

Teenreads.com Best Books of 2008

Stand-Alone Titles

AFTER TUPAC & D FOSTER (JUV WOO)

Jacqueline Woodson

The day D Foster enters Neeka and her best friend's lives, the world opens up for them. D comes from a world vastly different from their safe Queens neighborhood, and through her, the girls see another side of life that includes loss, foster families and an amount of freedom that makes the girls envious. Although all of them are crazy about Tupac Shakur's rap music, D is the one who truly understands the place where he's coming from, and through knowing D, Tupac's lyrics become more personal for all of them. The girls are 13 when D's mom swoops in to reclaim D --- and as magically as she appeared, she now disappears from their lives. Tupac is gone, too, after a fatal shooting. As the narrator looks back, she sees lives suspended in time and realizes that even all-too-brief connections can touch deeply.

AIRHEAD (YA CAB)

Meg Cabot

Emerson Watts didn't even want to go to the new SoHo Stark Megastore grand opening. But someone needed to look out for her sister Frida, whose crush, British heartthrob Gabriel Luna, would be singing and signing autographs there --- along with the newly appointed Face of Stark, teen supermodel sensation Nikki Howard.

How was Em to know that disaster would strike, changing her --- and life as she'd known it --- forever? One devastating accident later, and Em Watts, always the tomboy, never the party princess, is no longer herself. Literally. Now getting her best friend Christopher to notice that she's actually a girl is the least of Em's problems.

APPETITE FOR DETENTION

written by Sloane Tanen; photographed by Stefan Hagen

Following the success of Sloane Tanen's adult books comes a title aimed directly at teens. From back-to-school anxiety and chick cliques to gym class, teachers and other eye-rolling icons of school life, these photographic scenes of the teen experience are as ingenious as they are hilarious. Specifically concerned with the trials and tribulations of high school and teendom, APPETITE FOR DETENTION will have teens everywhere (and more than a few adults) laughing with recognition.

BLACK RABBIT SUMMER (YA BRO)

Kevin Brooks

Thoughtful Pete, tough Pauly, twins Eric and Nicole, strange Raymond: As kids they were tight; now they've grown up- --- and apart. They agree to get together one last time. But, twisted by personal histories and fueled by pharmaceuticals, old jealousies surface. The party is soon over, and the group splinters off into the night. Into the noise and heat and chaos of the carnival. Days later, a girl goes missing. The prime suspect in her disappearance? One of their own, one of the old gang. Pete doesn't know what to believe: Could one of his childhood friends really be a cold-blooded killer?

THE BOXER AND THE SPY (YA PAR)

Robert B. Parker

When a shy high school student's body is found washed up on the shore of a quiet New England beach town --- an apparent suicide -- 15-year-old Terry Novak doesn't know what to think. Something just doesn't add up, so he decides to do some investigating of his own with the help of his best friend, Abby. It doesn't take long before they learn that asking questions puts them in grave danger, and surviving is going to be a fight. Fortunately, Terry has been learning a thing or two about fighting, thanks to a retired boxer named George, who teaches the boy to use his head and always keep his feet set beneath him --- lessons Terry takes to heart in more ways than one.

CHAINS (JUV AND)

Laurie Ralse Anderson

As the Revolutionary War begins, 13-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.

CRUEL SUMMER

Alyson Noel

Having recently discarded her dorky image --- and the best friend that went with it --- Colby Cavendish is looking forward to a long hot season of parties, beach barbeques, and hopefully, more hookups with Levi Bonham, the hottest guy in school. But her world comes crashing down when her parents send her away to spend the summer in Greece with her crazy aunt Tally. Stranded on a boring island with no malls, no cell phone reception and an aunt who talks to her plants, Colby worries that her new friends have forgotten all about her. But when she meets Yannis, a cute Greek local, everything changes. She experiences something deeper and more intense than a summer fling, and it forces her to see herself --- and the life she left behind --- in a whole new way.

THE DISREPUTABLE HISTORY OF FRANKIE LANDAU-BANKS (YA LOC)

E. Lockhart

Frankie Landau-Banks at age 14: Debate Club. Her father's "bunny rabbit." A mildly geeky girl attending a highly competitive boarding school.

