chase

"Best friends Rasheeda and Monique navigate the ups and downs of a teenager's summer, Mo at home in the Cove; Sheeda at a sleepaway ballet intensive."

When being yourself isn't good enough, who should you be?

Told in dual perspectives, this provocative and timely novel for middle-school readers by Paula Chase, the acclaimed author of *So Done* and *Dough Boys*, will resonate with fans of Jason Reynolds, Rebecca Stead, and Renee Watson.

It explores the complex and emotional issues that affect many young teens.

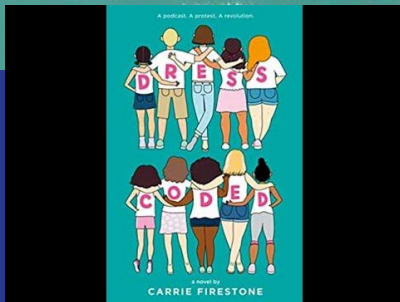
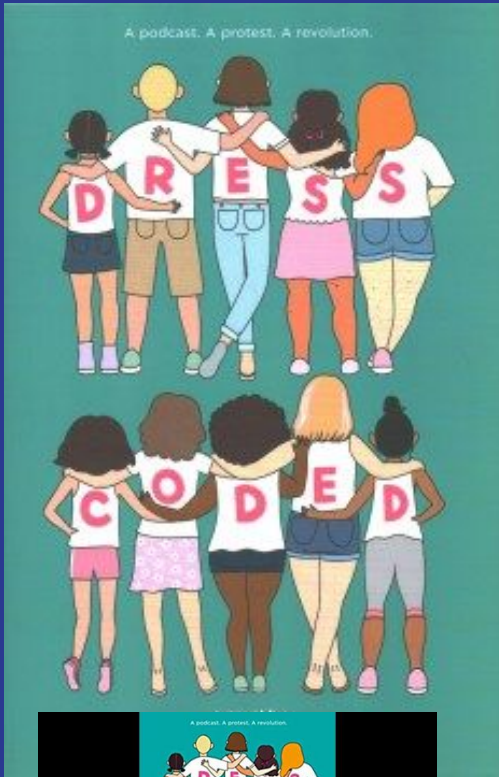


Dress Coded

Carrie Firestone

An eighth grader starts a podcast to protest the unfair dress code enforcement at her middle school and sparks a rebellion.

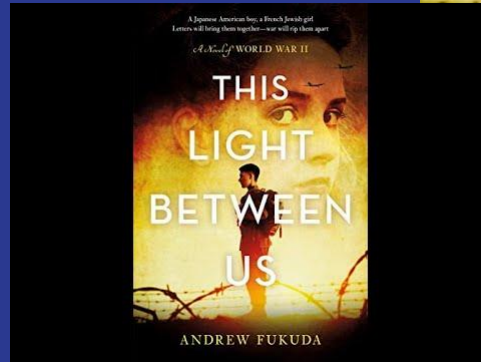
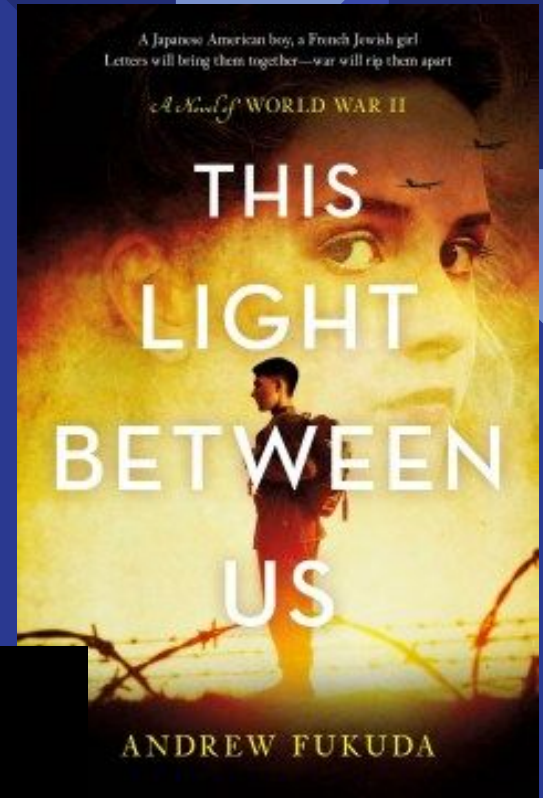
Molly Frost is FED UP... Because Olivia was yelled at for wearing a tank top. Because Liza got dress coded and Molly didn't, even though they were wearing the exact same outfit. Because when Jessica was pulled over by the principal and missed a math quiz, her teacher gave her an F. Because it's impossible to find shorts that are longer than her fingertips. Because girls' bodies are not a distraction. Because middle school is hard enough. And so Molly starts a podcast where girls can tell their stories, and before long, her small rebellion swells into a revolution. Because now the girls are standing up for what's right, and they're not backing down.



