

# BOOKS FOR THE TEEN AGE 2008

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

**About the Cover:**

This year's cover art was inspired by one of technology's latest communication devices.

Each year, The New York Public Library sponsors a citywide competition to design the cover of *Books for the Teen Age*. The cover art for *Books for the Teen Age 2008* was created by Ashley Lagzial, an 11th-grade student who resides in Staten Island and attends the Michael J. Petrides High School.

# WE'VE COME!

**This is the 79th edition of *Books for the Teen Age*. It is a booklist created especially for you, featuring recommendations provided by New York City teens.**

Also included this year are interviews with authors, with questions provided by teen readers. You will find in *Books for the Teen Age* stories of urban teens, classic stories revisited, accounts of phenomenal individuals, graphic novels, as well as books featuring sports, the environment, and the sciences, and books that will assist you in navigating through life.

The books on this list are available at branches of The New York Public Library. Each library has a representative sampling of the books on this list and other books of special interest to teenagers. Many of the titles are available in recorded, Braille, or large-print format from the Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library, 40 West 20th Street. Telephone: 212.206.5400; TTY: 212.206.5458; 24-hour voicemail: 212.206.5458. Email: [ahlbph@nypl.org](mailto:ahlbph@nypl.org).

Because you vary so much in your interests, maturity, and reading ability, these books differ greatly in difficulty and depth. They may be shelved in various places in the Library.

Ask your librarian to help you find a book that meets your interests. Please let your librarian know whether you like it or not. We are interested in your opinions! Write to us at: [teenlink@nypl.org](mailto:teenlink@nypl.org). Your opinions and ideas help us in selecting books and arranging for special events for teens at the Library.

Please visit us online at [teenlink.nypl.org](http://teenlink.nypl.org), where you will find additional booklists, special events for teens, opportunities to publish your poetry, stories and essays online, audio excerpts from young adult books, podcasts featuring local teens, and much more.

Got questions about homework? Check out: [homeworkNYC.org](http://homeworkNYC.org).



Sandra Payne  
Coordinator of Young Adult Services

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- 21 One World
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## The A-List: Adult Novels for Teens

Aciman, André  
**Call Me by Your Name**  
*Farrar, Straus and Giroux*  
 The love of a lifetime in six weeks

Alexie, Sherman  
**Flight**  
*Black Cat*  
 Zits: traveling in time to find himself

Brown, Carrie  
**The Rope Walk**  
*Pantheon*  
 New friendships shake Alice's world



**Book Excerpt**  
 (from *The Rope Walk*, by Carrie Brown)  
 That night, Alice and Theo had made a tent city in her bedroom by spreading sheets over the gap between the beds, and they slept side by side on pillows on the floor in the cool, dark cavern beneath the sheet. Theo's presence beside her, the smell of his bare skin and the warm exhalation of his breath, had filled Alice with sympathy and with contentment. It came to her that he smelled like the inside of the silky cloth pocket of her winter coat. She liked smelling

coat pockets. Archie's were full of the scents of ink and Pep-O-Mint Life Savers, Wally's of tobacco, a smell she did not dislike, though she disapproved of the habit. The pockets of Eli's hunting jacket with the corduroy collar smelled of dirt and something chemical, like gasoline. That Theo's smell reminded her of something of her own gave her a secret thrill, as if he and she were aligned in an important way.

Carter, Betsy  
**Swim to Me**  
*Algonquin*  
 Delores' fresh start as a mermaid

Dean, Margaret Lazarus  
**The Time It Takes to Fall**  
*Simon & Schuster*  
 A space flight disaster, a family crisis

Dolnick, Ben  
**Zoology**  
*Vintage*  
 College flunk-out trying to get a life

Greene, Thomas Christopher  
**Envious Moon**  
*Morrow*  
 An accidental death, a tragic love

Hall, Albyn Leah  
**The Rhythm of the Road**  
*Thomas Dunne*  
 Obsessively following a dream

Hemmings, Kauai Hart  
**The Descendants**  
*Random House*  
 Tragedy, a needy Hawaiian family

Irani, Anosh  
**The Song of Kahunsha**  
*Milkweed*  
 An orphan on the streets of Bombay

Kitano, Takeshi  
**Boy**  
*Vertical*  
 Three stories of growing up Japanese

Lalwani, Nikita  
**Gifted**  
*Random House*  
 Parental pressure to be exceptional

Rapp, Adam  
**The Year of Endless Sorrows**  
*Farrar, Straus and Giroux*  
 Life's ups and downs: NYC in the 90s

Tóibín, Colm  
**Mothers and Sons**  
*Scribner*  
 Stories about a delicate balance of power

**Chick-Lit**  
 Abdel-Fattah, Randa  
**Does My Head Look Big in This?**  
*Orchard*  
 Amal, coming to terms with her mixed heritage

Archer, Lily  
**The Poison Apples**  
*Feiwel & Friends*  
 Cinderella, Rapunzel and Snow White in prep school

Cabot, Meg  
**Jinx**  
*HarperTeen*  
 Good vs evil on the Upper East Side

Conrad, Liza  
**Poker Diaries**  
*NAL Jam*  
 Lulu, Upper East Side princess, moonlighting as a card shark

Easton, Kelly  
**White Magic**  
*Wendy Lamb Books*  
 Three outsiders bonded together

Fredericks, Mariah  
**In the Cards: Love**  
*Aladdin Mix*  
 Hooking a hottie by magical means

Hantz, Sara  
**The Second Virginity of Suzy Green**  
*Flux*  
 When starting over requires changing the past

Kemp, Kristen  
**Breakfast at Bloomingdales**  
*Scholastic*  
 Cat: making it or breaking it in the world of fashion

Kizer, Amber  
**Gert Garibaldi's Rants and Raves: One Butt Cheek at a Time**  
*Delacorte*  
 Seeing herself in the mirror up close and personal

Lane, Dakota  
**The Secret Life of It Girls**  
*Ginnie Seo Books*  
 Life at the top in photos, IMs, diaries and more

Michaels, Jamie  
**Kiss My Book**  
*Delacorte*  
 Ruby, branded a liar

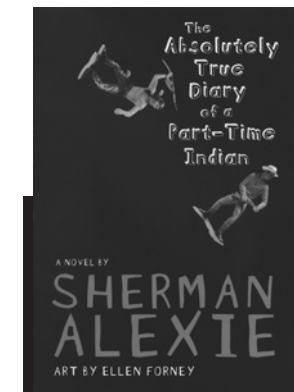
von Ziegesar, Cecily  
**It Had to Be You**  
*Poppy*  
 How all the drama began

Walker, Melissa  
**Violet on the Runway**  
*Berkley Jam*  
 Manhattan's newest "It Girl"

Zindel, Lizabeth  
**Girl of the Moment**  
*Viking*  
 Lily's internship with a high-maintenance starlet

## Dudes, Punks, Playas, Guys, Etc.

Alexie, Sherman  
**The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian**  
*Little, Brown*  
 Arnold, trying to live in two worlds



**Just My Opinion!**  
 (on *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie)

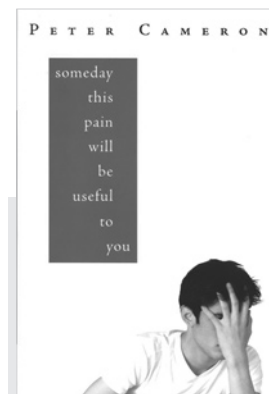
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian is an absolutely great book. Written perfectly from the beginning to the end, this book captivates the reader and leaves you begging for more. From the witty cartoons, to the amazing poetic style of the author, this book has it all. A teenage boy living on a Native American reservation with partial mental retardation seems like a funny background to base a book off of, but it couldn't have been written any better. This boy tells us about his life and just what it's like to be a Native American. He goes at it without relenting, making sure that everything he thought, felt, knew, and went through made it to us without any type of obstacle in the way. This book deserves 5 stars.  
 Teen Reviewer:  
 Sahil Goswami  
 Jefferson Market Library, Manhattan



Anderson, Laurie Halse  
**Twisted**  
Viking  
Tyler, accused of sexual assault

Aronson, Marc and H.P.  
Newquist  
**For Boys Only**  
Feiwel and Friends  
Cool stuff for guys to know

Cameron, Peter  
**Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You**  
Frances Foster Books  
James, running from his family, college and himself



**Book Excerpt**  
(from *Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You*, by Peter Cameron)  
“You should have ordered steak or something,” my father said. “You should never order pasta as a main course. It isn’t manly.”

“I’ll keep that in mind,” I said.

“No, you won’t,” said my father. “And listen, while we’re talking about this, let me ask you something.”

“What?”  
“Are you gay?”  
“What?” I asked. “Why would you ask me that?”  
“Why? Why not? I just

want to know.”

“Why? Do you get to take an extra deduction on your taxes or something?”

“Very funny, James. No. It’s just that we’ve never talked about your sexuality, and if you are gay I want to be properly supportive. It’s fine with me if you’re gay. I just want to know.”

“You wouldn’t be supportive if I were straight?”

“Of course, I would. But not—well, the world supports heterosexuals. It’s the norm. Heterosexuals don’t really need support. But gays do. So I’d have to make a special effort. That’s all I want to know. Should I be making a special effort? Should I not say things about pasta being faggy?”

“I don’t really care what you say,” I said.

Flinn, Alex  
**Beastly**  
HarperTeen  
Kyle, from beautiful to big ‘n’ hairy



**Just My Opinion!**  
(on *Beastly*, by Alex Flinn)

*This book is about a teen who was very mean and this witch puts a curse on him to turn into a beast. He needs to find true love to end the curse. I like this book because it teaches a lesson: “Maybe we judge too much by their looks,*

*because it’s easier than seeing what’s really important.”*  
Teen Reviewer:  
Alma Ascencio  
Fort Washington Library,  
Manhattan

*A truly exceptional and compelling book, I liked its unique and thought-provoking twist on one of my favorite fairy tales, Beauty and the Beast. This book quickly draws us into the life of Kyle Kingsburg, a handsome, but mean-spirited teenager in NYC who is turned into a beast by a witch so that his outer appearance matches his inner nature. It is a must-read and inspiring book, revealing how human kindness and love can conquer all!*

Teen Reviewer:  
Gabrielle Milner  
Kingsbridge Library,  
Bronx

Gorman, Carol  
**Games**  
HarperCollins  
Game-on for two arch-rivals

Ha, Thu-Huong  
**Hail Caesar**  
Push  
A high school empire cracked by a girl

Jenkins, A.M.  
**Repossessed**  
HarperTeen  
Shaun’s body stolen by a demon

Johnson, Peter  
**What Happened**  
Front Street  
3 guys + beer = one dead body

Kraft, Erik P.  
**Miracle Wimp**  
Little, Brown  
Atomic wedgies, woodshop, first dates, first jobs

Lyga, Barry  
**Boy Toy**  
Houghton Mifflin  
Josh, molested by his seventh grade teacher

Paulsen, Gary  
**Lawn Boy**  
Wendy Lamb Books  
A summer job leads to the stock market

Ryan, Patrick  
**Saints of Augustine**  
HarperTeen  
Closeted Sam and stoner Charlie, friends again

Saldaña, René, Jr.  
**The Whole Sky Full of Stars**  
Wendy Lamb Books  
Illegal prizefighting, gambling, friendship

Schmidt, Gary D.  
**Wednesday Wars**  
Clarion  
Vietnam, cream puffs, rats and tights

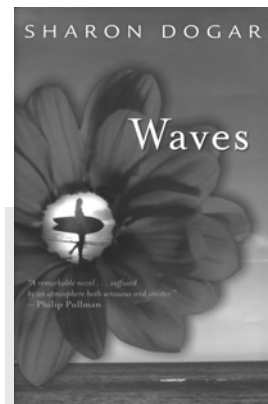
van de Ruit, John  
**Spud**  
Razorbill  
Diary of a stud-to-be

**Dead and Relatively Dead Relatives**

Brooks, Martha  
**Mistik Lake**  
Melanie Kroupa Books  
Odella, searching for family connections

Corrigan, Eireann  
**Ordinary Ghosts**  
Scholastic  
Emil, finding his key to living again

Dogar, Sharon  
**Waves**  
Chicken House  
Charley and Hal connected though comatose



**Book Excerpt**  
(from *Waves*, by Sharon Dogar)

I drag my way through the hot dusty streets all the way to the hospital, but Mum’s already there, sitting by Charley’s bed. She’s talking. She talks as though Charley’s just asleep, not in a coma and definitely not dead. She talks as though the whole world is sitting up, waiting, holding its breath and just waiting for the moment when Charley finally sits herself up, smiles and shakes out her long red hair. Her hair keeps on growing.

How gross is that?

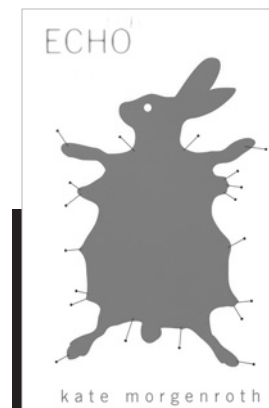
Anyway, I know what Charley would do if she did wake up.