Frankie Landau-Banks at age 15: A knockout figure. A sharp tongue. A chip on her shoulder. And a gorgeous new senior boyfriend: the supremely goofy, word-obsessed Matthew Livingston.

Frankie Landau-Banks. No longer the kind of girl to take "no" for an answer. Especially when "no" means she's excluded from her boyfriend's all-male secret society. Not when her ex-boyfriend shows up in the strangest of places. Not when she knows she's smarter than any of them. When she knows Matthew is lying to her. And when there are so many pranks to be done.

Frankie Landau-Banks at age 16: Possibly a criminal mastermind.

This is the story of how she got that way.

THE GRAVEYARD BOOK (JUV GAI)

Neil Gaiman

Bod is an unusual boy who inhabits an unusual place --- he's the only living resident of a graveyard. Raised from infancy by the ghosts, werewolves and other cemetery denizens, Bod has learned the antiquated customs of his guardians' time as well as their timely ghostly teachings --- like the ability to Fade. Can a boy raised by ghosts face the wonders and terrors of the worlds of both the living and the dead? And then there are things like ghouls that aren't really one thing or the other.

HOW TO BE BAD (YA LOC)

E. Lockhart, Sarah Mlynowski and Lauren Myracle

Three girls who couldn't be more different have one goal in mind: to get out of Niceville, Florida. Vicks is the wild-child fry cook whose boyfriend left for college and isn't returning any of her calls; Mel, the good girl in expensive jeans who just wants everyone to like her; and Jesse, the trailer-dwelling human morality meter who has discovered a life-altering secret.

From three critically acclaimed and bestselling authors comes one story ---- equal parts charming, hilarious and emotional --- of a road trip that proves that sometimes it doesn't matter where you're going, since getting there is half the fun.

IDENTICAL

Ellen Hopkins

Kaeleigh and Raeanne are identical down to the dimple. As daughters of a district-court judge father and a politician mother, they are an all-American family --- on the surface. Behind the facade each sister has her own dark secret, and that's where their differences begin.

For Kaeleigh, she's the misplaced focus of Daddy's love, intended for a mother whose presence on the campaign trail means absence at home. All that Raeanne sees is Daddy playing a game of favorites --- and she is losing. If she has to lose, she will do it on her own terms, so she chooses drugs, alcohol and sex.

Secrets like the ones the twins are harboring are not meant to be kept --- from each other or anyone else. Pretty soon it's obvious that neither sister can handle it alone, and one sister must step up to save the other. But the question is, who?

KENDRA

Coe Booth

Kendra's mom was only 14 when she had Kendra. Then she left Kendra with Kendra's grandmother and went on with her life. Now Kendra is 14, and her grandmother wants her mother to start acting like a mother --- especially when Kendra starts getting in trouble with boys. Kendra isn't sure she has anything to say to her mom --- not after all these years. But when her trouble turns serious, where else can she turn?

LETTERS TO A BULLIED GIRL: Messages of Healing and Hope (YA 302.34 GAR)

Olivia Gardner, with Emily and Sarah Buder; Foreword by Barbara Coloroso

Olivia Gardner, a northern California teenager, was severely taunted and cyber-bullied by her classmates for more than two years. News of her bullying spread, eventually reaching two teenage girls from a neighboring town, sisters Emily and Sarah Buder. The girls were so moved by Olivia's story that they initiated a letter-writing campaign to help lift her spirits. It was a tender gesture of solidarity that set off an overwhelming chain reaction of support, encouragement and love.

In LETTERS TO A BULLIED GIRL, Olivia and the Buder sisters share an inspiring selection of messages that arrived from across America --- the personal, often painful remembrances of former targets, remorseful bullies and sympathetic bystanders. LETTERS TO A BULLIED GIRL examines our national bullying epidemic from a variety of angles and perspectives, and includes practical guidance from bullying expert Barbara Coloroso, author of THE BULLY, THE BULLIED, AND THE BYSTANDER. Though addressed to Buder, the letters speak to all young people who have been bullied, offer advice and hope to those who suffer, and provide a wake-up call to all who have ever been involved in bullying.

LITTLE BROTHER (YA DOC)

Cory Doctorow

Marcus, a.k.a "w1n5t0n," is only 17 years old, but he figures he already knows how the system works --- and how to work the system. Smart, fast and wise to the ways of the networked world, he has no trouble outwitting his high school's intrusive but clumsy surveillance systems.