This Light Between Us

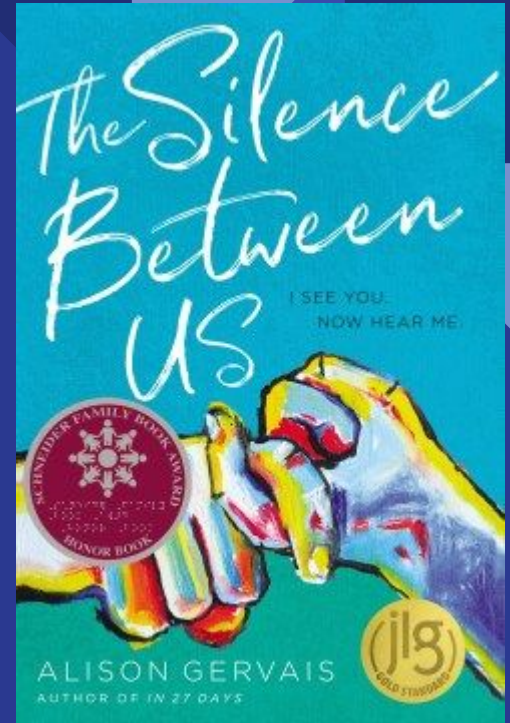
Andrew Fukuda

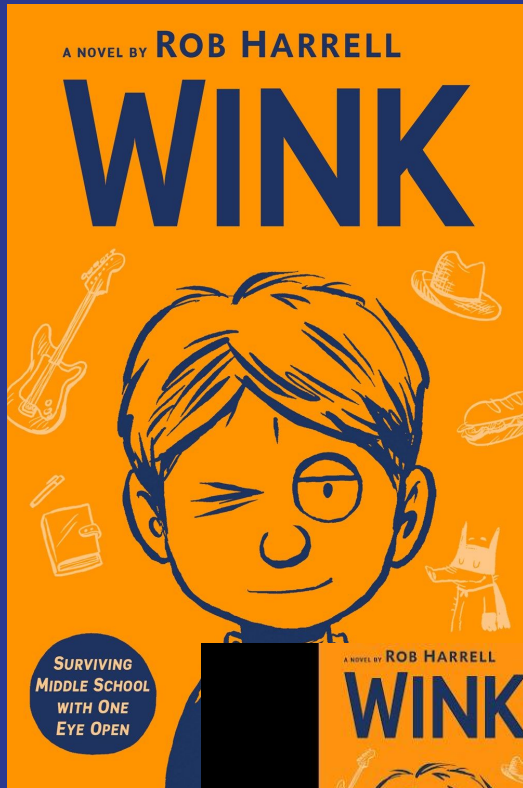
From award-winning YA author Andrew Fukuda comes *The Light Between Us*, a powerfully affecting story of World War II about the unlikeliest of pen pals--a Japanese American boy and a French Jewish girl--as they fight to maintain hope in a time of war.



The Silence Between Us Alison Gervais

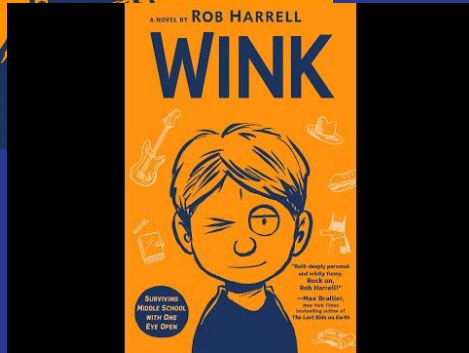
Maya Harris, high-school senior, is changing schools; this would be hard enough on anyone, but this is also the first time in years that Maya won't be at a school for the Deaf. Embarrassed to need an ASL translator and furious that her classmates are gossiping about her, Maya just wants to graduate and become a doctor. When, to her surprise, hearing class president Beau tries to learn ASL to communicate with her, Maya begrudgingly becomes friends with him, then starts to fall for him—but is a relationship with someone who will never fully understand her Deafness even possible? 13+





WINK: Surviving Middle School with One Eye Open
Rob Harrell

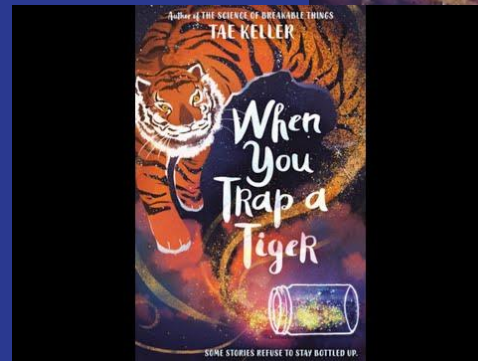
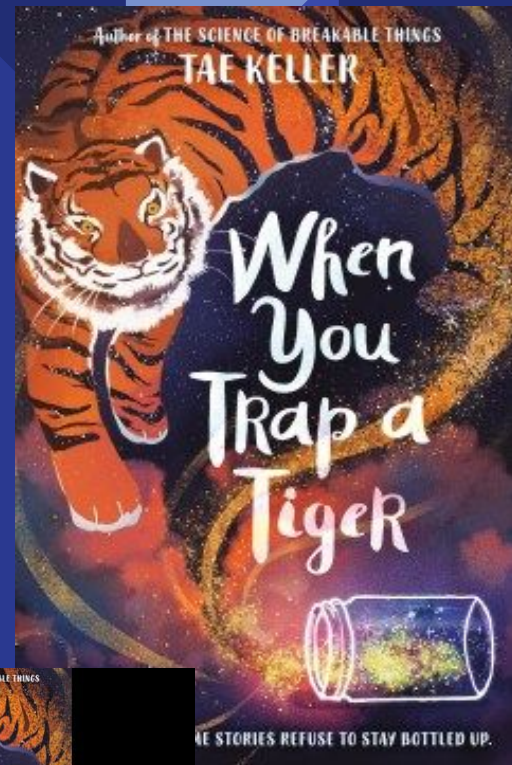
After being diagnosed with a rare eye cancer, twelve-year-old Ross discovers how music, art, and true friends can help him survive both treatment and middle school. This uplifting novel is based on the author's experiences.