Downham, Jenny  
**Before I Die**  
David Fickling Books  
Finishing a final checklist

Ephron, Delia  
**Frannie in Pieces**  
Laura Geringer Books  
Puzzling out a dad’s final message

Friend, Natasha  
**Bounce**  
Scholastic  
Eryn, reeling from the deaths of her dog and mom

Morgenroth, Kate  
**Echo**  
Simon & Schuster  
Repeating two fateful days



**Just My Opinion!**  
(on *Echo*, by Kate Morgenroth)

*This book is about a boy named Justin and his life after his brother died. He was starting to live in the world of murders and drugs. I like this book because it shows that after his brother died it haunted him for the rest of his life.*

Teen Reviewer:  
Charlotte Etienne  
Seward Park Library,  
Manhattan

Orenstein, Denise  
Gosliner  
**The Secret Twin**  
Katherine Tegen Books  
Noah and Nurse Grace bonding over tarot cards

Park, Linda Sue (et al.)  
**Click**  
Arthur A. Levine Books  
Tales of Grandpa Gee’s seashells

Parkinson, Siobhán  
**Second Fiddle**  
Roaring Brook  
Mags’ dead dad and Gillian’s deadbeat dad



**Just My Opinion!**  
(on *Second Fiddle*, by Siobhán Parkinson)

*I really liked this book. It was refreshing to read a young adult book whose main focus was not sex, boys, drugs, or anything deeply upsetting. I thought that it was very innocent and I really thought the characters were real. Although I really didn’t like Gillian, I can imagine a person being like her. I didn’t find Mags’ relationship with her mother realistic. Her mother really loved her, but Mags felt as though she didn’t. This book made me happy and at the end, I didn’t feel confused and I didn’t want to know more, though the author does leave us hanging. I think that this book is good for tweens and younger*

*teens who are looking for a teen book to read that is not trashy. It will also please anyone looking for an innocent, heartwarming story.*  
Teen Reviewer:  
Emily Atlas  
Jefferson Market Library,  
Manhattan

Petrucha, Stefan  
**Teen, Inc.**  
Walker  
Raised by the company that killed his parents

**Fairies, Gnomes, Elves, Deities, Oh My...**

Birney, Betty G.  
**The Princess and the Peabodys**  
HarperCollins  
A medieval royal in a New Jersey family

Coburn, Ann  
**Gliint**  
Eos  
Missing: a little brother, a baby dragon

De Lint, Charles  
**Little (Grrl) Lost**  
Viking  
A new friend: 6 inches tall, all attitude

Duey, Kathleen  
**Skin Hunger**  
Atheneum  
Two worlds – with and without magic

Durham, David Anthony  
**Acacia**  
Doubleday  
Empire under siege, seeking revenge

Fletcher, Charlie  
**Stoneheart**  
Hyperion  
The statues of London, alive and at war

Froud, Brian  
**Brian Froud’s World of Faerie**  
Insight  
An artist’s vision of the magical realm

Gaiman, Neil  
**M Is for Magic**  
HarperCollins  
Fantastic twisted tales

Grossman, Austin  
**Soon I Will Be Invincible**  
Pantheon  
A lonely cyborg learning to be a superhero

Harper, Suzanne  
**The Secret Life of Sparrow Delaney**  
Greenwillow  
Reluctant teen psychic meets a ghost



**Book Excerpt**  
(from *The Secret Life of Sparrow Delaney*, by Suzanne Harper)  
The truth? I’ve been seeing spirits for most of my life.

Since the moment I was born, my grandmother has watched me with the sharp eyes of a carny barker, alert for any sign that I have inherited the family’s psychic gene. Little does she know that her fondest hopes and dreams came true when I was only five years old. It was a sunny, cold morning in November. I was sitting on the kitchen floor while Grandma Bee hunted wildly through the refrigerator for a bottle

of milk. She emerged holding a spinning top she found tucked behind an ancient jar of pickles. She handed it to me, said, “Here, entertain yourself for ten minutes,” and dashed down the street to the store.

Hulme, John and Michael  
Wexler  
**The Glitch in Sleep**  
Bloomsbury  
Becker Drane, fixer of the world

Jablonski, Carla  
**Silent Echoes**  
Razorbill  
When a faked séance turns real

Jones, Diana Wynne  
**The Game**  
Firebird  
Hayley’s unearthly place among the gods



**Book Excerpt**  
(from *The Game*, by Diana Wynne Jones)  
“What do you think you’re doing?” the dragon said. His steamy breath wafted round Hayley as he spoke. It smelt like a wood fire, sooty and woody at once. Hayley thought she had lost her voice. It took a real effort to whisper, “Please, sir, I need a golden apple.”  
“You can’t have one,” said the dragon. “Do you think I’m going to let you



loose in the mythosphere with something that precious?" He rolled an eye at her, while his breath coiled up among the leaves of the tree, filling it with fog. Hayley stared at his eye. It was like looking into a far distant sun deep inside a glass ball. "Don't I know you?" the dragon said, filling the tree with fog again. "A tasty morsel—lots of hair and a body that's half red?" His long face left the tree trunk and began to stretch out towards Hayley. "Didn't you come with a friend and steal one of my old scales the other day?" The tip of his nose was nearly on Hayley's chest by then. He's going to eat me! Hayley thought.

Kay, Guy Gavriel  
**Ysabel**

Roc  
An ancient love triangle revisited

Keaney, Brian  
**The Hollow People**  
Knopf  
A sinister asylum for dreamers

Knox, Elizabeth  
**Dreamquake**  
Frances Foster Books  
Laura, facing a corrupt, dangerous world

Lanagan, Margo  
**Red Spikes**  
Knopf  
Short stories skewer souls

Landy, Derek  
**Skulduggery Pleasant**  
HarperCollins  
Stephanie, rescued by a living skeleton

Lorey, Dean  
**Nightmare Academy**  
HarperCollins  
Where Charlie learns to fight monsters

Marillier, Juliet  
**Wildwood Dancing**  
Knopf  
Across a threshold to a fairy kingdom

Marr, Melissa  
**Wicked Lovely**  
HarperTeen  
Pursued by the gorgeous Summer King

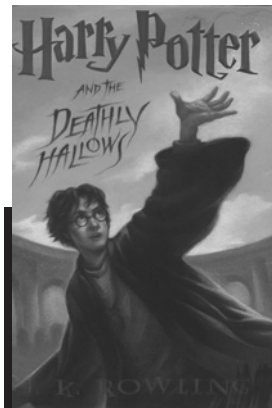
McNamee, Eoin  
**The Navigator**  
Wendy Lamb Books  
When time flows backward

Miéville, China  
**Un Lun Dun**  
Del Rey  
An alternative reality with an evil smog

Moore, Perry  
**Hero**  
Hyperion  
Hiding his gay identity and superpowers

Park, Paul  
**The White Tiger**  
TOR  
Miranda in an alternate Europe

Rowling, J.K.  
**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**  
Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic  
The seventh and final adventure of our beloved hero



**Just My Opinion!**  
(on *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, by J.K. Rowling)

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows was not what I expected it to be. It was FAR better. J.K. Rowling takes us to the next level in the final (unfortunately) installment in the legendary Harry Potter series. This book is written perfectly with Rowling maintaining and exceeding the quality of the writing. From beginning to end, this book has to be the most intricate ever. Rowling prevents the reader from jumping to the end, because there is no way that you would understand it without having read and understood the entire book.

Harry's job is to find and destroy all of the remaining horcruxes, and that's what the book is mainly about. Though many people die for Harry, he makes it through in the end only to find out that HE, himself, is the last horcrux. Part of Voldemort's soul has latched itself into Harry's scar. Harry gives himself up to Voldemort,

who immediately kills him. But all Voldemort ends up killing is the little bit that he had left in Harry Potter. So now Harry Potter has survived the killing curse twice. Harry manages to disappear, and, finally, slays Voldemort with his own spell. 19 years later, Harry and Ginny are married with three kids, James, Albus Severus, and Lily. Ron and Hermione are also married with two kids, Rose and Hugo. Malfoy is married and has a kid named Scorpius. Neville is the herbology professor at Hogwarts. The book ends with Harry saying his scar has not bothered him in 19 years. All is well.

Teen Reviewer:  
Sahil Goswami  
Jefferson Market Library, Manhattan

Harry Potter's back to find the remaining horcruxes of Lord Voldemort. Along with Ron and Hermione, they decide not to return to the school of Hogwarts and instead try to accomplish the task that Dumbledore has left Harry to do. Along the way, many truths have been revealed and many deaths have been sacrificed for the safety of Harry. This book will give readers a sense of suspense and action this is proved very unexpected.

Teen Reviewer:  
Joanne Ling  
Huguenot Park Library, Staten Island

The final struggle against Lord Voldemort is the main theme in the final book. Our hero, Harry Potter sets out on adventures to evade capture from the Dark Lord. The fantasy that is found throughout the book attracts readers from all different ages. Teen Reviewer: Sophia Ling Huguenot Park Library, Staten Island

This book is about Harry Potter, who is now 17. The Dark Lord Voldemort is growing stronger each day and corrupting the Ministry of Magic. Harry, Ron, and Hermione are struggling to stay out of reach from Voldemort's grasp. They must stay away from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry from being captured. They are on a quest to find and destroy Voldemort's horcruxes which carry fragments of his soul. This is the only way to defeat him. I like this book because it has much more suspense and much more adventure than all the other books. Also, this book has many tragic events and is very dark.

Teen Reviewer:  
Sudipto Dev Nath  
Westchester Square Library, Bronx

This book is the last edition of the Harry Potter series. As a result it has become widely known and popular. Due to the widespread popularity of the book all over the world, the Harry Potter series will always be remembered in history with other great series written by J.R.R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis.

Teen Reviewer:  
Shakhawat Shamim  
Westchester Square Library, Bronx

Scott, Michael  
**The Alchemist**  
Delacorte  
Twins' fate sealed in an ancient text

Thompson, Kate  
**The New Policeman**  
Greenwillow  
Going where time stands still



**Just My Opinion!**  
(on *The New Policeman*, by Kate Thompson)

I really liked this book. It has a great story and good twists. Thompson succeeded in tying up any loose ends and answering all questions. I could feel that she put a lot of thought into it. Her abstract idea of time was unique and mesmerizing. Throughout the entire book, the Irish feel was prominent. Her addition of music scores was also helpful in understanding the influence of music in Irish culture. The book was the first to give me a real taste of the Irish way of life. Even the vocabulary helped to pull the reader into J.J.'s world! I had never known the Irish story behind the term "fairy." I am now happy to say I have a new understanding of these fabled creatures. I can definitely see more great books coming from Kate Thompson. Though it lacks the sort of fast-paced

adventure of the famous Harry Potter series, *The New Policeman* is a great read for anyone willing to believe in a strange but wonderful world parallel to our own. Teen Reviewer: May Kho Jefferson Market Library, Manhattan

Trent, Tiffany  
**In the Serpent's Coils**  
Mirrorstone  
Corrine, sent to a mysterious reform school

## Graphic Novels

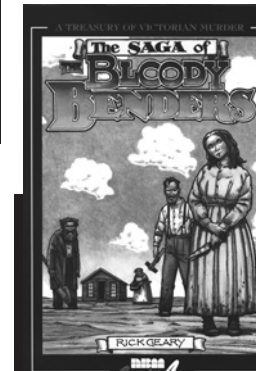
Carey, Mike & Louise;  
Aaron Alexovich,  
illustrator  
**Confessions of a Blabbermouth**  
Minx  
Tasha blogging about her crazy life

Castellucci, Cecil and Jim Rugg  
**The Plain Janes**  
Minx  
Transforming suburbia with art attacks

Davis, Mark and Mike Davis  
**Blokhedz: Genesis, Volume 1**  
Pocket Books  
Blak gets revenge and meets his destiny

Friedman, Aimee;  
Christine Norrie,  
illustrator  
**Breaking Up**  
Graphix  
Dating a dork and other junior year dramas

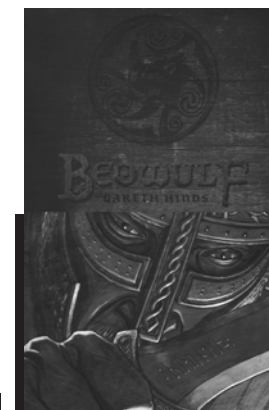
Geary, Rick  
**Saga of the Bloody Benders**  
NBM/Comics Lit  
An infamous homicidal family



**Just My Opinion!**  
(on *Saga of the Bloody Benders*, by Rick Geary)

This graphic novel tells the tale of a mysterious family who called themselves the Benders and set up a store where travelers could rest. But many wealthy people who passed through the area of Kansas where the Benders' store was located went missing and police found many disturbing things on the property after the family disappeared as well. Though chilling, Geary presents the reader with a factual and entertaining book. Teen Reviewer: Norma N. Perez-Hernandez Kingsbridge Library, Bronx

Hinds, Gareth  
**Beowulf**  
Candlewick  
The classic tale of a man and his monsters



**Just My Opinion!**  
(on *Beowulf*, by Gareth Hinds)

The story of Beowulf was very interesting; not only did it have a lot of action, it also had a great picture inside the book. I really enjoyed this book because it was very similar to the movie and the author is matching this good movie into a good book. I think this will get many readers . . .