But his whole world changes when he and his friends find themselves caught in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco. In the wrong place at the wrong time, Marcus and his crew are apprehended by the Department of Homeland Security and whisked away to a secret prison where they're mercilessly interrogated for days.

When the DHS finally releases them, Marcus discovers that his city has become a police state where every citizen is treated like a potential terrorist. He knows that no one will believe his story, which leaves him only one option: to take down the DHS himself.

LIVING DEAD GIRL (YA SCO)

Elizabeth Scott

When Alice was 10, Ray took her away from her family, her friends --- her life. She learned to give up all power, to endure all pain. She waited for the nightmare to be over.

Now Alice is 15 and Ray still has her, but he speaks more and more of her death. He doesn't know it's what she longs for. She doesn't know he has something more terrifying than death in mind for her.

This is Alice's story. It is one you have never heard, and one you will never, ever forget.

LOCK AND KEY (YA DES)

Sarah Dessen

Ruby knows that the game is up. For the past few months, she's been on her own in the yellow house, managing somehow, knowing that her mother will probably never return. That's how she comes to live with Cora, the sister she hasn't seen in 10 years, and Cora's husband Jamie, whose down-to-earth demeanor makes it hard for Ruby to believe he founded the most popular networking website around. A luxurious house, a fancy private school, a new wardrobe, the promise of college and a future --- it's a dream come true. So why is Ruby wary and defensive? And why is Nate, the boy next door with some secrets of his own, unable to accept the help that Ruby is just learning to give?

MADAPPLE (YA MEL)

Christina Meldrum

Aslaug is an unusual young woman. Her mother has brought her up in near isolation, teaching her about plants and nature and language --- but not about life. Especially not how she came to have her own life, and who her father might be.

When Aslaug's mother dies unexpectedly, everything changes. For Aslaug is a suspect in her mother's death. And the more her story unravels, the more questions unfold. About the nature of Aslaug's birth. About what she should do next. About whether divine miracles have truly happened. And whether, when all other explanations are impossible, they might still happen this very day.



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MARLEY Z AND THE BLOODSTAINED VIOLIN (YA FUS)

Jim Fusilli

Marley Z is a hip, outgoing and confident New York City kid just starting eighth grade. When her best friend is accused of stealing a priceless violin on display at The Juilliard School, Marley steps in to prove her pal's innocence. So begins her mad dash around the city --- from the Metropolitan Museum, to stately doormen buildings, to a violin teacher's artsy brownstone, to her favorite neighborhood Italian restaurant. Suspects and motives appear and vanish, but intrepid Marley won't stop until she has the right answers.

NATION (YA PRA)

Terry Pratchett

Mau is the only one left after a giant wave sweeps his island village away. But when much is taken, something is returned, and somewhere in the jungle, Daphne --- a girl from the other side of the globe --- is the sole survivor of a ship destroyed by the same wave. Together the two confront the aftermath of catastrophe. Drawn by the smoke of Mau and Daphne's sheltering fire, other refugees slowly arrive: children without parents, mothers without babies, husbands without wives --- all of them hungry and all of them frightened. As Mau and Daphne struggle to keep the small band safe and fed, they defy ancestral spirits, challenge death himself and uncover a long-hidden secret that literally turns the world upside down.

NICK OF TIME: An Adventure Through Time (YA BEL)

Ted Bell

The setting is England, 1939, on the eve of war. Nick and his younger sister, Kate, live in a lighthouse on the smallest of the Channel Islands. Nick and Kate come to the aid of their father who is engaged in a desperate war of espionage with German U-boat wolf packs that are circling the islands. The information they provide to Winston Churchill is vital as he tries to warn England of the imminent Nazi invasion.

One day Nick discovers an old sea chest, left for him by his ancestor, Captain Nicholas McIver of the Royal Navy. Inside, he finds a time machine and a desperate plea for help from the captain. He uses the machine to return to the year 1805. Captain McIver and, indeed, Admiral Nelson's entire fleet are threatened by the treachery of the French and the mutinous Captain Billy Blood. Nick must reach deep inside, using his wits, courage and daring to rescue the imperiled British sailors.