When You Trap a Tiger Tae Keller

Some stories refuse to stay bottled up...
When Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of her halmoni's Korean folktales arrives. The tiger offers Lily a deal- if Lily will open her grandmother's star jars and return what she stole, the tiger will heal her grandmother. But deals with tigers are never what they seem! With the help of her sister and her new friend Ricky, Lily must find her voice . . . and the courage to face a tiger.

Tae Keller, the award-winning author of *The Science of Breakable Things*, shares a sparkling tale about the power of stories and the magic of family. Think *Walk Two Moons* meets *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*!



I'll Be the One Lyla Lee



Could use a better trailer!

But that doesn't stop her from signing up for a reality TV show where she sings and dances against other K-pop hopefuls.



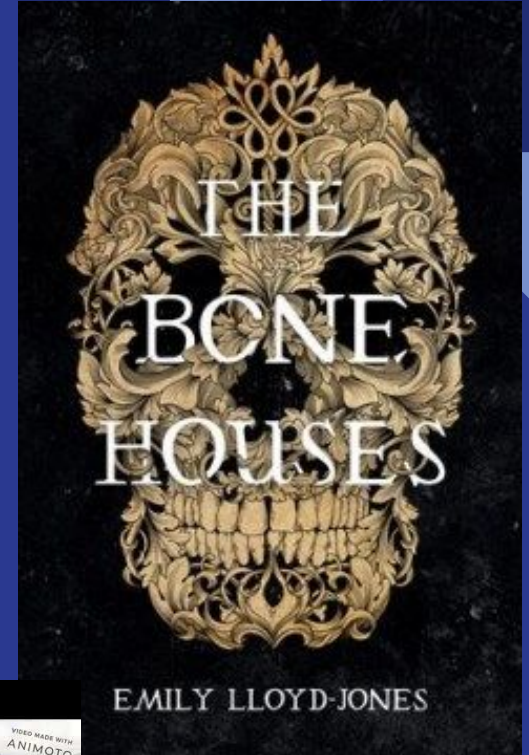
"Skye Shin has heard it all. Fat girls can't dance. Shouldn't wear bright colors. Shouldn't call attention to themselves. But Skye dreams of joining the glittering, intense world of K-Pop, and to do that, she's about to break all the rules that society, the media, and even her own mother have set for girls like her. When Skye nails her audition in an internationally televised competition looking for the next K-pop star, she's immediately swept into a whirlwind of countless practices, shocking performances, and the drama that comes with reality TV. What she doesn't count on are the highly fat-phobic beauty standards of the Korean pop entertainment industry or her sudden media fame and scrutiny. . . In the competition, Skye meets new friends and finds herself partnered with fellow competitor Henry Cho, an unfairly cute celebrity model. . . With the support of her friends and Henry, Skye sets her sights on becoming the world's first plus-sized K-pop star-- by winning the competition without losing herself"

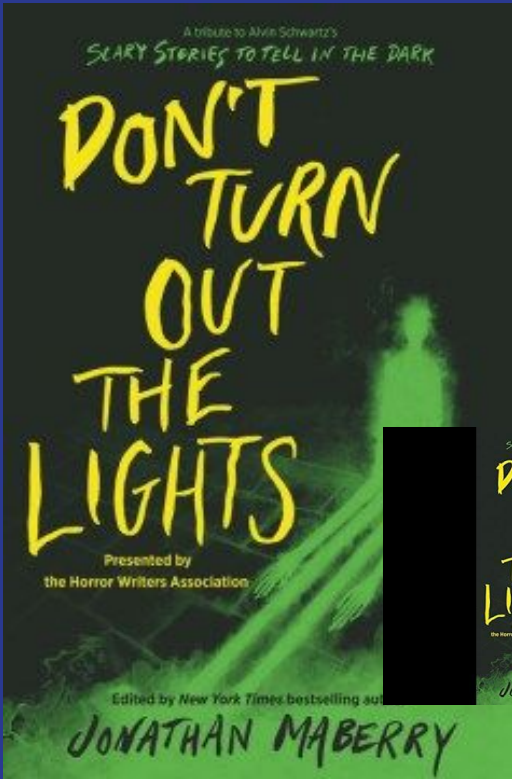
The Bone Houses

Emily Lloyd-Jones

"When risen corpses called 'bone houses' threaten Ryn's village because of a decades-old curse, she teams up with a mapmaker named Ellis to solve the mystery of the curse and destroy the bone houses forever"

Dark Fantasy, Paranormal, Historical Fiction!



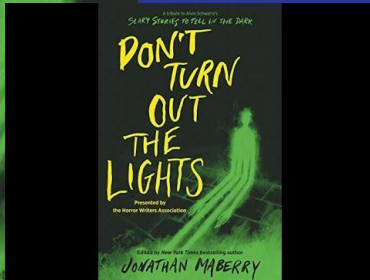


Author of *Rot & Ruin* Trilogy

Don't Turn Out the Lights

Jonathan Maberry

Featuring stories from R.L. Stine and Madeleine Roux, this middle grade horror anthology, curated by New York Times bestselling author and master of macabre Jonathan Maberry, is a chilling tribute to Alvin Schwartz's *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*.