Teen Reviewer:  
Luis Velasquez  
West Farms Branch, Bronx

Jacques, Brian; Bret Blevens, illustrator  
**Redwall: The Graphic Novel**  
Philomel  
Matthias the mouse discovers his inner hero

Lonergan, Jesse  
**Flower and Fade**  
NBM/ComicsLit  
Loneliness turning into love

Saffel, Steve  
**Spider-Man the Icon**  
Titan  
The evolution of a superhero

Schrag, Ariel, editor  
**Stuck in the Middle**  
Viking  
Being 13, misery loves company

Tan, Shaun  
**The Arrival**  
Arthur A. Levine Books  
Entering a fantastic new world

Varon, Sara  
**Robot Dreams**  
First Second  
A wordless tale of a bittersweet friendship

Velez, Ivan, Jr., editor  
**Dead High Yearbook**  
Dutton  
Voted most likely to be attacked by a vampire

Vollmar, Rob and Pablo G. Callejo  
**Castaways**  
NBM/ComicsLit  
Running away from home during the Depression

## Get Me Outta This Place

Asher, Jay  
**Thirteen Reasons Why**  
Razorbill  
Clay, trapped in a web of suicide

Birdsall, Olivia  
**Notes on a Near-Life Experience**  
Delacorte  
Searching for normalcy in a broken home

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker  
**Leap of Faith**  
Dial  
Abby, kicked out and sent to Catholic school

Castellucci, Cecil  
**Beige**  
Candlewick  
Quiet, polite Katy embracing the healing power of punk



Charlton-Trujillo, e.E.  
**Feels Like Home**  
*Delacorte*  
Mickey reunited with her lost brother in dead-end Texas

Cornwell, Autumn  
**Carpe Diem**  
*Feiwel and Friends*  
Blackmailed to backpack in Southeast Asia

Crutcher, Chris  
**Deadline**  
*Greenwillow*  
Ben, forgoing treatment and living the life he wants

Fleischman, Sid  
**The Entertainer and the Dybbuk**  
*Greenwillow*  
A restless spirit of the Holocaust tells his story

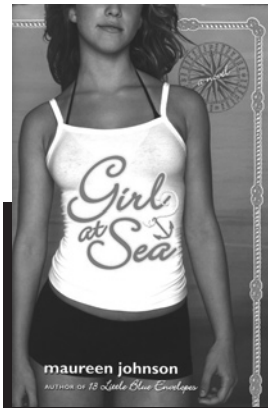
Franklin, Emily  
**Other Half of Me**  
*Delacorte*  
Smart, pretty, artistic, the daughter of Donor # 142

Garsee, Jeannine  
**Before, After and Somebody in Between**  
*Bloomsbury*  
Stuck in a circle of drug addiction and foster care

Johnson, Maureen  
**Girl at Sea**  
*HarperTeen*  
Clio, her dad, a boat, a mystery

Jones, Patrick  
**Chasing Tail Lights**  
*Walker*  
Out of the ashes and soot of abuse, drugs and decay

McNeal, Laura and Tom  
**The Decoding of Lana Morris**  
*Knopf*  
Thirteen blank pages leading the way out of foster care



### Just My Opinion! (on *Girl at Sea*, by Maureen Johnson)

*I think this book was great. The characters were so believable and the issues they went through were normal teenage issues. The dialogue was genius, especially the part where Aidan tells Clio he likes her. The only thing I would change about the characters is changing the spelling of Clio's name to Cleo. The dialogue sounded a lot like teenage dialogue; however, I would make Eisa and Julia sound a bit more British and Clio's dad a bit more American. This book made me both happy and sad . . . I think that making the setting in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea was incredibly smart and different. I think the voice was incredibly accurate for the characters.*

*Teen Reviewer:*  
Nora Engelman  
Jefferson Market Library,  
Manhattan

Strasser, Todd  
**Boot Camp**  
*Simon & Schuster*  
Kidnapped and shipped out to Lake Harmony

Weinheimer, Beckie  
**Converting Kate**  
*Viking*  
Discovering life outside of the Holy Church of the Divine

## Back in the Day

Gormley, Beatrice  
**Salome**  
*Knopf*  
Motherly love fuels John the Baptist's beheading

Haddix, Margaret  
Peterson  
**Uprising**  
*Simon & Schuster*  
1911, a shirtwaist factory, 3 girls, trapped by fire in NYC

Johnston, Tony  
**Bone by Bone by Bone**  
*Roaring Brook*  
Tennessee, 1950, a friendship in black and white

Karr, Kathleen  
**Born for Adventure**  
*Marshall Cavendish*  
1887: Tom's life-changing journey through Africa



### Just My Opinion! (on *Born for Adventure*, by Kathleen Karr)

*Though the title and cover including the image of a boy with a leopard's face suggest Born for Adventure will be a magical fantasy, in fact the novel's genre is historical fiction but has magic of its own as sixteen-year-old Tom Ormsby becomes part of an expedition through the forests of Africa and learns the harsh realities of*

*survival while becoming a part of a mystery of Africa's vivid landscapes and people.*  
*Teen Reviewer:*  
Norma N. Perez-Hernandez  
Kingsbridge Library,  
Bronx

McMullan, Margaret  
**When I Crossed No-Bob**  
*Houghton Mifflin*  
Addy, witness to murder

Meltzer, Milton  
**Tough Times**  
*Clarion*  
Joey, witnessing the Great Depression

Napoli, Donna Jo  
**Hush**  
*Atheneum*  
Silent medieval beauty, captive to slave traders

Rinaldi, Ann  
**Come Juneteenth**  
*Harcourt*  
Texan slaves, celebrating freedom following emancipation

Russell, Christopher  
**Hunted**  
*Greenwillow*  
A narrow escape, evading the Black Plague

Sharenow, Robert  
**My Mother the Cheerleader**  
*Laura Geringer Books*  
Family secrets surface, New Orleans desegregates

Turnbull, Ann  
**Forged in the Fire**  
*Candlewick*  
1666: Will and Susanna, reunited through the flames of London

Wells, Rosemary  
**Red Moon at Sharpsburg**  
*Viking*  
India, escaping the Civil War, caught in crossfire

Welsh, T.K.  
**Resurrection Men**  
*Dutton*  
1830s: Desperate orphan uncovers creepy murderer

## Hookups, Heartaches, True Love

Cabot, Meg  
**Pants on Fire**  
*HarperTeen*  
Clams, kisses and second chances

Caletti, Deb  
**The Nature of Jade**  
*Simon & Schuster*  
Loving a boy and his son

Cohn, Rachel and David  
Levithan  
**Naomi and Ely's No Kiss List**  
*Knopf*  
She loves him; he loves her boyfriend

Hobbs, Valerie  
**Anything But Ordinary**  
*Frances Foster Books*  
A romance that stands the test of time?

Kantor, Melissa  
**The Breakup Bible**  
*Hyperion*  
Jennifer, dumped and dealing with it

Kephart, Beth  
**Undercover**  
*Laura Geringer Books*  
Elisa, writing other people's love letters

Koja, Kathe  
**Kissing the Bee**  
*Frances Foster Books*  
Love sweet as honey for a queen

Lester, Julius  
**Cupid**  
*Harcourt*  
Sleepless nights, embarrassing poetry ... all because of a bow and arrow

# interview



## Members of the Bloomingdale Library's Teen Advisory Group offer questions to Carolyn Mackler, author of *Guyaholic*.

### Why do you write books about girls?

I write the stories that come into my head and, so far, I've mostly thought of teen girl stories. Probably because I used to be a teen girl, so those emotions are still very much a part of who I am now. Sometimes I'm surprised to look in the mirror and realize I'm not still sixteen. Then again, I think my hair is probably better now. Or at least I hope it is.

### Will you ever write a book about guys?

I'm actually working on a novel right now with four main characters – two are girls and two are boys. It's been so much fun to get into the heads of my guy characters. They're brothers, sixteen and eighteen, but they're very, very different. I've had some interesting conversations with real teen guys about what life is like for the other half.

### Have you ever been a vegan?

I've been a vegetarian since I was four. My choice. I gave up meat as soon as I learned that chicken was a chicken. I couldn't ever become a vegan, though. I love cheese too much. When I was writing Mara Valentine's story, I considered making her a vegetarian like me, but the title *Vegetarian Virgin Valentine* didn't have the same ring as *Vegan Virgin Valentine*.

### Have you ever been to the zoo?

I love bringing my young son to the Central Park Zoo. It's especially exciting because they have these cool gumball machines where you can buy pellets to feed to the goats in the petting zoo.

### Will you ever write a book about animals?

I can't say never, but I'm not as intrigued by animals as I am by people. One time, when I was working on a draft of my first novel, *Love and Other Four-Letter Words*, I had an editor tell me I should consider expanding the character of the family dog. That stumped me. I like to throw sticks to dogs, but I have a hard time thinking about their inner life.

### Where do you come up with the titles like *Guyaholic* and *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things*?

I'm obsessed with titles. I usually come up with them while I'm walking in Central Park. I think I've happened upon most of them on the south side of the Reservoir near a certain water fountain. It's like my Bermuda Triangle for titles.

### What made you start to write?

I've always had stories in my head. When I was four or five, I used to tell them into a tape recorder or have my mom write them down and then I'd draw the pictures. Through my teen years, I was constantly writing in my journal. And then, after college, I finally decided to do something with all those words floating around.

### Are any of your stories based on real life?

Bits and pieces of my life. For example, *Guyaholic* starts with V getting hit in the head by a hockey puck and falling into the lap of a guy who could quite possibly change her life. When I was in high school, I also had my forehead split open by a hockey puck and then I collapsed onto a cute boy. We went out a few times, though he certainly didn't change my life.

### Which writers are your influences?

I'm definitely influenced by the writers I grew up reading – Judy Blume, Lois Lowry, M.E. Kerr. But I'm also inspired by so many of the amazing contemporary YA authors such as Rachel Cohn, Megan McCafferty, David Levithan, John Green, and Sarah Dessen – to name a few!

*Guyaholic* is published by Candlewick Press.

Visit Carolyn Mackler online: [www.carolynmackler.com](http://www.carolynmackler.com)



## Members of the Nathan Straus Teen Central, Donnell Library Center Teen Advisory Group offer questions to Sonya Sones, author of *What My Girlfriend Doesn't Know*.

### What first got you into writing?

Reading to my kids, when they were little, used to be my favorite part of the day. So I guess you could say that my kids got me into writing. I wanted to write books for them. But I was pretty bad at it at first, so it took me until they were teenagers to get it together.

### Do you have a MacBook?

Nope. I have a Dell Inspiron laptop that is practically a dinosaur, but it's had so many of its parts replaced that it still runs like new. (Dang! I shouldn't have said that—now it will probably crash tomorrow . . .)

### What's your favorite outfit?

I have this real twirly skirt, pink and blue and black, from the 1950s, with all these lavender sequins all over it. I wear it with a black shirt, black leggings, and either my black and white pinstriped high-top Chucks or my sexy high heel black pumps, depending on my mood. Oh, and I top it all off with my vintage fedora—because whenever I wear that hat, strangers are always stopping me on the street to tell me how awesome it is.

### There are a lot of books written in poetry—some we like and some we don't. We like all of yours, though! Is it hard to write in poetry?

No. It's hard to write in prose! So I'm happy to hear you like my poems, because I don't know any other way to tell the stories I want to tell.

### We liked it when Sophie ends up with Robin (in *What My Mother Doesn't Know*) because it's not very often that the girl chooses the geek! Hmm. Maybe this isn't a question. Well, here's a question: did you do that on purpose? Have the popular girl connect with the less-popular guy?

I'm so glad you liked the ending. I wrote it that way because I wanted to help the geeky guys of the world to get a date. I mean, think of all the truly amazing boys going to waste out there, just because they aren't wrapped up in the right package!

### What made you fall in love with writing?

Reading.

### What music do you like to listen to?

Vintage jazz (especially the saxophone), rap, classical, old rock 'n' roll, fiddle music, Cuban music, African music . . .

### Do you have a favorite book? If yes, what is it? Otherwise, do you have an author that you really like?

I don't have one favorite book, I have dozens of favorite books! There are tons of authors that I really love. Just go to my website ([www.sonyasones.com](http://www.sonyasones.com)) and check out the GREAT BOOKS page to see who they are!

### What was your inspiration for your first book?

The idea for *Stop Pretending* came while I was taking a poetry class, taught by Myra Cohn Livingston. I'd only been writing funny poems, but then one day Myra asked us to write a poem using dactyl and trochee rhythms, which are really somber rhythms. When I sat down to do the assignment, something very unexpected happened—out popped a poem about how sad and scary it was to have to visit my older sister in the mental hospital on my thirteenth birthday. I was embarrassed to share the poem with my teacher, because it was so personal. But when Myra read it, she suggested I write more poems about my sister, and that's how *Stop Pretending*, my first novel-in-verse, was born.

### Out of your books, what's your favorite?

Aw, geez, guys, that's like asking me which one of my kids is my favorite. I like all my books equally, but for different reasons. I like *Stop Pretending* for giving me the chance to connect with so many people who've had to deal with the pain of having a family member with mental illness. I like *What My Mother Doesn't Know* for being banned so often—which gives me a chance to rant about why books should never be banned. I like *One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies* for helping me to deal with the death of my poetry teacher, who I absolutely idolized. And I like *What My Girlfriend Doesn't Know* for letting me finally find out what happened after Sophie ran up into Robin in the cafeteria and grabbed hold of his hands!

### In your newest book, was it hard to write from a guy's perspective?

It was at first. *What My Girlfriend Doesn't Know* is the sequel to *What My Mother Doesn't Know*. The second story picks up where the first one left off, only this part of the story is told from Robin's point of view. I chose to write it in Robin's voice because his was the story that intrigued me most—what would happen to a homely guy, the school's biggest loser, if he suddenly found himself with a girlfriend for the first time in his life?

It was fascinating getting inside Robin's head and looking around, but it was tricky in the beginning because I'd never written in the voice of a boy before. When I write, I constantly read my poems aloud in order to hear if the rhythm's working. So it threw me when I first started reading Robin's poems, because I'd hear my own voice speaking—this totally girly voice—instead of a guy's.

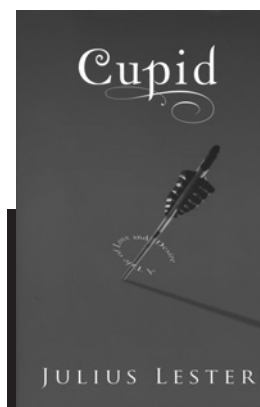
For awhile, I found myself feeling like an imposter, almost as if I were writing in drag. But then one day Robin just sort of strolled up to me, shook my hand, and introduced himself. From that point on, I felt like I was channeling him.

### Here is the traditional Teen Central question: If you could have an Afro, would you?

Absolutely. My hair sucks. Way too thin. Afros are so nice and thick. Give me one. Please. RIGHT NOW!

*What My Girlfriend Doesn't Know* is published by Simon & Schuster.