PAPER TOWNS

John Green

When Margo Roth Spiegelman beckons Quentin Jacobsen in the middle of the night --- dressed like a ninja and plotting an ingenious campaign of revenge --- he follows her. Margo has always planned extravagantly, and, until now, she has always planned solo. After a lifetime of loving Margo from afar, things are finally looking up for Q...until day breaks and she has vanished. Always an enigma, Margo has now become a mystery. But there are clues. And they're for Q.

RUNEMARKS (JUV HAR)

Joanne Harris

Seven o'clock on a Monday morning, five hundred years after the end of the world, and goblins had been at the cellar again.... Not that anyone would admit it was goblins. In Maddy Smith's world, order rules. Chaos, old gods, fairies, goblins, magic, glamours --- all of these were supposedly vanquished centuries ago. But Maddy knows that a small bit of magic has survived. The "ruinmark" she was born with on her palm proves it --- and makes the other villagers fearful that she is a witch (though helpful in dealing with the goblins-in-the-cellar problem). But the mysterious traveler One-Eye sees Maddy's mark not as a defect, but as a destiny. And Maddy will need every scrap of forbidden magic One-Eye can teach her if she is to survive that destiny.

SUNRISE OVER FALLUJAH (YA MYE)

Walter Dean Myers

In his new novel, Walter Dean Myers looks at the Iraq War with the same power and searing insight he brought to the Vietnam War in *FALLEN ANGELS*. His cast of memorable characters includes the book's narrator, Birdy, a young recruit from Harlem who's questioning why he even enlisted; Marla, a blond, tough-talking, wisecracking gunner; and Jonesy, a guitar-playing bluesman who just wants to make it back to Georgia and open a club. They, and a whole unit of other young men and women, are supposed to help secure and stabilize Iraq and successfully interact with the Iraqi people.



THE TALES OF BEEDLE THE BARD (JUV ROW)

J.K. Rowling

THE TALES OF BEEDLE THE BARD, a Wizarding classic, first came to Muggle readers' attention in the book known as HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS. Now, thanks to Hermione Granger's new translation from the ancient runes, the Children's High Level Group, in association with Arthur A. Levine Books, presents a stunning edition with an introduction, notes and illustrations by J.K. Rowling, and extensive commentary by Albus Dumbledore. Never before have Muggles been privy to these richly imaginative tales: "The Wizard and the Hopping Pot," "The Fountain of Fair Fortune," "The Warlock's Hairy Heart," "Babbitty Rabbitty and Her Cackling Stump," and of course, "The Tale of the Three Brothers." But not only are they the equal of fairy tales we now know and love, reading them gives new insight into the world of Harry Potter.

WHAT I SAW AND HOW I LIED (YA BLU)

Judy Blundell

When Evie's father returned home from World War II, the family fell back into its normal life pretty quickly. But Joe Spooner brought more back with him than just good war stories. When movie-star handsome Peter Coleridge, a young ex-GI who served in Joe's company in postwar Austria, shows up, Evie is suddenly caught in a complicated web of lies that she only slowly recognizes. She finds herself falling for Peter, ignoring the secrets that surround him...until a tragedy occurs that shatters her family and breaks her life in two.

Series Books

Daniel X

THE DANGEROUS DAYS OF DANIEL X (YA PAT, YA AUDIOCD FIC PAT, YA AUDIOTP FIC PAT, LP PAT)

James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge

Daniel X's secret abilities --- like being able to manipulate objects and animals with his mind or to recreate himself in any shape he chooses --- have helped him survive. But Daniel doesn't have a normal life. He is the protector of the earth, the Alien Hunter, with a mission beyond what anyone could imagine.

From the day that his parents were brutally murdered in front of his very eyes, Daniel has used his unique gifts to hunt down their assassin. Finally, with the help of The List bequeathed to him in his parents' dying breath, he has located the killer. Now, on his own, he vows to take on his father's mission --- and to have vengeance in the process.

Gossip Girl: The Carlyles

GOSSIP GIRL: THE CARLYLES

Cecily von Ziegesar

Blair Waldorf and Serena van der Woodsen were the reigning princesses of the Upper East Side.

Until now.

In GOSSIP GIRL: THE CARLYLES, the inimitable Gossip Girl introduces the most fabulous 16-year-old triplets to ever inhabit the Upper East Side. When the Waldorfs move from their apartment at the end of DON'T YOU FORGET ABOUT ME, the Carlyle triplets of Nantucket, Massachusetts --- Owen, Baby and Peyton --- move in.

