

REALISM ON THE EDGE

Beneath a Meth Moon

Woodson, Jacqueline

A young girl uses crystal meth to escape the pain of losing her mother and grandmother in Hurricane Katrina, and then struggles to get over her addiction.

Boy21

Quick, Matthew.

Finley, an unnaturally quiet boy who is the only white player on his high school's varsity basketball team, lives in a dismal Pennsylvania town that is ruled by the Irish mob, and when his coach asks him to mentor a troubled African American student who has transferred there from an elite private school in California, he finds that they have a lot in common in spite of their apparent differences.

Carter's Big Break

Crawford, Brent

Fourteen-year-old Will Carter's summer gets off to a bad start when his girlfriend leaves him, but then he is cast opposite a major star, Hilary Idaho, in a small movie being filmed in his town and things start looking up.

Code Name Verity

Wein, Elizabeth

In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage as she relates what she must do to survive while keeping secret all that she can.

Crank

Hopkins, Ellen

Kristina Georgina Snow is the perfect daughter, gifted high school junior, quiet, never any trouble. But on a trip to visit her absentee father, Kristina disappears and Bree takes her place. Bree is the exact opposite of Kristina. Through a boy, Bree meets the monster: crank. And what begins as a wild ecstatic ride turns into a struggle through hell for her mind, her soul - her life.

Cut

McCormick, Patricia

Callie suffers from a less familiar teen problem--she cuts herself to relieve her inner frustrations and guilt.

Edge

Cadnum, Michael

Zachary, living with his divorced mother in California, finds violence gradually invading his life and making significant changes in his day-to-day existence.

Empty

Walton, K. M.

Deeply depressed after her father cheated on and divorced her mother, seventeen-year-old Adele has gained over seventy pounds and is being bullied and abused at school--to the point of being raped and accused of being the aggressor.

Face on the Milk Carton

Cooney, Caroline

A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity.

Fade

Cormier, Robert

It is the summer of 1938 when young Paul Moreaux discovers he can "fade." First bewildered, then thrilled with the power of invisibility, Paul experiments. But his "gift" soon shows him shocking secrets and drives him toward a chilling act.

Fault in Our Stars

Green, John

Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

First Part Last

Johnson, Angela

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.

Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock

Quick, Matthew

A day in the life of a suicidal teen boy saying good-bye to the four people who matter most to him.

45 Pounds (More or Less)

Barson, K. A.

When Ann decides that she is going to lose 45 pounds in time for her aunt's wedding, she discovers that what she looks like is not all that matters.

Fragments

Johnston, Jeffry W.

Ever since the accident, Chase feels shattered. He can't remember that night, and everyone's treating him like a broken freak. He just wants things to go back to normal. So when he starts getting flashes of memory, he's relieved. He's sure once he remembers everything, he can put the crash behind him and start over.

Going Too Far

Echols, Jennifer

Forced to spend spring break in a Birmingham, Alabama, suburb riding along with an attractive rookie police officer on the night shift, rebellious seventeen-year-old Meg finds herself falling unexpectedly in love.

Hello I Lied

Kerr, M. E.

Lang finds himself confiding in a retired rock star about his homosexuality.

How to Deal

Sarah Dessen

Two books in one, **Someone Like You/That Summer**, about girls who stick together and manage to get it right when things get turned upside down.

In Darkness

Lake, Nick

In the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake, fifteen-year-old Shorty, a poor gang member from the slums of Site Soleil, is trapped in the rubble of a ruined hospital, and as he grows weaker he has visions and memories of his life of violence, his lost twin sister, and of Toussaint L'Ouverture, who liberated Haiti from French rule in 1804.

Just Listen

Sarah Dessen

When Annabel, the youngest of three beautiful sisters, has a bitter falling out with her best friend—the popular and exciting Sophie—she suddenly finds herself isolated and friendless. But then she meets Owen—a loner, passionate about music and his weekly radio show, and always determined to tell the truth. And when they develop a friendship, Annabel is not only introduced to new music but is encouraged to listen to her own inner voice. With Owen's help, can Annabel find the courage to speak out about what exactly happened the night her friendship with Sophie came to a screeching halt?

Killing Mr. Griffin

Duncan, Lois

A teenager casually suggests playing a cruel trick on the English teacher, but did he intend it to end with murder.

Martyn Pig

Brooks, Kevin

Faced with the possibility of living with a dreadful aunt, fifteen-year-old Martyn Pig decides not to tell authorities when his alcoholic father dies accidentally, instead asking a friend for her help in disposing of the body.

Outsiders

Hinton, S. E.

The struggle of three brothers to stay together after their parent's death and their quest for identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society.

Parrot in the Oven

Martinez, Victor

Fourteen-year-old Manny Hernandez wants to be a vato firme, the kind of guy people respect. But that's not easy when your father is abusive, your brother can't hold a job, and your mother scrubs the house as if she can wash her troubles away.

Pirate Cinema

Doctorow, Cory

In a dystopian, near-future Britain, sixteen-year-old Trent, obsessed with making movies on his computer, joins a group of artists and activists who are trying to fight a new bill that will criminalize even more harmless internet creativity

The Rules of Survival

Werlin, Nancy

Seventeen-year-old Matthew recounts his attempts, starting at a young age, to free himself and his sisters from the grip of their emotionally and physically abusive mother.

Shattering Glass

Giles, Gail

When Rob, the charismatic leader of the senior class, turns the school nerd into Prince Charming, his actions lead to unexpected violence.

A Step from Heaven

Na, An

A young Korean girl and her family find it difficult to learn English and adjust to life in America.

Twisted

Anderson, Laurie Halse

After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attentions of a popular girl, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts.

What Happens Next

Clayton, Colleen

The stress of hiding a horrific incident that she can neither remember nor completely forget leads sixteen-year-old Cassidy "Sid" Murphy to become alienated from her friends, obsess about weight loss, and draw close to Corey "The Living Stoner" Livingston.

Why We Broke Up

Handler, Daniel

Sixteen-year-old Min Green writes a letter to Ed Slaterton in which she breaks up with him, documenting their relationship and how items in the accompanying box, from bottle caps to a cookbook, foretell the end.

Zigzag

Wittlinger, Ellen

A high-school junior makes a trip with her aunt and two cousins, discovering places she did not know existed and strengths she did not know she had.