Visit Sonya Sones online: [www.sonyasones.com](http://www.sonyasones.com)



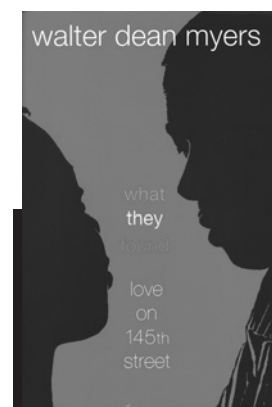
### Just My Opinion! (on *Cupid*, by Julius Lester)

This book is about the god Cupid and his love for a mortal woman, Psyche. *Cupid* has to figure out how to stay with Psyche without her knowing his identity. He is afraid that she won't love him if she knows he is Cupid. He also has to hide that Psyche is his wife from his mother, Venus, because she will punish Psyche for stealing her son. I recommend this book for beginners of mythology. Teen Reviewer: Gail Kaplan, Mulberry Street Library, Manhattan

Levithan, David and Daniel Ehrenhaft  
**21 Proms**  
*Point*  
The Big Night: Tuxes, dresses, stresses

Mackler, Carolyn  
**Guyaholic**  
*Candlewick*  
V, the slut, finally falling in love

Myers, Walter Dean  
**What They Found**  
*Wendy Lamb Books*  
Bonds forged, hearts broken in Harlem



### Just My Opinion! (on *What They Found*, by Walter Dean Myers)

The first time I read *What They Found* in 8th grade in an author study. I read his memoir, *Bad Boy*, and his book of short stories, *145th Street*. I loved them both. He had a way with humor and details that captured the reader's heart. *What They Found* happens to be the sequel to *145th Street*. I am happy to say, yes, it is still that good and the magic is still there. The stories are written in vernacular, the kind of slang that is actually heard in New York. That greatly adds to the realism of the stories. The stories themselves are beautiful. Even though some of the stories such as "Madonna," "The Man Thing," and "Skeeter and Marisol" all take place in settings and situations of desperation, somehow there is still light. All the stories are connected by one theme—love and finding beauty in a bleak setting. Teen Reviewer: Wenjing (Jenny) Dai, Jefferson Market Library, Manhattan

Schreiber, Mark  
**Star Crossed**  
*Flux*  
Destiny found in a tattoo parlor

Shanahan, Lisa  
**The Sweet, Terrible, Glorious Year I Truly, Completely Lost It**  
*Delacorte*  
Gemma, under the spell of dark, daring Raven de Head

Snadowsky, Daria  
**Anatomy of a Boyfriend**  
*Delacorte*  
Dominique's manual for boys

Sones, Sonya  
**What My Girlfriend Doesn't Know**  
*Simon @ Schuster*  
Robin, Sophie's boyfriend, finally getting his say

Tracy, Kristen  
**Lost It**  
*Simon Pulse*  
Tess, losing her virginity to Ben

Zevin, Gabrielle  
**Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac**  
*Farrar, Straus and Giroux*  
Naomi, forgetting who she loves

## Manga: I ♥ Japan and Other Places Too

Hatori, Bisco  
**Millennium Snow, Volume 2**  
*Viz*  
A dying girl, a vampire and a werewolf

Hino, Matsuri  
**Vampire Knight, Volume 1**  
*Viz*  
Day class: normal, night class: bloodsuckers

Kikuta, Muchiyo  
**Mamotte! Lollipop, Volume 1**  
*Del Rey*  
Meeting the boys of her dreams, two wizards

Leong, Sonia, illustrator  
**Manga Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet**  
*Amulet*  
Japanese teenagers: tragic romance

Lijewski, Christy  
**Re: Play, Volume 1**  
*Tokyopop*  
Izsak: mysterious, talented and cursed

Mizushiro, Setona  
**After School Nightmares, Volume 1**  
*Go! Comi*  
Ichijo trapped in a gender crisis

Rocks, Misako  
**Rock and Roll Love**  
*Hyperion*  
Japanese exchange student seeks USA romance

Vieceli, Emma, illustrator  
**Manga Shakespeare: Hamlet**  
*Amulet*  
Prince of Denmark seeks revenge in 2017

Yabuki, Kentaro  
**Black Cat, Volume 10**  
*Viz*  
A former assassin running from his past

## Parents from Hell

Blobel, Brigitte  
**Red Rage**  
*Annick*  
The destructive power of Mara's anger

Doyle, Roddy  
**Wilderness**  
*Scholastic*  
Grainne's two moms, lost and found

Felin, M. Sindy  
**Touching Snow**  
*Atheneum*  
Katu, straight from Haiti, hiding the abuse

Hall, Barbara  
**The Noah Confessions**  
*Delacorte*  
Bad boy love beyond the grave

Nelson, R.A.  
**Breathe My Name**  
*Razorbill*  
Frances' suffocating childhood secrets

Plummer, Louise  
**Finding Daddy**  
*Delacorte*  
Mira's dad: more than she bargained for

## Road Trip

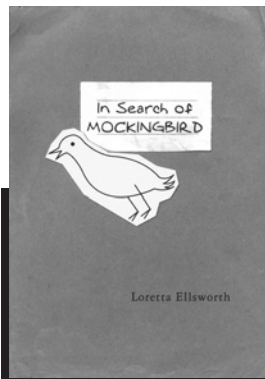
Ackerman, Joan  
**In the Space Left Behind**  
*Laura Geringer Books*  
Colm: driving Dad across country to collect \$70,000

Barnholdt, Lauren  
**Two\*Way Street**  
*Simon Pulse*  
MySpace rumor sparks a cross-country journey

Davis, Deborah  
**Not Like You**  
*Clarion*  
Running away from a booze-soaked mom

De Palma, Toni  
**Under the Banyan Tree**  
*Holiday House*  
Irena, Key West runaway and hotel chambermaid

Ellsworth, Loretta  
**In Search of Mockingbird**  
*Henry Holt*  
Travelling by Greyhound to meet a famous author



## Just My Opinion! (on *In Search of Mockingbird*, by Loretta Ellsworth)

*Erin feels like she doesn't make any sense because she doesn't fit in with her family. But when she takes a road trip to find out more about her dead mother, she meets lots of people who support her and help her to see the world and her life in a whole new way. You could relate to Erin and the characters, and they all had great personalities.*

Teen Reviewer:  
Dana Angelo  
Jefferson Market Library,  
Manhattan

### Keaney, Brian **Jacob's Ladder**

*Candlewick*  
Searching out hazy memories

### Nye, Naomi Shihab **I'll Ask You Three Times, Are You Ok?**

*Greenwillow*  
Adventures from the car's back seat

### Schneider, Robyn **Better Than Yesterday**

*Delacorte*  
Moving on to the NYC party scene

## SciFi

### Boniface, William **The Return of Meteor Boy?**

*HarperCollins*  
The true identity of a long-lost superhero

### Brooks, Kevin **Being**

*Chicken House*  
A belly ache reveals a secret – is Robert human?

### Carroll, Michael **Awakening**

*Philomel*  
Superhumans, the next generation

### Cle, Troy **The Marvelous Effect**

*Simon @ Schuster*  
Awakening to a world gone wrong

### Craig, Joe **Jimmy Coates**

*HarperCollins*  
The reluctant assassin in hiding

### Daley, Michael J. **Shanghaied to the Moon**

*Putnam's*  
Stewart, tricked into a dangerous mission

### Gaiman, Neil and Michael Reaves **Interworld**

*Eos*  
The many versions of Joey

### Jones, David **Baboon**

*Annick*  
Surviving in the body of an ape

### King, Ron **The Quantum July**

*Delacorte*  
A family's chaos in multiple universes

### Kostic, Conor **Epic**

*Viking*  
Life status decided by a video game score

### Michaels, Rune **Genesis Alpha**

*Ginee Seo Books*  
Brothers, brought closer by a cyber reality

### Nelson, Blake **They Came from Below**

*TOR*  
Summer romance and aliens

### Palahniuk, Chuck **Rant: An Oral Biography of Buster Casey**

*Doubleday*  
Wild life, weird death, time traveler?

### Pratchett, Terry **Johnny and the Bomb**

*HarperCollins*  
Changing history to save his town

### Sargent, Pamela **Farseed**

*TOR*  
A colony divided, are they all still human?

### Shusterman, Neal **Unwind**

*Simon @ Schuster*  
When unwanted teens are organ donors

### Stead, Rebecca **First Light**

*Wendy Lamb Books*  
A lost civilization under ice

## To Be Continued

### Bray, Libba **The Sweet Far Thing**

*Delacorte*  
Gemma at Spence Academy, the conclusion of a trilogy

### Chima, Cinda Williams **Wizard Heir**

*Hyperion*  
Magic powers evoke battle of wands

### Cohn, Rachel **Cupcake**

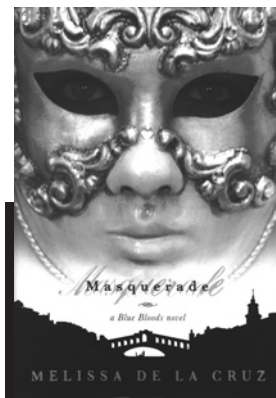
*Simon @ Schuster*  
Cyd and Shrimp, rediscovering love

### de la Cruz, Melissa **Crazy Hot**

*Simon @ Schuster*  
3 Hampton girls, one steamy summer

### de la Cruz, Melissa **Masquerade**

*Hyperion*  
The Blue Bloods return



## Just My Opinion! (on *Masquerade*, by Melissa de la Cruz)

*Masquerade is about a teenage vampire named Schuyler Van Alen. When a former enemy of her clan of vampires, the Blue Bloods, resurfaces, Schuyler must turn to her grandfather to help defeat them. I liked this book very much. It was suspenseful, funny, and hypnotizing. With each new word, I felt the suspense rise inside me, causing me to be incapable of putting the book down. Even if I could put it down, I did not want to.*

*Teen Reviewer: Christina Marie Ortiz  
Jefferson Market Library,  
Manhattan*

### Goldschmidt, Judy **Will the Real Raisin Rodriguez Please Stand Up?**

*Razorbill*  
Blogging coast-to-coast

### Horowitz, Anthony **Nightrise**

*Scholastic*  
Telepathic twins, guardians of the world

### Larbalestier, Justine **Magic's Child**

*Razorbill*  
Reason, using powers for family salvation

### Le Guin, Ursula K. **Powers**

*Harcourt*  
A slave's secret, key to world survival

### Lubar, David **True Talents**

*Starscape*  
5 boys, psychic powers, a struggle against exploitation

### Paver, Michelle **Soul Eater**

*HarperCollins*  
A journey across a frozen wilderness to find Wolf

### Reeve, Phillip **A Darkling Plain**

*Eos*  
Final showdown and new hope for Earth

### Riordan, Rick **Titan's Curse**

*Miramax*  
Olympian twins, modern-day heroes

### Shepard, Sara **Perfect**

*HarperTeen*  
Secrets and Pretty Little Liars

### Spinelli, Jerry **Love, Stargirl**

*Knopf*  
Letters to an "ex"

# interview



## Members of the Kingsbridge Library's Teen Advisory Group offer questions to Justine Larbalestier, author of *Magic's Child*.

### Do you believe in magic?

It depends what you mean by magic. I believe that magical, inexplicable things happen. I believe that love is magical. (I'm very sappy that way.) But I don't believe in the kind of magic I wrote about in the *Magic or Madness* trilogy.

### Which of your characters is most like you?

Honestly, none of them are much like me. One of the things I love about writing novels is being able to get away from myself. It can be a fabulous vacation. Though maybe I'm most like Tom because we both adore clothes and think about them way too much. Right now I'm pining for a ball gown. I've never had one, you see.

### You spend part of your life in Australia and the other part in the United States. Do you prefer Sydney or NYC, or do you like them both equally?

Sydney! It's my hometown. I know it inside and out. I love it more than I can say and miss it horribly if I'm away for more than six months. I love NYC, too, but I don't know it as well. Maybe when I've lived here as long as I have in Sydney I'll be able to compare them more fairly. After all, they're my two most favourite cities in all the world.

### Who is the more talented writer, you or your husband?

Maureen Johnson! Or possibly, Libba Bray. How about Holly Black?

### We had a question about why you love Fibonacci numbers, but then we read an interview where you said you DIDN'T like math! So . . . does that mean you're a math-loving impostor???

It's true. I'm a fraud! Well, except that I never claimed to like maths or be any good at it. It's Reason who's the maths genius and in love with Fibonacci's. Me, I can barely add up. I'm dead pleased, though, that you believed in Reason's mathematical prowess! It was very tricky writing a convincing maths addict character when you're as innumerate as I am.

### Is *Magic's Child* REALLY the last book in this trilogy, or are you going to go all Westerfeld on us and give us an "extra" book?

It's really truly DEFINITELY the last book. That story's done. I have no idea what happens to them next. Well, I have some ideas but they're horrible ideas I don't want to think about. Best to leave my characters in a happy place.

### What are you working on now, and will there be any magic, math, or madness involved?

My next book is called *How to Ditch Your Fairy* and it involves no maths or madness and not very much magic. It's set in a world where everyone has a personal fairy including the protag, Charlie, who's fourteen years old and has a parking fairy she's trying to ditch. She wants a clothes-shopping fairy like her best friend or an all-boys-will-like-you fairy like her arch enemy. It's much lighter and funnier than the *Magic or Madness* books and was heaps of fun to write.

Thanks for the grouse questions!

*Magic's Child* is published by Razorbill, the Penguin Young Readers Group.