In the new titles of the *Gossip Girl* series, readers will follow the Carlyles, plus three other teenagers living in gorgeous apartments, attending the most exclusive private schools --- the familiar Constance Billard School for Girls and St. Jude's School for Boys --- and treating New York's Upper East Side as their personal playground.

YOU JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH: Gossip Girl: The Carlyles #2 (YA SER GOS)

created by Cecily von Ziegesar

After a whirlwind first week on the Upper East Side, the Carlyles have made their mark on Manhattan's Golden Mile. Owen is new BFFs with Rhys Sterling, but what will happen when they both fall for the same girl? Baby stole resident it girl Jack Laurent's boyfriend...and then Avery stole Jack's popularity. Now Jack is on the warpath, and she wants nothing more than to send the Carlyle girls packing their Louis Vuitton trunks. Is the UES big enough for all their drama?

Series Updates

The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation

THE ASTONISHING LIFE OF OCTAVIAN NOTHING, TRAITOR TO THE NATION, Volume II: The Kingdom on the Waves (YA AND)

M. T. Anderson

Fearing a death sentence, Octavian and his tutor, Dr. Trefusis, escape through rising tides and pouring rain to find shelter in British-occupied Boston. Sundered from all he knows --- the College of Lucidity, the rebel cause --- Octavian hopes to find safe harbor. Instead, he is soon to learn of Lord Dunmore's proclamation offering freedom to slaves who join the counterrevolutionary forces. In Volume II, M. T. Anderson recounts Octavian's experiences as the Revolutionary War explodes around him, thrusting him into intense battles and tantalizing him with elusive visions of liberty.

Blue Bloods

REVELATIONS: A Blue Bloods Novel

Melissa de la Cruz (YA DEL)

Schuyler Van Alen's blood legacy has just been called into question. Is the young vampire in fact a Blue Blood, or is it the sinister Silver Blood that runs through her veins? As controversy swirls, Schuyler is left stranded in the Force household, trapped under the same roof as her cunning nemesis, Mimi Force, and her forbidden crush, Jack Force.

When one of the Gates of Hell is breached by Silver Bloods in Rio de Janeiro, however, the Blue Bloods will need Schuyler on their side. The stakes are high; the battle is bloody; and through it all, Carnavale rages on. And in the end, one vampire's secret identity will be exposed in a revelation that shocks everyone.

Cathy's Book

CATHY'S KEY: If Found Call (650) 266-8202

Cathy was your average high school student --- doodling in the margins of her journal, crushing on a cute boy, and hanging out with her best friend Emma. As this story begins, she's trying to keep a job, her journal is stolen, the cute boy is not who he seems to be, and even Emma's side project/start-up company, Doubletalk Wireless, is about to get caught up in the mystery surrounding Cathy and her search for the truth about her father. Her presumed-dead father.

Circle of Magic

MELTING STONES (YA SER CIR)

Tamora Pierce

Four years have passed since Evvy left the streets of Chammur to begin her training as a stone mage. At 14, she's unhappy to be on a new journey with her mentor, prickly green mage Rosethorn, who has been called to the Battle Islands to determine why the plants and animals there are dying. Evvy's job is to listen and learn, but she can't keep quiet and do nothing. With the help of Luvo, the living stone heart of a mountain, Evvy uncovers an important clue. Now, with the island on the brink of disaster, it's up to Evvy to avert the destruction that looms ahead.

The Clique

BRATFEST AT TIFFANY'S: The Clique #9 (YA SER CLI)

Lisi Harrison

The Briarwood boys have invaded OCD and are taking over everything. Worse, the soccer boys have become so popular that the Pretty Committee's alpha status is in serious jeopardy. So Massie lays out a New Year-New Pretty Committee rule: Anyone caught crushing on a boy will be thrown out of the NPC --- forever. But will she be able to follow her own decree when she sees that Derrington has ditched his shorts-obsession in favor of ah-dorable jeans?