Flesh-hungry ogres? Brains full of spiders? Haunted houses you can't escape? This collection of 35 terrifying stories from the Horror Writers Association has it all, including ghastly illustrations from Iris Compiet that will absolutely chill readers to the bone.

So turn off your lamps, click on your flashlights, and prepare--if you dare--to be utterly spooked!

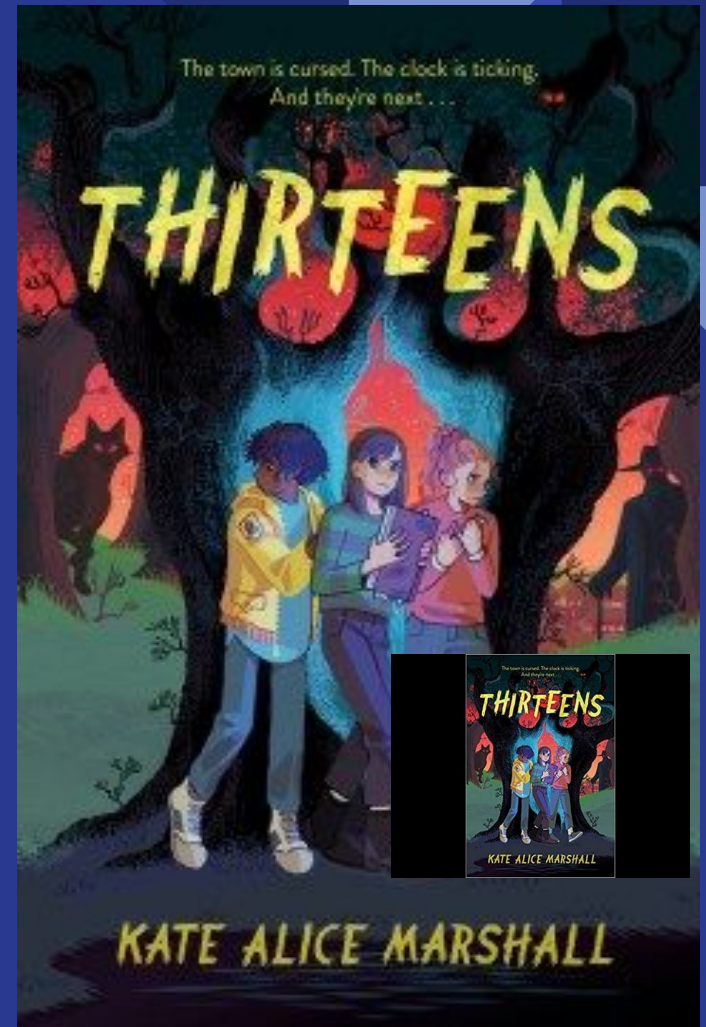
*Mrs. Modrow says, "I had to stop reading it before bed! Lunch time... *that works!*"

Thirteens

Kate Alice Marshall

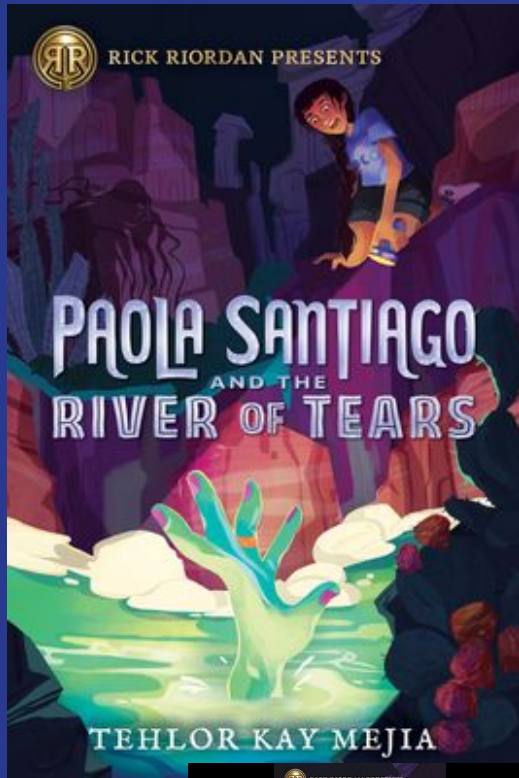
Neil Gaiman's *Coraline* meets *Stranger Things* in a dark and twisted story about a sleepy town with a dark secret--and the three kids brave enough to uncover it.

"Eleanor has just moved to the quiet, prosperous Eden Eld. When she awakes to discover an ancient grandfather clock that she's never seen before her new room, she's sure her eyes must be playing tricks on her. But then she spots a large bird, staring at her as she boards the school bus. And a black dog with glowing red eyes follows her around town. All she wants is to be normal, and these are far from normal. And worse--no one else can see them. Except for her new friends, Pip and Otto, who teach her a thing or two about surviving in Eden Eld. First: Don't let the 'wrong things' know you can see them. Second: Don't speak of the wrong things to anyone else. The only other clue they have about these supernatural disturbances is a book of fairytales unlike any they've read before. It tells tales of the mysterious Mr. January, who struck a cursed deal with the town's founders. Every thirteenth Halloween, he will take three of their children, who are never heard from again. It's up to our trio to break the curse--because Eden Eld's thirteen years are up. And Eleanor, Pip, and Otto are marked as his next sacrifice"--Jacket flap.