Visit Justine Larbalestier online:  
[www.justinelarbalestier.com](http://www.justinelarbalestier.com)





### Just My Opinion! (on *Love, Stargirl*, by Jerry Spinelli)

This book is a sequel to *Stargirl* and a great one at that. It is about *Stargirl*, a non-typical sixteen year old, after she moves to Pennsylvania. She spends her time meeting new people, but still holds a longing for the one person who she cares deeply about, Leo. This book is a longer letter to him.  
Teen Reviewer:  
Christina Marie Ortiz  
Jefferson Market Library,  
Manhattan

Westerfeld, Scott  
**Extras**  
Simon Pulse  
Fighting for fame in a celebrity-driven world



### Just My Opinion! (on *Extras*, by Scott Westerfeld)

This book is about *Aya Fuse* who is probably the most unpopular girl in her town. Soon she meets a

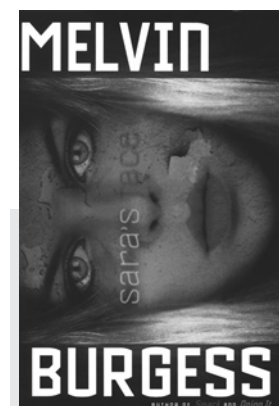
group of girls who are known for the tricks they perform. *Aya* joins them, changing her average, boring life into one where there's never a dull moment. I like this book because it's action packed, full of adventure . . . and oh, she meets this guy, who wouldn't like that?  
Teen Reviewer:  
Samantha Correa  
West New Brighton Library,  
Staten Island

### Vampires, Bats, Scaredy Cats

Bilgrey, Marc, et al.  
**Ghouls Gone Wild!**  
Papercutz  
The most famous horror comic book ever

Buckingham, Royce  
**Demonkeeper**  
Putnam  
Catching the Beast before it's too late

Burgess, Melvin  
**Sara's Face**  
Simon & Schuster  
Beauty's hidden price tag



### Book Excerpt (from *Sara's Face*, by Melvin Burgess)

Some people want to be famous so everyone knows who they are. They don't get it. It's not about who knows you or who you are. It's about being more than who you

are. It's not what you do—it's what you make other people do. I mean, I'm famous even when no one's looking. I'm famous even before I'm famous. I want it so when people look at me, they think things they've never thought before—they think things they never even knew they were capable of thinking. It's art. You look at it, and maybe it annoys the hell out of you because you can never understand it. Maybe there's nothing to understand, but it's fascinating anyway. And all the time, right on the edge of your mind, there's thoughts lurking like wild animals, and feelings you never felt. You can't work them out, you don't know if it's monsters or angels, and you're frightened of understanding because they might just burst out and change your whole life! Yeah. That's me. Your whole life!

Cabot, Meg, Kim Harrison, Michele Jaffe, Stephenie Meyer, and Lauren Myracle  
**Prom Nights from Hell**  
HarperTeen  
Stories that will wilt your corsage

Gee, Joshua  
**Encyclopedia Horrifica**  
Scholastic  
All things ghoulish and ghostly

Grahame-Smith, Seth  
**How to Survive a Horror Movie**  
Quirk  
Navigate cemeteries, defeat slashers

Knight, Mary-Jane  
**Vampyre**  
HarperCollins  
Journaling the hunt for Count Dracula

Lubar, David  
**The Curse of the Campfire Weenies and Other Warped and Creepy Tales**  
Starscape  
The gross, the weird, the scary

Mead, Richelle  
**Vampire Academy**  
Razorbill  
This school sucks

Meyer, Stephenie  
**Eclipse**  
Little, Brown  
Edward or Jacob? Life or



### Just My Opinion! (on *Eclipse*, by Stephenie Meyer)

In the third installment of the "Twilight" series, *Isabella Swan* has the love of her life (or eternity?) back. The vampire Edward Cullen has sworn to never again leave her. When the treaty between the vampires and the werewolves wavers, *Bella* struggles between her romance with Edward and her bond of friendship with *Jacob Black*. Decisions abound and no matter what she chooses, someone will end up getting hurt. The novel is chock full of dramatic romance and mystic legends, but it also ties in to the real world and brings up the point of how difficult it is to realize when you truly love someone.  
Teen Reviewer:  
April Castillo  
Richmondtown Library,  
Staten Island

Amazing book. Very real in thought and action. Full of suspense, love, and pain. Frustrated at how this book ended, but very creative, different writing. Makes me want to be a vampire.  
Teen Reviewer:  
Julia Jankowski  
West New Brighton Library,  
Staten Island

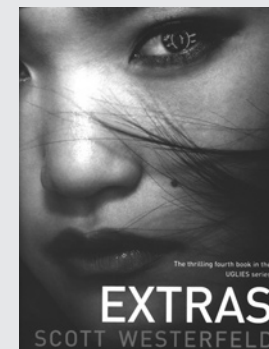
*Eclipse* is a book you will fall in love with. It is the third book in the "Twilight" series by Stephenie Meyer. It is about a girl named *Isabella Swan* who has a vampire for a boyfriend named *Edward Cullen*, and the book talks about all the hard things they have to go through.  
Teen Reviewer:  
Edith Saavedra  
Belmont Library,  
Bronx

Mignola, Mike and Christopher Golden  
**Baltimore, or The Steadfast Tin Soldier and the Vampire**  
Bantam  
Fighting a supernatural plague

Nance, Andrew  
**Daemon Hall**  
Henry Holt  
Young horror writers in a haunted mansion

Noyes, Deborah, editor  
**The Restless Dead**  
Candlewick  
Stories of those who don't rest in peace

# interview



## Members of the Nathan Straus Teen Central, Donnell Library Center, Teen Advisory Group offer questions to Scott Westerfeld, author of *Extras*.

### When did you start writing? How did you get started?

My family reunions in Texas always involved a lot of storytelling, so I always was aware of how powerful words and stories could be. But I didn't start writing seriously until I lost my job as a textbook editor, took all the money I had saved, and took a year off to become a novelist. That was ten years ago, and it just gets more and more fun.

### What's your sign?

Taurus. (Stubborn, earthy, dangerous to annoy!)

### How do you feel when you see people reading your books (in the park or on the subway or wherever)?

I love it! I just saw a girl carrying *Uglies* at a resort in the mountains. I thought it was cool that she was carrying it around everywhere, when there was so much else to do up there.

### How did you get your inspiration for the *Uglies* trilogy?

My sister-in-law works in visual effects for films. She was talking about how zits and wrinkles get digitally removed from movie stars, and I wondered how long it would be before we are all made "perfect" by technology.

### What was the first book you wrote? How long did it take you to write it?

It was an adult science fiction novel called *Polymorph*. It took about three years to write, but these days, it rarely takes me more than six months. Practice makes perfect—or better, at least.

### How much pride do you have in your first book?

Hmm . . . I'm proud of it, and to make sure I stay proud of it, I never, ever read it.

### What's your favorite book?

*Charlotte's Web*.

### What music do you like?

Lots of different kinds. Mostly what you'd call alternative or trip-hop. I compose my own music, which is very electronic.

### When you were growing up, did you feel like an Extra?

I think everyone does sometimes, especially when they're younger. There's something scary about how many billions of people there are in the world, and that you're just one of them. But as I got older, I realized that this was a good thing, because it means this world has much more diversity and brilliance and weirdness than a smaller one would.

### Do you feel like changing your books after they're published?

By the time my books are published, I'm usually writing something new, so I'm not tempted to go back and change them.

### How do you know you're done writing?

I know a novel is done when my rewrites are making it worse instead of better, which eventually happens with every book.

### After you finish writing your books, do you reread them?

No, I would only find typos. I'm saving them all for a beach vacation when I'm eighty-three.

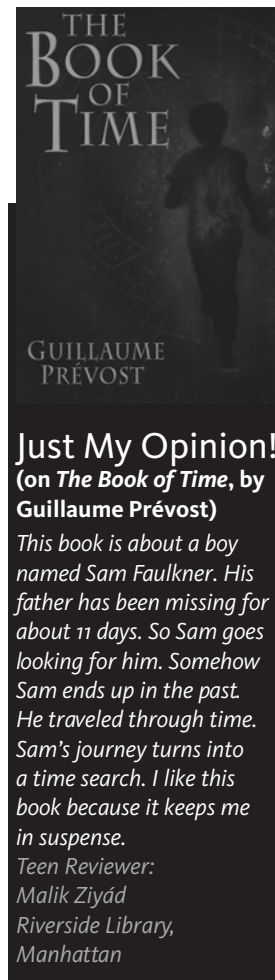
### If you could have an afro, would you? (The traditional Teen Central question.)

My afro would have a bald spot, and that would look silly.

*Extras* is published by Simon Pulse, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Books.

Visit Scott Westerfeld online: [www.scottwesterfeld.com](http://www.scottwesterfeld.com)

Prévost, Guillaume  
**The Book of Time**  
*Arthur A. Levine Books*  
Travelling back to find his father



Sedgwick, Marcus  
**My Swordhand Is Singing**  
*Wendy Lamb Books*  
Father and son battling the dead



**Just My Opinion!**  
(on *My Swordhand Is Singing*, by Marcus Sedgwick)

*This is not your typical vampire fiction. This tale follows Peter, a woodcutter's son, in the bitter winter in the town of Chust. The town was ordinary enough until the dead started to walk among the living. I enjoyed this book because despite the chapter length, something meaningful always happened. It was easily read and understood and it was fun to read.*  
Teen Reviewer:  
Stephen Winburn  
67th Street Library,  
Manhattan

Smith, Cynthia Leitich  
**Tantalize**  
*Candlewick*  
The danger of werewolf as first love

## Who Dunit?

Arnold, Tedd  
**Rat Life**  
*Sleuth/Dial*  
A Vietnam War veteran, a corpse and a gifted young writer

Bosch, Pseudonymous  
**The Name of This Book Is SECRET**  
*Little, Brown*  
Cass and Max-Ernest, a vanished magician and a box of smells

Feinstein, John  
**Cover-Up**  
*Knopf*  
Doping scandal at the Super Bowl

Gratz, Alan  
**Something Rotten**  
*Dial*  
Murder most foul in Denmark, Tennessee

Hoffman, Mary  
**Falconer's Knot**  
*Bloomsbury*  
Of friars, flirtation and foul play

Hoobler, Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler  
**A Samurai Never Fears Death**  
*Sleuth/Philomel*  
A family reunion and murder in the puppet theater

Miller, Kirsten  
**The Empress's Tomb**  
*Bloomsbury*  
Six friends solving mysteries in NYC

Parker, Robert B.  
**Edenville Owls**  
*Sleuth/Philomel*  
Bobby, basketball and a white supremacist, 1945

Peet, Mal  
**Penalty**  
*Candlewick*  
A missing soccer player, police corruption and the legacy of slavery

Powers, J.L.  
**The Confessional**  
*Knopf*  
Catholic school friends seeking answers to a murder

Sorrells, Walter  
**First Shot**  
*Dutton*  
David searching for his mother's killer

Townley, Roderick  
**The Red Thread**  
*Atheneum*  
Dana, reentering her past – 400 years ago

Vrettos, Adrienne Maria  
**Sight**  
*Margaret K. McElderry*  
Visions of abducted children haunt Dylan

Wahl, Mats  
**The Invisible**  
*Farrar, Straus and Giroux*  
Neo-Nazi skinheads and their victim

## What's So Funny?

Alt, Matt and Hiroko Yoda  
**Hello, Please**  
*Chronicle*  
Advice from super cute Japanese characters

Aronzo, Aranzi  
**The Bad Book**  
*Vertical*  
Naughty fun in cartoons and plush

Clement-Moore, Rosemary  
**Prom Dates from Hell**  
*Delacorte*  
Popular clique meets demonic curse

Doyle, Larry  
**I Love You, Beth Cooper**  
*Ecco*  
Not your typical graduation speech

Kenner, Julie  
**The Good Ghouls' Guide to Getting Even**  
*Berkley Jam*  
Jocks that bite

Kinny, Jeff  
**Diary of a Wimpy Kid**  
*Amulet*  
Stuck in middle school with a bunch of morons

Lileks, James  
**Gastroanomalies**  
*Crown*  
Retro culinary creations of our grandparents

Morris, Taylor  
**Class Favorite**  
*Aladdin Mix*  
Sara: popularity at any price

Rich, Simon  
**Ant Farm**  
*Random House*  
Growing up beyond the gross-out

Slade, Arthur  
**Villainology**  
*Tundra*  
Identification tips and dating tricks for evildoers

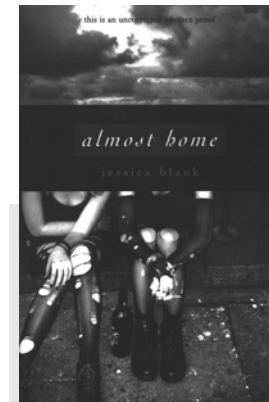
Snicket, Lemony  
**Horseradish**  
*HarperCollins*  
Morose advice for morbid readers

Walsh, Marissa  
**Field Guide to High School**  
*Delacorte*  
Teens in their natural habitat

## Word on the Street

Adams, Lenora  
**Baby Girl**  
*Simon Pulse*  
Sheree: tough, mean, easy, pregnant

Blank, Jessica  
**Almost Home**  
*Hyperion*  
Eeyore, Squid, Scabius, Critter and Tracy: homeless in LA



**Book Excerpt**  
(from *Almost Home*, by Jessica Blank)

"Okay," I say again, but I breathe first and look at her when I say it this time, and she looks at me back. She's beautiful. I can't really explain it since she has a face full of zits and her teeth are yellow like her hair and she looks like she hasn't slept or showered in a week or eaten in a month. It's not anything about the pieces of her fitting together right like Jenny Kirchner or matching up with anything I've seen before. It's more about how Tracy's got all this metal in her eyes like she knows five million things I've never even heard of, but then she looks at me like I know all those things too.

McDonald, Janet  
**Off-Color**  
*Frances Foster Books*  
YGzBK: White mother, black father

Phillips, Suzanne  
**Chloe Doe**  
*Little, Brown*  
A teen prostitute, arrested and sent to rehab

Sitomer, Alan Lawrence  
**Homeboyz**  
*Jump at the Sun*  
When a driveby shooting sparks revenge

van Diepen, Allison  
**Snitch**  
*Simon Pulse*  
Love crossing the line between the Crips and the Bloods



**Book Excerpt**  
(from *Snitch*, by Allison van Diepen)

"I know you too..." I said as if I didn't remember his name.