Confessions of Georgia Nicolson

STOP IN THE NAME OF PANTS!: Confessions of Georgia Nicolson #9 (YA REN)

Louise Rennison

Three maybe-boyfriends is a lot for any girl to handle --- red-bottomed or not. Robbie the Sex God is back from Kiwi-a-gogo land wanting to "get coffee", Masimo the Luurve God says things like "*Ciao*, Georgia, see you later" and her mate Dave the Laugh snogs her in a pond. It's enough to make any girl mad. Now that she has tearfully eschewed Robbie the Sex God with a firm hand, Georgia is left with two potential snogs to choose from, and it's high time she left the cakeshop of love for good. This time with a gorgeously Italian cikey. Or a ni-libbling Dave the Tart. But certainly not both. Maybe.



The Demonata

DEMON APOCALYPSE: The Demonata, Book 6 (JUV SER DEM)

Darren Shan

One boy's life ripped to shreds before his eyes...

One wrathful demon master hell-bent on revenge...

An army of grisly Demonata on the rampage...

It's the end of the world as we know it.

The sixth novel in the chilling *Demonata* series by Darren Shan, author of the *New York Times* bestselling *Cirque Du Freak* series, will terrify readers long after the last page.

DEATH'S SHADOW: The Demonata #7

Darren Shan

With Beranabus, Grubbs and Kernel go off exploring the universe of the Demonata for clues about the Shadow behind the demon invasion, Bec is left behind in Carcery Vale for safekeeping. But with Dervish's health on the decline, Lord Loss knows she's the most vulnerable piece of the Kah-Gash. As hoards of demons, werewolves and zombies advance, Bec needs to figure how to reach Beranabus with crucial information about the Shadow-fast.

Gemma Doyle Trilogy

THE SWEET FAR THING (YA BRA)

Libba Bray

It has been a year of change since Gemma Doyle arrived at the foreboding Spence Academy. Her mother murdered and her father a laudanum addict, Gemma has relied on an unsuspected strength and has discovered an ability to travel to an enchanted world called the realms, where dark magic runs wild. Despite certain peril, Gemma has bound the magic to herself and forged unlikely new alliances. Now, as Gemma approaches her London debut, the time has come to test these bonds.

The Order --- the mysterious group her mother was once part of --- is grappling for control of the realms, as is the Rakshana. Spence's burned East Wing is being rebuilt, but why now? Gemma and her friends see Pippa, but she is not the same. And their friendship faces its gravest trial as Gemma must decide once and for all what role she is meant for.

The Inheritance Cycle

BRISINGR: Inheritance, Book III (YA PAO, YA AUDIO PAO)

Christopher Paolini

Following the colossal battle against the Empire's warriors on the Burning Plains, Eragon and his dragon, Saphira, have narrowly escaped with their lives. Still there is more at hand for the Rider and his dragon, as Eragon finds himself bound by a tangle of promises he may not be able to keep.

First is Eragon's oath to his cousin Roran: to help rescue Roran's beloved, Katrina, from King Galbatorix's clutches. But Eragon owes his loyalty to others, too. The Varden are in desperate need of his talents and strength --- as are the elves and dwarves. When unrest claims the rebels and danger strikes from every corner, Eragon must make choices --- choices that take him across the Empire and beyond, choices that may lead to unimagined sacrifice.

Eragon is the greatest hope to rid the land of tyranny. Can this once-simple farm boy unite the rebel forces and defeat the king?

Lily Dale

LILY DALE: BELIEVING

Wendy Corsi Staub

After her tumultuous summer in Lily Dale, Calla has decided to stay, hoping to unearth more about her mother's untimely death. As she starts school at Lily Dale High and begins to explore her relationships with Jacy and Blue, her visions begin to occur with greater urgency. There may be a killer on the loose, and he may be after Calla for her role in solving his first victim's disappearance. Now that Calla believes in her ability, can she learn to use it properly before it leads her into more danger?

LILY DALE: CONNECTING

Wendy Corsi Staub

Now that Calla has accepted her ability to communicate with the Other Side, she's desperate to connect with the one spirit whose energy she can't seem to feel anywhere: her late mother. As ominous supernatural signs imply that the devastating loss might not have been an accident, Calla sets out to uncover the truth, convinced that a shadowy stranger may hold the key. But she gets more than she bargained for when she stumbles across a shocking secret about her mom's past --- one that will change Calla's own future forever.