Paola Santiago and the River of Tears

Tehlor Kay Mejia

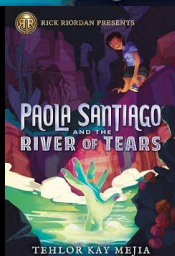


Space-obsessed 12-year-old Paola Santiago and her two best friends, Emma and Dante, know the rule: Stay away from the river. It's all they've heard since a schoolmate of theirs drowned a year ago. Pao is embarrassed to admit that she has been told to stay away for even longer than that, because her mother is constantly warning her about La Llorona, the wailing ghost woman who wanders the banks of the Gila at night, looking for young people to drag into its murky depths.

Hating her mother's humiliating superstitions and knowing that she and her friends would never venture into the water, Pao organizes a meet-up to test out her new telescope near the Gila, since it's the best stargazing spot. But when Emma never arrives and Pao sees a shadowy figure in the reeds, it seems like maybe her mom was right.

...

Pao has always relied on hard science to make sense of the world, but to find her friend she will have to enter the world of her nightmares, which includes unnatural mist, mind-bending monsters, and relentless spirits controlled by a terrifying force that defies both logic and legend.

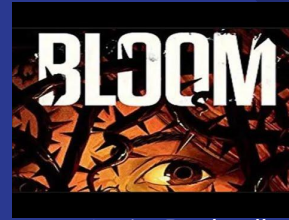


Bloom Kenneth Oppel

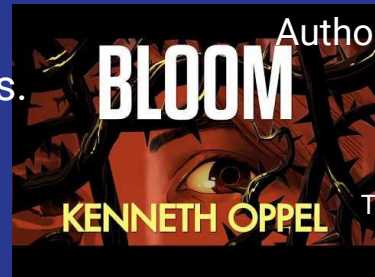
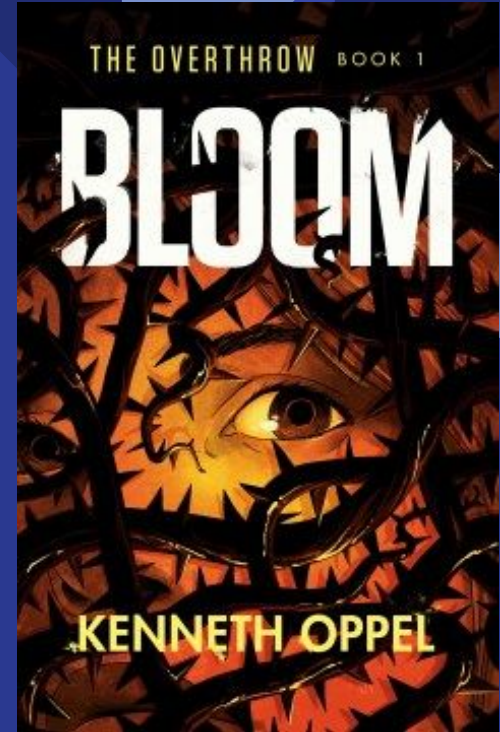
The first book in a can't-put-it-down, can't-read-it-fast-enough action-thriller trilogy that's part Hatchet, part Alien...

The invasion begins--but not as you'd expect. It begins with rain. Rain that carries seeds. Seeds that sprout--overnight, everywhere. These new plants take over crop fields, twine up houses, and burrow below streets. They bloom--and release toxic pollens. They bloom--and form Venus flytrap-like pods that swallow animals and people. They bloom--everywhere, unstoppable.

Or are they? Three kids on a remote island seem immune to the toxic plants. Anaya, Petra, Seth. They each have strange allergies--and yet not to these plants. What's their secret? Can they somehow be the key to beating back this invasion? They'd better figure it out fast, because it's starting to rain again....



1 min. Book talk

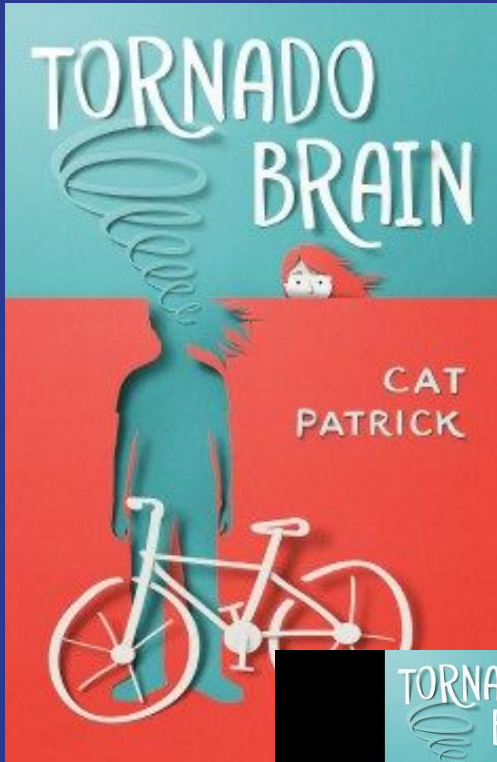


Author of *This Dark Endeavor* and *The Boundless*

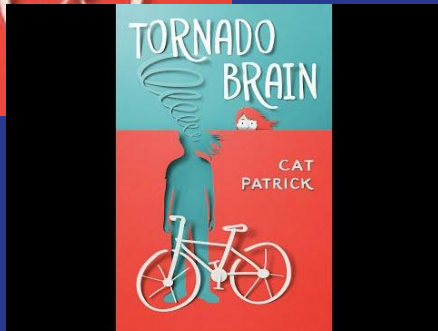
This trailer isn't very descriptive.