"It's Eric Valienté."  
"Julia DiVino."  
He leaned closer. "Di-what?"  
"DiVino. It's Italian. But I'm Puerto Rican on my mom's side."

He smiled. "I didn't know I was messing with no Puerto Rican." He rolled his Rs like he spoke Spanish. Sexy.

I could hear my heartbeat, separate from the music, pounding in my ears. Eric Valienté was giving me sensory overload. We had to stand really close to talk over the loud music, and it was messing with my hormones.

"I'm a mutt too," he said. "Dad's Dominican, Mom's Mexican."  
"Nice mix."  
"They didn't think so. They got divorced."

That could be a conversation killer if I didn't keep the ball rolling. "I never heard how you ended up in Brooklyn."

"Got into some trouble in Detroit. Nothing big, but my mom thought I should come here for a fresh start. So I'm living with my dad now. How's that for an answer?"

Volponi, Paul  
**Rucker Park Setup**  
*Viking*  
Murder and revenge on the b-ball court

## Brain Food

Burns, Loree Griffin  
**Tracking Trash**  
*Houghton Mifflin*  
Using dangerous debris to study ocean motion

Collier, Michael  
**Over the Mountains**  
*Mikaya*  
Awe-inspiring aerial photos of our earth

Dingle, Adrian and Simon Basher  
**The Periodic Table**  
*Kingfisher*  
Chemical elements in their own words

Freedman, Russell  
**Who Was First?**  
*Clarion*  
The many discoveries of the Americas

Gore, Al  
**An Inconvenient Truth: Adapted for a New Generation**  
*Viking*  
The crisis of global warming

Margonelli, Lisa  
**Oil on the Brain**  
*Nan A. Talese*  
Petroleum: from the ground to the pump

Pearce, Fred  
**Earth Then and Now**  
*Firefly*  
Before and after: impact of man and nature

Pregracke, Chad with Jeff Barrow  
**From the Bottom Up**  
*National Geographic*  
Cleaning up the Mississippi River

Tyson, Neil DeGrasse  
**Death by Black Hole: And Other Cosmic Quandaries**  
*Norton*  
Essays illuminating our universe

Yenne, Bill  
**UFO**  
*Gramercy*  
Evaluating the evidence

Zoellner, Tom  
**Heartless Stone**  
*St. Martin's*  
The universal desire for diamonds

## Fur, Feathers, Fins, and Scales

Abazis, Nick  
**Laika**  
*First Second*  
The first Earthling in space, a Russian dog

Katz, Jon  
**Dog Days**  
*Villard*  
Also sheep, cows, and donkey days on Bedlam Farm

Koertge, Ron  
**Strays**  
*Candlewick*  
For Ted, talking to animals is easier than talking to people

Ledner, Catherine  
**Animal House**  
*Welcome*  
Adorable creatures come inside

Lewry, Fraser and Tom Ryan  
**Kittenwar**  
*Chronicle*  
Champions of charming

Michael, Livi  
**City of Dogs**  
*Putnam's*  
A pup on a mission to save the world

Stevens, Kathy  
**Where the Blind Horse Sings**  
*Skyhorse*  
At an animal sanctuary in upstate New York

Summers, Jennie  
**So Cute You Could Die**  
*Quirk*  
Irresistible faces to love

## Do You Believe?

Aronson, Marc  
**Race**  
*Atheneum*  
Prejudice from the beginning

Craughwell, Thomas J.  
**This Saint's for You!**  
*Quirk*  
300 heavenly allies

Gabriel, Theodore and Ronald Geaves  
**...isms**  
*Universe*  
Understanding religions of the world

Hafiz, Dilara, Imran Hafiz, and Yasmine Hafiz  
**The American Muslim Teenager's Handbook**  
*Acacia*  
The challenge of growing up in the West

Jackowski, Karol  
**Forever and Ever, Amen**  
*Riverhead*  
Becoming a nun in the 1960s



Levitin, Sonia  
**Strange Relations**  
*Knopf*  
Marne, discovering her Jewish roots in Hawaii

Metter, Bert  
**Bar Mitzvah, Bat Mitzvah**  
*Clarion*  
Jewish coming-of-age ceremonies

## Dealing with It

Bush, Jenna  
**Ana's Story**  
*HarperCollins*  
Poverty, abuse, AIDS, hope

Carter, Dominic  
**No Momma's Boy**  
*iUniverse*  
TV reporter's painful past

Cassidy, Anne  
**Looking for JJ**  
*Harcourt*  
Alice's life committing a murder

Chappell, Crissa-Jean  
**Total Constant Order**  
*HarperTeen*  
Fin's counting on numbers to keep control

Colebank, Susan  
**Black Tuesday**  
*Dutton*  
The aftermath of Jayne's car crash

Crocker, Nancy  
**Billie Standish Was Here**  
*Simon & Schuster*  
Tragedy unfolds in an empty town

Draper, Sharon M.  
**November Blues**  
*Atheneum*  
Mourning her boyfriend, fighting for her baby

Harazin, S.A.  
**Blood Brothers**  
*Delacorte*  
Clay, watching his best friend overdose

Hershey, Mary  
**The One Where the Kid Nearly Jumps to His Death and Lands in California**  
*Razorbill*  
Alastair: amputee with attitude

Jacobs, Deborah Lynn  
**Choices**  
*Roaring Brook*  
Multiple realities after a brother's death

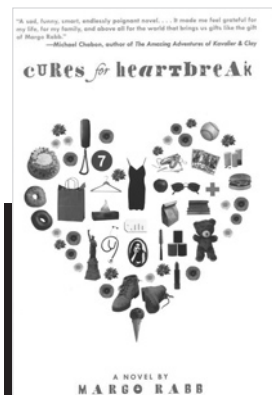
Kaywell, Joan F., editor  
**Dear Author**  
*Philomel*  
Helping their teen readers with tough issues

Knowles, Jo  
**Lessons from a Dead Girl**  
*Candlewick*  
The pressure of early sexual experiments

Kuipers, Alice  
**Life on the Refrigerator Door**  
*HarperCollins*  
Mother/daughter relationship told in notes

Mooney, Jonathan  
**The Short Bus**  
*Henry Holt*  
Encounters with those labeled abnormal

Rabb, Margo  
**Cures for Heartbreak**  
*Delacorte*  
Mia's bad luck: mom's dead and other woes



## Just My Opinion! (on *Cures for Heartbreak*, by Margo Rabb)

*In the very beginning, the reader was hit with a tragedy—the death of Mia's mother. Yet, short days after, Mia went out with Jay Kasper. Then during her father's triple bypass surgery, Mia liked one of the doctors in the hospital. All of the romance did not mix well with the tragedies. However, Mia's reactions to the tragedies were realistic. Her hatred for Sylvia, the short-lived stepmother, was also believable and vivid. I loved the character of Alex, Mia's sister. She was a combination of wit, intelligence, and maturity. There were some humorous parts in this book that I really enjoyed, such as Mia's description of Gina Petrollo. This book is also very real in the way that readers can easily connect to the character.*

*Teen Reviewer:  
Wenjing (Jenny) Dai  
Jefferson Market Library,  
Manhattan*

Rapp, Emily  
**Poster Child**  
*Bloomsbury*  
Coming to terms with her unique body

Robson, Claire, editor  
**Outside Rules**  
*Persea*  
Stories of kids who don't fit in

Rosen, Renée  
**Every Crooked Pot**  
*St. Martin's Griffin*  
Nina's desperate quest to appear normal

Vincent, Erin  
**Grief Girl**  
*Delacorte*  
Losing both parents at 14

Young, Janet Ruth  
**The Opposite of Music**  
*Atheneum*  
The strain of dad's mental illness

## Phenomenal Lives

Arfin, Lesley  
**Dear Diary**  
*Vice Books*  
Growing up confused on Long Island

Aronson, Marc  
**Up Close: Robert F. Kennedy**  
*Viking*  
His evolution: politician or hero

Bernstein, Harry  
**The Invisible Wall**  
*Ballantine*  
A Jewish childhood in Northern England

Danticat, Edwidge  
**Brother, I'm Dying**  
*Knopf*  
Her family story: Haiti and NYC

Dully, Howard and Charles Fleming  
**My Lobotomy**  
*Crown Publishers*  
Claiming a life taken away by an icepick

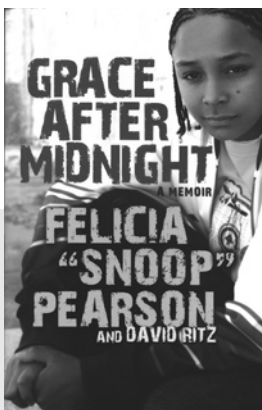
Geng, Steve  
**Thick as Thieves**  
*Henry Holt*  
Brothers and sisters: creative, turbulent lives

Hall, Meredith  
**Without a Map**  
*Beacon*  
An abandoned child, a search for love

Holloway, Monica  
**Driving with Dead People**  
*Simon Spotlight Entertainment*  
Unpredictable, scary, funny family

MacDonald, Kyle  
**One Red Paperclip**  
*Three Rivers*  
Trading up to bigger and better things

Pearson, Felicia "Snoop" and David Ritz  
**Grace After Midnight**  
*Grand Central*  
From the toughest streets to *The Wire*



**Book Excerpt (from *Grace After Midnight*, by Felicia Pearson and David Ritz)**  
I was born in Baltimore twenty-seven years ago, and then I died—twice. I died both times because my mother was filled with drugs and so was I. Crack babies are messed-up babies, and, according to what the doctors were saying, I didn't have a prayer.

But they brought me back from death's door. Someone or something keeps bringing me back from death's door.

I don't understand it,

but maybe writing this book will help me see who I was and who I became. Sometimes I close my eyes, take a deep breath, and imagine myself back then:

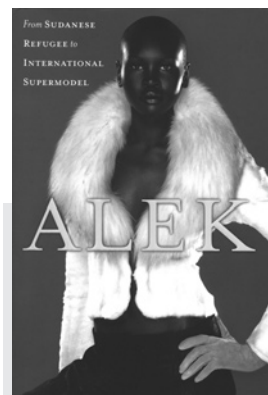
A little-bitty baby small enough to fit into the palm of the doctor's hand, no bigger than a puppy or kitten; a baby who has to be fed with an eye dropper 'cause her mouth is too small for the nipple of a bottle; a baby born cross-eyed due to the drugs running through her system.

A baby born to die.

Salant, James  
**Leaving Dirty Jersey**  
*Simon Spotlight Entertainment*  
Life on crystal meth

Schein, Elyse and Paula Bernstein  
**Identical Strangers**  
*Random House*  
Twins raised apart, reunited

Wek, Alek and Stephen P. Williams  
**Alek**  
*Amistad*  
From Sudanese refugee to supermodel



**Book Excerpt (from *Alek*, by Alek Wek and Stephen P. Williams)**  
After I was born, the seventh of nine children, my mother and I returned from the hospital to her simple string bed, in a cement-block house in a little town called Wau. My parents named me Alek, after one of my beloved great-aunts. Alek means "black spotted cow," one of the most common and best-loved types of cow in Sudan. It's also a symbol of good luck for my people, the Dinka. I got my long body from my father—I'm nearly six feet tall—and my mother gave me my smile. My inky skin came from both of them.

When a child is born to the Dinka, the family has a party. When I was born, family and friends came from all over, thanks to the bush telegraph.

## Getting It Together

Bradley, Michael J.  
**The Heart & Soul of the Next Generation**  
*Harbor*  
Facing challenges with courage

The Editors of *CosmoGIRL!*  
**CosmoGIRL! Quiz Book: Discover Your Style**  
*Hearst Books*  
Tests to get to know yourself better

Napier, Tanya and Jen Kollmer  
**Girl in a Funk**  
*Zest*  
Tips to de-stress your life

Pollak, Lindsey  
**Getting from College to Career**  
*Collins*  
Working your way into the real world

Reber, Deborah  
**In Their Shoes**  
*Simon Pulse*  
Amazing careers of extraordinary women

Sachs, Brad  
**When No One Understands**  
*Trumpeter*  
A therapist's letters to a suicidal teen

Schneider, Robyn  
**The Social Climber's Guide to High School**  
*Simon Pulse*  
How to avoid the pitfalls and be fabulous

Schultz, Robert A. and Delisle, James R.  
**More Than a Test Score**  
*Free Spirit*  
Being gifted, talented or otherwise extraordinary

Senning, Cindy Post and Peggy Post  
**Teen Manners**  
*Collins*  
Choosing to be polite

Simmons, Russell with Chris Morrow  
**Do You!**  
*Gotham Books*  
Achieving success in business and life

## Looking Good

Bentley, Fonworth  
**Advance Your Swagger**  
*Villard*  
Advice from Diddy's personal assistant

Editors of *Nylon*  
**Pretty**  
*Universe*  
Signature looks for the aspiring star

Flaherty, Sommer and Jen Kollmer  
**Girl in a Fix**  
*Zest*  
Fast and easy solutions for cosmetic disasters

Na, An  
**The Fold**  
*Putnam*  
Joyce, reinventing her Asian look

Thalia  
**Thalia: Belleza!**  
*Chronicle*  
Mexican singer/actress, beauty secrets unraveled



**Book Excerpt (from *Thalia: Belleza!*, by Thalia)**  
Latin Beauty is a very specific type of beauty. I'm not suggesting that we're all one kind of beautiful. I know that, as Latinas, we come in different colors, shapes, and sizes. We come from different countries and we're very proud to be from that country. We have similar upbringings and similar cultures. Obviously, I'm proud to be a

Latina. As different and individual as we all are, I think we definitely have a lot in common. When I think of Latina Beauty, I think of sexy, feminine, seductive, strong, nurturing women. We support, love, and flirt with our men like it's nobody's business! But, as much as we love being sexy and seductive with our men, there's nothing like the bond we share with our moms, sisters, and girlfriends—Latin girls like to stick by our girls. We love to talk openly about everything. We share our insecurities, our joys, our sorrows, and most important, our beauty secrets.