Maximum Ride

MAXIMUM RIDE #4: THE FINAL WARNING (YA SER PAT)

James Patterson

Maximum Ride is a perfectly normal teenager who just happens to be able to fly: the result of an out-of-control government experiment. Max and the other members of the Flock --- six kids who share her remarkable ability --- have been asked to aid a group of environmental scientists studying the causes of global warming. Their ability to fly could help the scientists conquer this epic problem. The expedition seems like a perfect combination of adventure, activism --- and escaping government forces who watch the Flock like a hawk. But even in Antarctica, trapped in the harshest weather on our planet, Maximum Ride is an irresistible target in constant danger. For whoever controls her powers could also control the world...

The Princess Diaries

PRINCESS MIA: The Princess Diaries, Volume IX (YA SER PRI)

Meg Cabot

Mia has been invited to speak at a gala for Domina Rei, an elite society of powerful businesswomen. But what could she possibly have to say? Now that Michael has broken things off, Mia can barely get out of bed, and her parents are making her see a *therapist*. School, where Lilly still refuses to speak to her and Lana suddenly wants to be bff, is a total nightmare. Even J.P.'s efforts to cheer Mia up aren't helping. What's a royal to do?

Just when things couldn't get worse, Mia uncovers an old family secret, a long-forgotten diary of a teenage princess of Genovia. It could be just the thing to help Mia write her speech --- but it might also change the fate of the Renaldos forever.

Twilight Saga

BREAKING DAWN (YA MEY, YA BK/CD MEY)

Stephenie Meyer

To be irrevocably in love with a vampire is both fantasy and nightmare woven into a dangerously heightened reality for Bella Swan. Pulled in one direction by her intense passion for Edward Cullen, and in another by her profound connection to werewolf Jacob Black, a tumultuous year of temptation, loss and strife have led her to the ultimate turning point. Her imminent choice to either join the dark but seductive world of immortals or to pursue a fully human life has become the thread from which the fates of two tribes hangs.

Now that Bella has made her decision, a startling chain of unprecedented events is about to unfold with potentially devastating, and unfathomable, consequences. Just when the frayed strands of Bella's life --- first discovered in TWILIGHT, then scattered and torn in NEW MOON and ECLIPSE --- seem ready to heal and knit together, could they be destroyed...forever?

Prequel to His Dark Materials Trilogy

ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE NORTH (YA PUL)

Philip Pullman

In this new prequel episode from Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* universe, Lee Scoresby --- Texan aeronaut and future friend to Lyra Belacqua --- is just 24 years old, and he's recently won his hot-air balloon in a poker game. He finds himself floating North to the windswept Arctic island of Novy Odense, where he and his hare daemon Hester are quickly tangled in a deadly plot involving oil magnate Larsen Manganese, corrupt mayoral candidate Ivan Poliakov, and Lee's longtime nemesis from the Dakota Country: Pierre McConville, a hired killer with at least 20 murders to his name.

Sequel to EVIL GENIUS

GENIUS SQUAD (YA JIN)

Catherine Jinks

Now that the Axis Institute for World Domination has been blown up; the founder, Dr. Phineas Darkkon has died; and Prosper English (who enrolled Cadel in the first place) is in jail for myriad offenses, Cadel Piggott has round-the-clock surveillance so he'll be safe until he testifies against Prosper English. But nobody seems to want Cadel.

When he is approached by the head of Genius Squad --- a group formed to investigate GenoME, one of Darkkon's pet projects --- Cadel is dubious. Genius Squad can offer him a real home and all the technology his heart desires. But why can't he bring himself to tell Saul what the group is really up to? And how can Genius Squad protect Cadel once Prosper English breaks out of jail?



Sequel to THE LUXE

RUMORS: A Luxe Novel (YA GOD)

Anna Godbersen

After bidding goodbye to New York's brightest star, Elizabeth Holland, rumors continue to fly about her untimely demise. All eyes are on those closest to the dearly departed: her mischievous sister, Diana, now the family's only hope for redemption; Henry Schoonmaker, the flame Elizabeth never extinguished; the seductive Penelope Hayes, poised to claim all that her best friend left behind --- including Henry; even Elizabeth's scheming former maid, Lina Broud, who discovers that while money matters and breeding counts, gossip is the new currency. As old friends become rivals, Manhattan's most dazzling socialites find their futures threatened by whispers from the past.