Tornado Brain

Cat Patrick



Things never seem to go as easily for thirteen-year-old Frankie as they do for her twin sister, Tess. Unlike Tess, Frankie is neurodivergent, with diagnoses of ADHD and autism spectrum and attention processing disorders. Frankie can't stand to be touched, loud noises bother her, she's easily distracted, she hates changes in her routine, and she has to go see a therapist while other kids get to hang out at the beach. It also means Frankie has trouble making friends. She did have one--Colette--but they're not friends anymore. It's complicated.

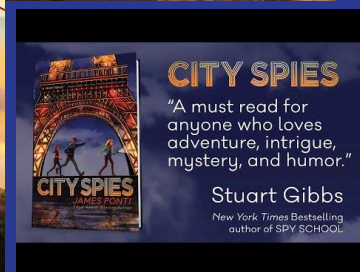
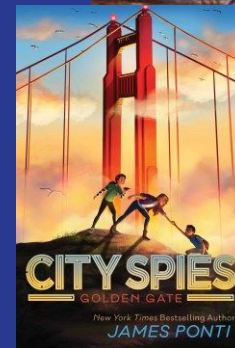
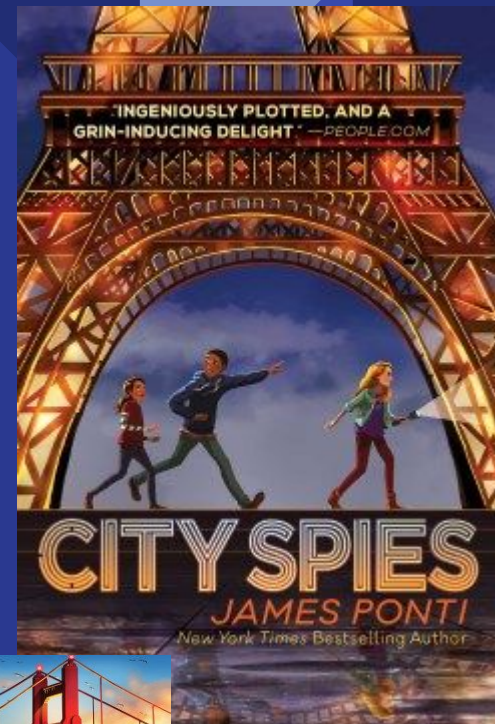


Then, just weeks before the end of seventh grade, Colette unexpectedly shows up at Frankie's door. The next morning, Colette vanishes. Now, after losing Colette yet again, Frankie's convinced that her former best friend left clues behind that only she can decipher, so she persuades her reluctant sister to help her unravel the mystery of Colette's disappearance before it's too late.

City Spies James Ponti

"Sara Martinez is facing years in the juvenile detention system for hacking into the foster care computer system to prove that her foster parents are crooks. But then she gets a second chance when a mysterious man offers her a chance to join a group of MI6 affiliated spies."

In this action-packed spy novel, 12-year-old Sara Martinez, who is Latinx, faces juvenile detention for hacking into New York City's juvenile justice computer system to reveal her foster parents' misdeeds and cruelties. When a mysterious man who calls himself "Mother" appears, posing as her attorney, he persuades the judge to release Sara into his custody, then gives her an option: attend a U.K. boarding school or join the Secret Intelligence Service. Within a few short days, Sara is being trained for a secret mission with one of Britain's most elite group of spies—all of whom are under the age of 16. Now, Sara uses her impressive knowledge of computers to stop a villain who is planning an attack at a youth environmental summit in Paris. Plotted with an enjoyable amount of suspense, Ponti's story features a well-drawn cast of kids from around the world forming a chosen family with sibling-like dynamics. A page-turner suited to even the most reluctant readers. Ages 8-12. Agent: Rosemary Stimola, Stimola Literary Studio.



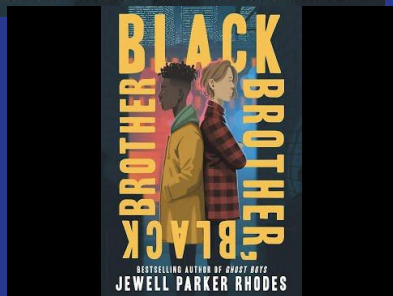
Black Brother, Black Brother

Jewell Parker Rhodes

From award-winning and bestselling author, Jewell Parker Rhodes comes a powerful coming-of-age story about two brothers, one who presents as white, the other as black, and the complex ways in which they are forced to navigate the world, all while training for a fencing competition.