Yellen, David, and Johanna Lenander  
**Hair Wars**  
*powerHouse*  
Big bold 'dos: African-American crowns of glory

## LGBTQ

Baez, John, Jennifer Howd, Rachel Pepper and the staff of *The Princeton Review*  
**The Gay and Lesbian Guide to College Life**  
*Random House*  
How to be out and proud after high school

Beam, Cris  
**Transparent**  
*Harcourt*  
Teen transgirls surviving LA's mean streets

Gurba, Myriam  
**Dahlia Season**  
*Manic D*  
Desiree: trans, fierce, Chicana, survivor

Hartering, Brent  
**Split Screen**  
*HarperTempest*  
Min and Russell on the set, finding love and lust



Keen, Lisa  
**Out Law**  
*Beacon*  
What LGBT youth should know about their legal rights

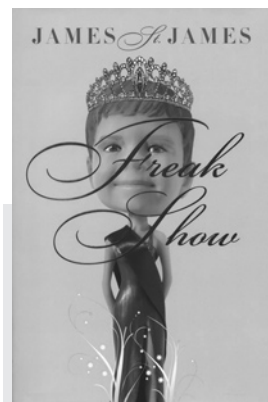
Medina, Nico  
**The Straight Road to Kylie**  
*Simon Pulse*  
Going back into the closet for front row seats

Peters, Julie Anne  
**grlzgrl**  
*Megan Tingley Books*  
Girls on the brink, discovering themselves and each other

Sanchez, Alex  
**The God Box**  
*Simon @ Schuster*  
WWMD: What would Manuel do?

St. James, James  
**Freak Show**  
*Dutton*  
Billy Bloom: artist, rebel, metamorph, prom queen

Wittlinger, Ellen  
**Parrotfish**  
*Simon @ Schuster*  
Grady: a girl on the outside, a boy underneath



**Book Excerpt**  
(from *Freak Show*, by James St. James)  
WELCOME TO THE TERROR DOME

1414 Sparkleberry Lane (I couldn't make that up). And there's the sign: DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER ACADEMY—HOME OF THE FIGHTING MANATEES.

It appears I'm in the right place. So.

Here we go. First day of school. At a NEW SCHOOL. Starting as a senior.

Christ on a cracker, I am screwed.

One step. Two steps.

Three steps. Four.

I made it all the way to the edge of the well-tended lawn before I lost my nerve. I hid behind a tree and watched as the spectacle unfolded. What I saw was horrible and hypnotic. Worse than I ever imagined. There. In the pristine courtyard. A seething, surging, wreathing, writhing army of upper-crusties...

*Crème de la Caucasians...*

Nothing but nothing but Stepford teens in full preen. In your choice of blond or blonder.

Welcome to the WASP nest....

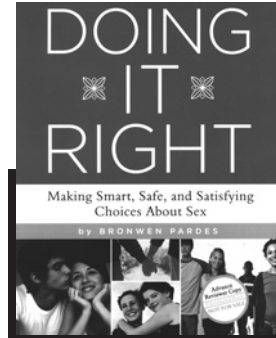
## Mind, Body, Love, Sex

Birkemoe, Karen and Heather Collett  
**Strike a Pose**  
*Kids Can*  
Girls' guide to yoga

Madaras, Lynda, with Area Madaras  
**The "What's Happening to My Body?" Book for Boys, revised**  
*Newmarket*  
The owner's manual for guys

Madaras, Lynda, with Area Madaras  
**The "What's Happening to My Body?" Book for Girls, revised**  
*Newmarket*  
Everything you ever wanted to know

Pardes, Bronwen  
**Doing It Right**  
*Simon Pulse*  
Making smart, safe choices



**Just My Opinion!**  
(on *Doing It Right*, by Bronwen Pardes)

*This is a great book that talks about how teens can make good decisions for themselves when it comes to sex. It is an easy read and explains all topics in details that teens should know. This is a very good informational book teens should read when it comes to sex. This book is good for both boys and girls and talks about*

*many different topics—topics anywhere from people's sexual preferences, to how to protect your body from STDs, to what you should do when you are ready to have sex.*  
*Teen Reviewer: Meagan Figueroa West Farms Library, Bronx*

Redd, Nancy Amanda  
**Body Drama**  
*Gotham*  
Real girls, real bodies, real issues, real answers

Shivack, Nadia  
**Inside Out**  
*Ginee Seo Books/Atheneum*  
Portrait of a decline into anorexia and bulimia

## That's Hot

Cooper, Robbie  
**Alter Ego**  
*Chris Boot*  
The face behind Warcraft, Second Life, Everquest...

Lusky, Noah  
**Who's Your TV Alter Ego?**  
*Simon Spotlight Entertainment*  
Find yourself in *Ugly Betty*, *The Simpsons*, *Project Runway* and more

Nicol, Geordon, editor  
**Misshapes**  
*MTV*  
Inside one of NYC's hottest party circuits

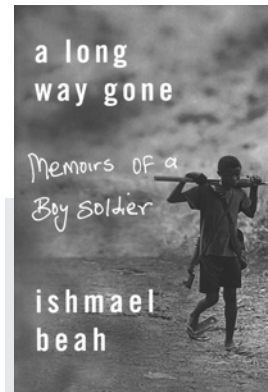
Simon, Leslie and Trevor Kelley  
**Everybody Hurts**  
*HarperEntertainment*  
The essential guide to Emo culture

Vogel, Steven  
**Streetwear**  
*Chronicle*  
The look, the scene, the designers

Yoshinaga, Masayuki  
**Gothic & Lolita**  
*Phaidon*  
Goth chic meets Bo Peep: Japan's hot new look

## War and Peace

Beah, Ishmael  
**A Long Way Gone**  
*Sarah Crichton Books*  
A boy soldier fighting in Sierra Leone



**Book Excerpt**  
(from *A Long Way Gone*, by Ishmael Beah)  
**New York City, 1998**

My high school friends have begun to suspect I haven't told them the full story of my life.

"Why did you leave Sierra Leone?"

"Because there is a war."

"Did you witness some of the fighting?"

"Everyone in the country did."

"You mean you saw people running around with guns and shooting each other?"

"Yes, all the time."

"Cool."

I smile a little.

"You should tell us about it sometime."

"Yes, sometime."

Easton, Kelly  
**Hiroshima Dreams**  
*Dutton*  
Lin, her Japanese grandmother and the gift of second sight

Fleischman, John  
**Black and White Airmen**  
*Houghton Mifflin*  
John and Herb, third grade classmates, friends later

Gipi  
**Notes for a War Story**  
*First Second*  
A graphic novel, a nameless war, a nameless country

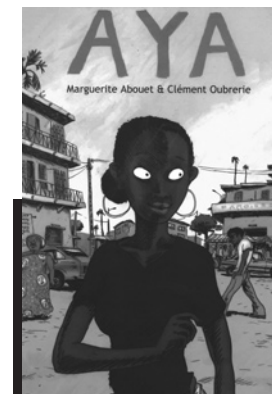
Hampton, Wilborn  
**War in the Middle East**  
*Candlewick*  
Black September and the Yom Kippur War

London, Charles  
**One Day the Soldiers Came**  
*Harper Perennial*  
The voices of young people in war

Peet, Mal  
**Tamar**  
*Candlewick*  
Unraveling a grandfather's WWII secrets

## One World

Abouet, Marguerite and Clément Oubrerie  
**Aya**  
*Drawn @ Quarterly*  
Growing up in pre-war Ivory Coast



**Just My Opinion!**  
(on *Aya*, by Marguerite Abouet and Clément Oubrerie)

*This book is about three girls who have three different personalities. Aya is into schooling while her two other friends, Adjoua and Bintou, sneak out every night. However, two girls with almost the same*

*personalities could lead to trouble. Aya sticks to her dreams while her two other friends betray each other. Adjoua is always betraying her friend Bintou by always going out with Bintou's ex-boyfriend. Then Adjoua gets pregnant and doesn't know who her baby's father is. I like this book because it reminds me of a true life story that could happen any day to any girl. I also like this book because a girl could also get pregnant and not know who their baby's father is. And most girls sneak out to party or see their boyfriends, like Bintou and Adjoua. These are some of the reasons I like the book Aya.*  
*Teen Reviewer: Mark Harris West Farms Library, Bronx*

Antieau, Kim  
**Broken Moon**  
*Margaret K. McElderry*  
A brother lost in the Pakistani desert

Barakat, Ibtisam  
**Tasting the Sky**  
*Melanie Kroupa Books*  
Palestinian childhood shattered by war

Compstine, Ying Chang  
**Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party**  
*Henry Holt*  
A Chinese family's fight for survival

Cooney, Caroline B.  
**Enter Three Witches**  
*Scholastic*  
A teen amid the intrigues of Macbeth

Hosseini, Khaled  
**A Thousand Splendid Suns**  
*Riverhead*  
Unlikely love in war-torn Afghanistan

Iggulden, Conn  
**Genghis**  
*Delacorte*  
A brave young warrior uniting his people

Khadra, Yasmina  
**The Sirens of Baghdad**  
*Nan A. Talese*  
A Bedouin student drawn to violence

Lat  
**Town Boy**  
*First Second*  
Cartoon world of a 1960s Malaysian teen

Roberts, Judson  
**Dragons from the Sea**  
*HarperCollins*  
A Viking warrior seeking revenge

Steinberg, Amiee Major  
**Japan Ai**  
*Go! Comi*  
A tall American girl's adventures in Japan

## U.S.A. Black Voices, Black Experiences

Alexander, Elizabeth and Marilyn Nelson  
**Miss Crandall's School for Young Ladies & Little Misses of Color**  
*Wordsong*  
Sonnets for a brave educator and her students

Benedict, Helen  
**The Opposite of Love**  
*Viking*  
Madge, bi-racial outcast, victim of a biased world

Boyd, Todd  
**The Notorious Ph.D.'s Guide to the Super Fly '70s**  
*Harlem Moon*  
Funky clothes, afros, and more...

Brimner, Larry Dane  
**We Are One**  
*Calkins Creek*  
The fight for racial equality, an unfamiliar hero, Bayard Rustin

Draper, Sharon M.  
**Fire from the Rock**  
*Dutton*  
Sylvia, facing hard choices as Arkansas desegregates

Gates, Henry Louis, Jr.  
**Finding Oprah's Roots**  
*Crown*  
Searching family trees, a historical odyssey

Giovanni, Nikki  
**On My Journey Now**  
*Candlewick*  
A history illuminated through spirituals

Howard, Ravi  
**Like Trees Walking**  
*Amistad*  
Searching for justice after an Alabama lynching

## Latinos

Alegría, Malin  
**Sofi Mendoza's Guide to Getting Lost in Mexico**  
*Simon @ Schuster*  
Stuck in Tijuana, getting a green card

Báez, Anney  
**My Daughter's Eyes and Other Stories**  
*Curbstone Press*  
Dominican girls, becoming rebels

Cortez, Sarah, editor  
**Windows Into My World**  
*Piñata Books*  
Memories of Latin American experiences

Katz, Fredrich  
**The Face of Pancho Villa**  
*Cinco Puntos*  
Bandit or revolutionary, picturing a Mexican leader

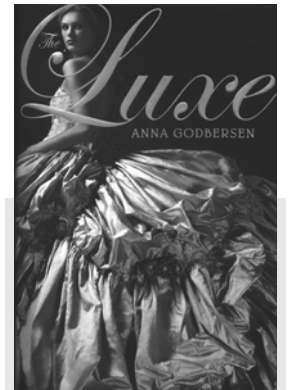
Miller, Tom, editor  
**How I Learned English**  
*National Geographic*  
55 notable Latinos on language and life

Schmidt, C.A.  
**Useful Fools**  
*Dutton*  
Alonso, seduced into terrorism in Peru

## New York, New York

Cooper, Martha  
**New York State of Mind**  
*powerHouse*  
A photographer roams the city

Godbersen, Anna  
**The Luxe**  
*HarperTeen*  
1899: Forbidden romance in an elite world



**Book Excerpt**  
(from *The Luxe*, by Anna Godbersen)

In life, Elizabeth Adora Holland was known not only for her loveliness but also for her moral character, so it was fair to assume that in the afterlife she would occupy a lofty seat with an especially good view. If Elizabeth had looked down from that heavenly perch one particular October morning on the proceedings of her own funeral, she would have been honored to see that all of New York's best families had turned out to say good-bye.

Kugelberg, Johan, editor  
**Born in the Bronx**  
*Rizzoli*  
The music that grew from urban blight

Lurie, April  
**Brothers, Boyfriends & Other Criminal Minds**  
*Delacorte*  
Defending against the Mob in 1970s Brooklyn



Marsh, Katherine  
**The Night Tourist**  
*Hyperion*  
Jack and Euri's ghostly tour of the city

Marx, Trish and Ellen B. Senisi  
**Steel Drumming at the Apollo**  
*Lee @ Low*  
Guys on the road to Amateur Night

Myers, Walter Dean  
**Harlem Summer**  
*Scholastic*  
1925: OOOPS! A summer job, run-ins with bootleggers



### Just My Opinion! (on *Harlem Summer*, by Walter Dean Myers)

*Harlem Summer* by Newbery Honor Award-winning Walter Dean Myers is a fast and gripping read. With an extremely realistic setting and a typical Harlem teenager as the protagonist, the story really seems to capture the essence of life in Harlem. The main character, Mark Purvis, believably reveals his dreams to become a 'swinging' saxophone player, but the bulk of the story is spent describing his adventures around that dream. I like the way that real characters are interwoven throughout the story, and their personality is described very personally.