Graphic Novels/Manga

CORALINE: The Graphic Novel

written by Neil Gaiman

When Coraline steps through a door in her family's new house, she finds another house, strangely similar to her own (only better). At first, things seem marvelous. But there's another mother there and another father, and they want her to stay and be their little girl. They want to change her and never let her go. Coraline will have to fight with all her wit and all the tools she can find if she is to save herself and return to her ordinary life.

This beloved tale has now become a visual feast. Acclaimed artist P. Craig Russell brings Neil Gaiman's enchanting nationally bestselling children's book CORALINE to new life in this gorgeously illustrated graphic novel adaptation.

THE GOOD NEIGHBORS, Book One: Kin

Holly Black and Ted Naifeh

Rue Silver's life isn't at all what it appears to be; her mother has disappeared --- and her father is being blamed for her murder. Is he guilty, or is there another truth behind it all? Rue digs deeper into her family's past and makes a startling discovery: her mother is a faerie, and she's vanished back into the faerie realm because of a broken promise. In order to save her, Rue must defeat a dark faerie --- who threatens our very mortal world.

IN ODD WE TRUST

Queenie Chan and Dean Koontz

Odd Thomas is a regular 19-year-old with an unusual gift: the ability to see the lingering spirits of the dead. To Odd, it's not such a big deal. And most folks in sleepy Pico Mundo, California, are much more interested in the irresistible pancakes Odd whips up at the local diner. Still, communing with the dead can be useful. Because while some spirits only want a little company, others want justice. When the sad specter of a very frightened boy finds its way to him, Odd vows to root out the evil suddenly infecting the sunny streets of Pico Mundo. But even with his exceptional ability --- plus the local police and his pistol-packing girlfriend, Stormy, backing him --- is Odd any match for a faceless stalker who's always a step ahead...and determined to kill again?

LIFE SUCKS

Jessica Abel, Gabe Soria and Warren Pleece

Life sucks for Dave Marshall. The girl he's in love with doesn't know he exists, he hates his job, and ever since his boss turned him into a vampire, he can't go out in daylight without starting to charbroil. Undead life in its uncoolest incarnation yet is on display in this cinematic, supernatural drama told with gallons of humor and hemoglobin. In striking, colorful, B-movie style artwork and light-hearted, intelligent writing by Jessica Abel, Gabe Soria and Warren Pleece, Dave Marshall's story comes alive --- in a vampiric kind of way.

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Gareth Hinds

Here is the tale of young Bassanio, who, to win the love of fair Portia, entangles his dearest friend, Antonio, in a dangerous bargain with the moneylender Shylock. Only Bassanio's heartfelt efforts --- and a clever intervention by Portia --- will save Antonio from paying Shylock "a pound of flesh." Moody and mesmerizing, this graphic novel adaptation of one of Shakespeare's more controversial plays boasts a chic modern cast, high drama, and all the dark, familiar beauty of Venice.

Source: Teenreads.com <http://www.teenreads.com/features/2008_best_books.asp> 1/6/09

RAPUNZEL'S REVENGE (JUV 741.5 HAL)

written by Shannon Hale and Dean Hale; illustrated by Nathan Hale

Newbery Honor-winning author Shannon Hale teams up with husband Dean Hale and brilliant artist Nathan Hale (no relation) to bring readers a swashbuckling and hilarious twist on the classic story as you've never seen it before. Watch as Rapunzel and her amazing hair team up with Jack (of beanstalk fame) to gallop around the wild and western landscape, changing lives, righting wrongs, and bringing joy to every soul they encounter.

SKIM (YA 741.5 TAM)

words by Mariko Tamaki drawings by Jillian Tamaki

The time is the early 1990s, the setting a girls' academy in Toronto. Enter "Skim," aka Kimberly Keiko Cameron, a not-slim, would-be Wiccan goth. When her classmate Katie Matthews is dumped by her boyfriend, who then kills himself, the entire school goes into mourning overdrive. It's a weird time to fall in love, but Skim does just that after secret meetings with her neo-hippie English teacher, Ms. Archer. When Ms. Archer abruptly leaves the school, Skim has to cope with her confusion and isolation, as her best friend, Lisa, tries to pull her into "real" life by setting up a hilarious double date for the school's semi-formal. Skim finds an unexpected ally in Katie.