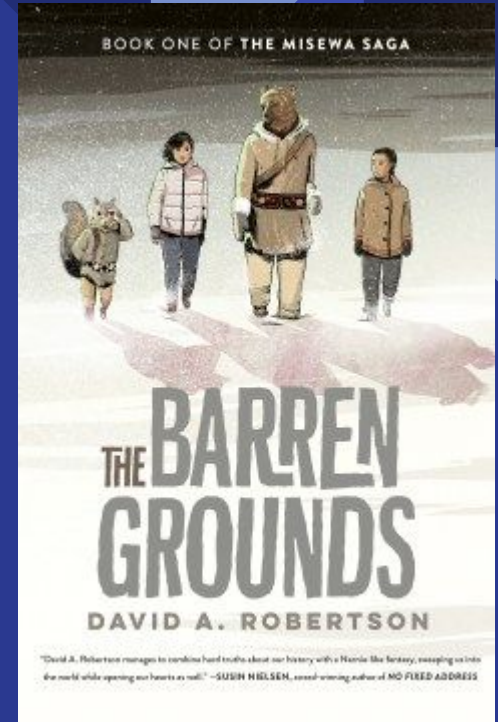
Donte wishes he were invisible. As one of the few black boys at Middlefield Prep, he feels as if he is constantly swimming in whiteness. Most of the students don't look like him. They don't like him either. Dubbed the "Black Brother," Donte's teachers and classmates make it clear they wish he were more like his lighter skinned brother, Trey. Quiet, obedient.

When an incident with "King" Alan leads to Donte's arrest and suspension, he knows the only way to get even is to beat the king of the school at his own game: fencing. With the help of a former Olympic fencer, Donte embarks on a journey to carve out a spot on Middlefield Prep's fencing team and maybe learn something about himself along the way.



The Barren Grounds David A. Robertson

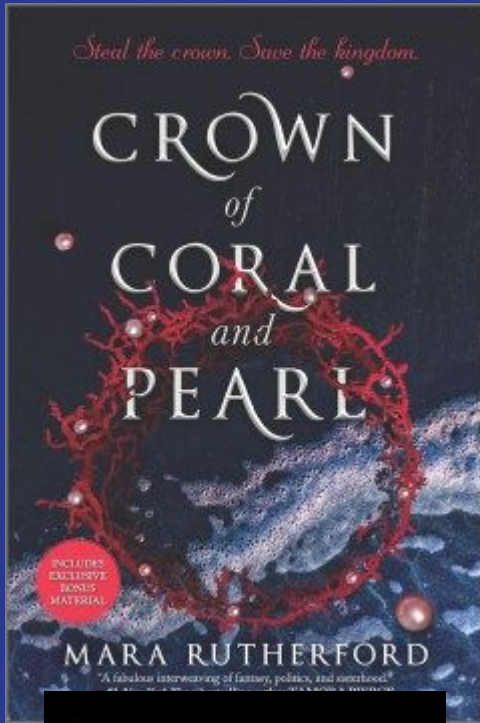
"Morgan and Eli, two Indigenous children forced away from their families and communities, are brought together in a foster home in Winnipeg, Manitoba. They each feel disconnected, from their culture and each other, and struggle to fit in at school and at their new home--until they find a secret place, walled off in an unfinished attic bedroom. A portal opens to another reality, Aski, bringing them onto frozen, barren grounds, where they meet Ochek (Fisher). The only hunter supporting his starving community, Misewa, Ochek welcomes the human children, teaching them traditional ways to survive. But as the need for food becomes desperate, they embark on a dangerous mission. Accompanied by Arik, a sassy Squirrel they catch stealing from the trapline, they try to save Misewa before the icy grip of winter freezes everything--including them"--Provided by publisher.



Haven't found a good trailer yet.

Crown of Coral and Pearl

Mara Rutherford



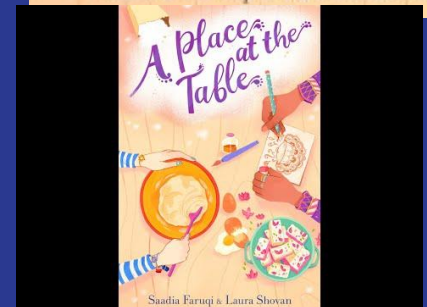
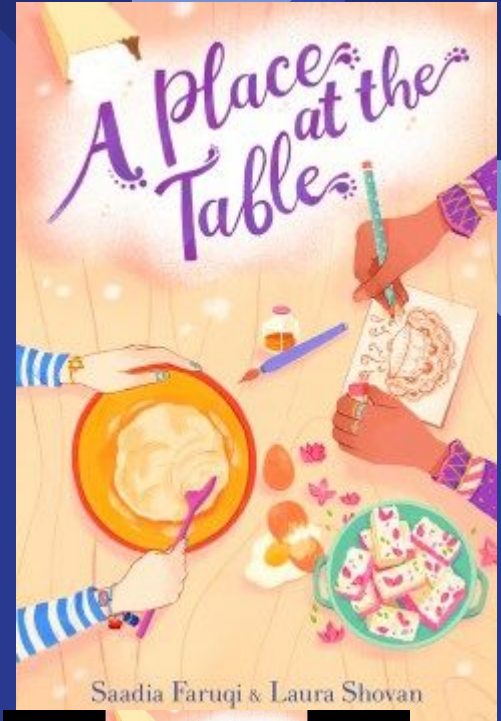
Twin sisters Zadie and Nor, from the fishing village of Varenia, are the latest in a long line of beautiful girls intended to marry the prince of the kingdom of Ilara. It's a fierce competition, as any small imperfection in looks could cause one daughter to be passed over for another. When Zadie is chosen, Nor is both relieved and sad: she never wanted to be the tribute, but she will never see her sister again. But Zadie is determined to stay in Varenia and marry her true love; she deliberately injures herself, causing the elders of the village to send Nor to the prince in her place. Prince Ceren is cruel and murderous, and Nor finds herself drawn much more to his older brother, Talin. The pace of this fantasy is slow but steady, easily weaving together the backdrop of the village and the story of the twins. The ending hints at the possibility of a sequel, and there's enough romance, mystery, and suspense here to intrigue readers of all kinds.