*For example, Langston Hughes is represented as a very friendly guy who goes about his poetry without making it seem (although it is how he makes his living) a life or death activity. I really enjoyed the mood created by the story; sometimes tense, sometimes funny, but the entire time, very realistic and believable.*  
Teen Reviewer:  
Aviva Hakanoglu  
Jefferson Market Library,  
Manhattan

Schumacher, Thomas with Jeff Kurtti  
**How Does the Show Go On?**  
*Disney Editions*  
Broadway theater, behind the scenes

## U.S.A. Past and Present

Bausum, Ann  
**Muckrakers**  
*National Geographic*  
Reporters whose words changed our nation

Cummins, Joseph  
**Anything for a Vote**  
*Quirk*  
Bad behavior in presidential politics

Hill, Laban Carrick  
**American Dreaming**  
*Little, Brown*  
Youth's cultural revolution of the 60s

Lange, Karen E.  
**1607: A New Look at Jamestown**  
*National Geographic*  
Where the colonies were born

Marrin, Albert  
**The Great Adventure**  
*Dutton*  
Theodore Roosevelt and the rise of modern America

National Museum of the American Indian  
**Do All Indians Live in Tipis?**  
*Collins*  
Debunking the myths, answering the questions

Peck, Richard  
**On the Wings of Heroes**  
*Dial*  
Seeing WWII through Davy's eyes

## DIY

Aronzo, Aranzi  
**The Cute Book**  
*Vertical*  
Easy to make Japanese felt mascots

Baldrige, Aimee  
**The Camera Phone Book**  
*National Geographic*  
Snap, share, unload: a photography guide

Fujimoto, Naomi  
**Cool Jewels**  
*Kalmbach*  
Making your own handmade bling

Greene, Lauren A.  
**inJEANious**  
*Watson-Guptill*  
Flirty, edgy, denim fashions

Niedzviecki, Hal  
**The Big Book of Pop Culture**  
*Annick*  
From zines to blogs, the path to self-expression

Smith, Esther K.  
**How to Make Books**  
*Potter Craft*  
Fold, cut and stitch your way to a one-of-a-kind creation

Warwick, Ellen; Bernice Lum, illustrator  
**Fully Woolly**  
*Kids Can*  
Knitting, stitching, felting creations

Werker, Kim  
**Get Hooked Again**  
*Watson-Guptill*  
A needle, some yarn and you

## Poetry: Raps, Rhymes, Rants

Andrinik, Catherine M.  
**Wildly Romantic**  
*Henry Holt*  
Poetry rebels in the 1880s

Applegate, Katherine  
**Home of the Brave**  
*Feiwel @ Friends*  
Kek, from Kenya to a new life in Minneapolis

Crisler, Curtis L.  
**Tough Boy Sonatas**  
*Wordsong*  
Urban voices from a "City of misfortune"

Giovanni, Nikki  
**Acolytes**  
*Morrow*  
Of celebrations and memories

Grandits, John  
**Blue Lipstick**  
*Clarion*  
Jesse, drawing her angst in words

Hemphill, Stephanie  
**Your Own, Sylvia**  
*Knopf*  
A verse portrait of Sylvia Plath

Myers, Christopher  
**Jabberwocky**  
*Jump at the Sun*  
A classic poem reimaged by a contemporary artist

Paschen, Elise and Rebekah Presson Mosby, editors  
**Poetry Speaks Expanded**  
*Sourcebooks*  
The poets' voices heard

Wright, C.D.  
**One Big Self**  
*Copper Canyon*  
Words giving life to those imprisoned

## The Power of Words

Beltz, Justin, editor  
**The Best Teen Writing of 2007**  
*Alliance for Young Artists @ Writers*  
Award-winning works from across the U.S.A.

Goldwasser, Amy, editor  
**Red**  
*Hudson Street*  
Essays from the heart, documenting the lives of teenage girls

Groves, Eric, Sr.  
**Butt Rot & Bottom Gas**  
*Quirk*  
Tragically misunderstood words: obscene or not

O'Conner, Patricia T.  
**Woe Is I Jr.**  
*Putnam's*  
The funny side to using English

Pearl, Nancy  
**Book Crush**  
*Sasquatch*  
Teen reads you will love

## The Soundtrack of Your Life

50 Cent  
**50 x 50**  
*Pocket*  
From the street to fame

Assante, Ernesto  
**Legends of Rock**  
*White Star*  
50 years and still going strong

Beckman, Janette  
**The Breaks: Stylin' and Profilin' 1982-1990**  
*powerHouse*  
Family album of the early hip-hop days

Benabib, Michael  
**In Ya Grill: The Faces of Hip-Hop**  
*Billboard*  
Those who created the music and the style

Bolden, Tonya  
**Take-Off: American All-Girl Bands During WWII**  
*Knopf*  
Making their mark on the history of jazz

Coleman, Brian  
**Check the Technique: Liner Notes for Hip-Hop Junkies**  
*Villard*  
How the best albums got made

Duncan, Chris, editor  
**My First Time: A Collection of First Punk Show Stories**  
*AK*  
How live music changes everything

Hampton, Wilborn  
**Up Close: Elvis Presley**  
*Viking*  
From shy Memphis boy to King

Horgan, Susie J.  
**Punk Love**  
*Universe*  
Early photos of hard core legends

Jasper, Kenji and Ytasha L. Womack  
**Beats, Rhymes & Life**  
*Harlem Moon*  
The evolution of hip hop

Neimark, Anne E.  
**Up Close: Johnny Cash**  
*Viking*  
The Man in Black: an American icon

Sharpley-Whiting, T. Denean  
**Pimps Up, Ho's Down**  
*New York University*  
How hip hop sees young women

Spitz, Bob  
**Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!**  
*Little, Brown*  
The Beatles forever

## Vision Becomes Image

Bey, Dawoud  
**Class Pictures**  
*Aperture Foundation*  
Group portrait of a generation

Cheng, Terrence  
**Deep in the Mountains**  
*Watson-Guptill*  
What Tony learns from a Chinese master

Deifell, Tony  
**Seeing Beyond Sight**  
*Chronicle*  
Photographs by blind teens

Manco, Tristan  
**Street Sketch Book**  
*Chronicle*  
From the journals of graffiti artists

Manferto De Fabianis, Valeria, editor  
**People**  
*White Star*  
The glorious variety of the human family

Nau, Thomas  
**Walker Evans: Photographer of America**  
*Roaring Brook*  
Turning everyday life into art

Schwartz, Lara M.  
**Making Music Videos**  
*Billboard*  
From development to production

Shabazz, Jamel  
**Seconds of My Life**  
*powerHouse*  
Faces of hope from NYC and beyond

## Sports

Branham, H.A.  
**The NASCAR Family Album**  
*Chronicle*  
Memorabilia for racing fans

Clippinger, Carol  
**Open Court**  
*Knopf*  
Pressures of being a tennis phenom



Carroll Clippinger

### Just My Opinion! (on *Open Court*, by Carol Clippinger)

*Open Court* chronicles tennis prodigy Hall Braxton's thirteenth summer. Hall is a champion in Colorado but is scared at the thought of being sent to a prestigious tennis school in Florida. In addition, she is faced with the fear of losing her tennis prowess. *Open Court* is fast-paced and Clippinger's method of using short sentences captures both Hall's and tennis's intensity. This book is engaging and compelling for tennis pros and neophytes alike.  
Teen Reviewer:  
Zoey Peresman, Manhattan

Cross, Shauna  
**Derby Girl**  
*Henry Holt*  
Bliss trading rhinestones for roller skates

Curtes, Jeff, Dean Blotto Gray, and Adam Moran  
**28 Day Winter**  
*powerHouse Books*  
The beauty and thrill of snowboarding

Foley, John  
**Hoops of Steel**  
*Flux*  
Challenges on and off the court

Foley, Mick  
**Hardcore Diaries**  
*Pocket/World Wrestling Entertainment*  
An insider's look at pro wrestling

Leffel, Caitlin, editor  
**Cheerleading**  
*Universe*  
From tryouts to championships

Lipsyte, Robert  
**Yellow Flag**  
*HarperTeen*  
Kyle, racing in his family's tradition



### Book Excerpt (from *Yellow Flag*, by Robert Lipsyte)

He was coming off the last turn, racing three wide for the finish, Dad on his left, Kris on his right, trapped between them. Through the roar of the engines he heard the metallic shriek of their doors scraping. Uncle Kale's voice came through the headphones: "Gas it, Kylie, get out of there." Kyle thought, If we cross the finish line together, I will never get out of this car. I will be stuck in here forever.

Even as he dreamed, he knew it was a dream, the old one, the yellow caution flag dream, the early warning dream. Something's going to happen today.

Lupica, Mike  
**Summer Ball**  
*Philomel*  
Big competition at basketball camp

Ortiz, David with Tony Massarotti  
**Big Papi**  
*St. Martin's*  
Red Sox slugger's own story

Polly, Matthew  
**American Shaolin**  
*Gotham*  
From Kansas to China to study Kung Fu

## Members of the Bronx Library Center's Teen Advisory Group offer questions to Dawoud Bey, photographer and author of *Class Pictures*.

### Why did you pick these teens?

The young people in *Class Pictures* were selected by a teacher in the school in which I made the pictures or they volunteered to be photographed and to write a text. In each school, I wanted the teenagers I photographed to be representative of the population of that particular school in terms of gender, race, and culture.

### What made you write this book? What was your inspiration to create this book?

I did this book because I thought it was important to show who young people in America are right now, and to also create a space for them to tell a little about who they are in a way that they hadn't been able to put out in the world before. I wanted to allow them to speak through my work.

### Why are most of the kids sitting with their arms crossed?

When the kids sat in front of the camera, I asked them to relax and make themselves comfortable. The way they are sitting is the way they chose to sit, and is the way most of us sit when we are sitting and having a conversation with someone or concentrating on something.

### What is the point of delving into other people's lives?

I think in delving into other people's lives we are each able to find out something about our own lives. We're also able to feel more connected to other people through their experiences, since we may have had similar experiences. I think it makes us all more empathetic.

### What was your favorite environment to use when taking these pictures?

Most of the pictures were made in classrooms in different schools. I don't think I have a "favorite" environment, since each situation presented its own challenge. I made all of these pictures during the school day, so if the school didn't have a lot of different rooms that were available to photograph in I would make pictures in the same room, and try to figure out how to make it look like a different space in each picture.

### Are you planning a sequel? Could I be included? How long did it take you to create and publish this book?

*Class Pictures* represents the completion of four years of photographing and a year spent selecting the pictures and working on the book with the publisher. While I don't think there will be a sequel, I never say "never." But after five years I do feel like it's time to move on and make new and different work. I am interested in doing more work in video.

### What is your favorite photograph ever?

There are so many, I don't think I could name just one, but one of them would be James VanDerZee's portrait

of Jean-Michel Basquiat, made in 1982. The photograph represents two great black artists from the early and late 20th century presenting themselves to each other and making a picture that documents the moment when they came together. I have that photograph on my wall and look at it at some point every day.

### Do these teens reflect parts of your teen experience?

Photographing these teens and reading their statements certainly reminded me a lot of my own teenage years. While my story may not have been as dramatic as some of the stories, there are a lot of different experiences that I certainly related to. Maybe part of the motivation for doing this book is to give these young people a kind of voice and attention that I didn't get when I was a teenager.

### What do you think is your best work?

I always think that my most recent work is my best work, so yes, I would say this is my best work so far.

### I use my cell phone to take pictures. Have you done a cell phone camera project?

I actually have started using my Treo phone to make portraits of my friends when I don't have the large-format camera with me that I normally use. I actually like some of them a lot.

### Do you have a favorite city for your work?

The cities I particularly liked working in were those where I also have friends whom I can spend time with when I am not working making pictures. Andover, MA, has been the one place I have done more work in than any other city. The Addison Gallery of American Art at Phillips Academy there has been very supportive of my work for a long time, and I have friends there and in Boston nearby.

### Giant Polaroids sound so cool! Is there anywhere I can see your older work?

My big Polaroid pieces are in museums all over the country. The Walker Art Center published a book, *Dawoud Bey: Portraits, 1975-1995*, that has several of these pieces in it.

### How do you get the teens to talk about their lives? I wouldn't want my issues in a book.

I think a lot of people are willing to share themselves with you if they know that you are genuinely interested, and that they can trust you. Clearly the teenagers that I photographed trusted both their image and their stories with me, and allowed me to share that with the readers.

### Why do the students look bored?

I don't think they look bored. To me they look relaxed and engaged. Of course, they're not putting forth the smiling "say cheese for the camera" face, but that's not what I'm interested in. I'm interested in the look of relaxed engagement, the way someone looks when you are talking to them, and you look up at them and they are looking right at you. I wanted the teenagers in the book to be looking right at the reader.

*Class Pictures* is published by Aperture Foundation.

Visit Dawoud Bey online: [www.dawoudbey.net](http://www.dawoudbey.net)

## Mad Action: Escapes, Espionage, Intrigue

Bloor, Edward

**Taken**

*Knopf*

2035: When kidnapping is commonplace

Cole, Stephen

**Thieves Til We Die**

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Searching for the lost sword of Cortez

Jinks, Catherine

**Evil Genius**

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Cadel and his plot for world domination

McCaughrean, Geraldine

**White Darkness**

*HarperTempest*

Symone surviving on her own in Antarctica

Richards, Justin

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Matt: searching for his dad and ancient! secret! codes!

Salisbury, Graham

**Night of the Howling Dogs**

*Wendy Lamb Books*

Dylan, his friends, the tsunami

Smith, Ronald

**Peak**

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Jail time, a missing dad, and Mount Everest

Walden, Mark

**H.I.V.E.**

*Simon @ Schuster*

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