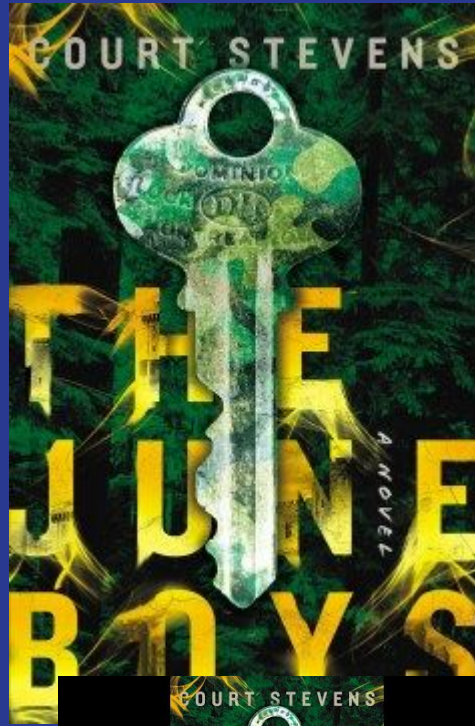


A Place at the Table

Laura and Saadia Faruqi Shovan

A timely, accessible, and beautifully written story exploring themes of food, friendship, family and what it means to belong, featuring sixth graders Sara, a Pakistani American, and Elizabeth, a white, Jewish girl taking a South Asian cooking class taught by Sara's mom. Sixth graders Sara and Elizabeth could not be more different. Sara is at a new school that is completely unlike the small Islamic school she used to attend. Elizabeth has her own problems: her British mum has been struggling with depression. The girls meet in an after-school South Asian cooking class, which Elizabeth takes because her mom has stopped cooking, and which Sara, who hates to cook, is forced to attend because her mother is the teacher. The girls form a shaky alliance that gradually deepens, and they make plans to create the most amazing, mouth-watering cross-cultural dish together and win a spot on a local food show. They make good cooking partners . . . but can they learn to trust each other enough to become true friends?

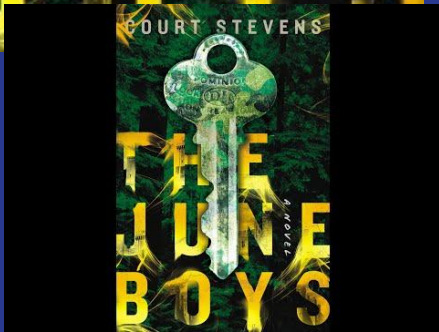




The June Boys

Court Stevens

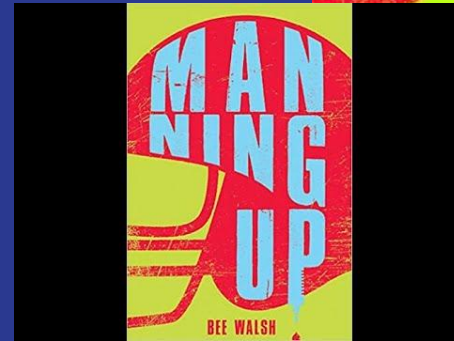
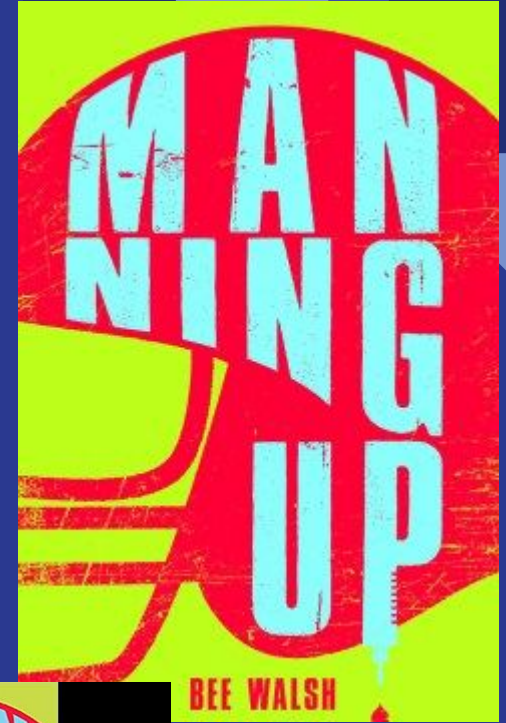
The hunt for a serial kidnapper in Tennessee intensifies when one captive is discovered dead. For almost 10 years, the Gemini Thief periodically abducts three boys in June and keeps them captive but unharmed for a full year. Thea Delacroix suspects, though, that there was a fourth abductee in the latest cycle of June Boys-her cousin Aulus, who mysteriously disappeared around the same time. Thea, along with her boyfriend Nick and friends Tank and Gladys, have spent the last year combing through evidence in their quest to find her cousin and identify the kidnapper.



Manning Up

Bee Walsh

Jack is at the top of his game. He's a senior running back on the football team, dominating every opponent in his way. To everyone else, Jack is totally in control. In reality, he struggles with an eating disorder that controls every aspect of his daily life. When Jack starts using steroids, he feels invincible, but will the steroids help him win the big game, or will he lose everything he's ever worked for?



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