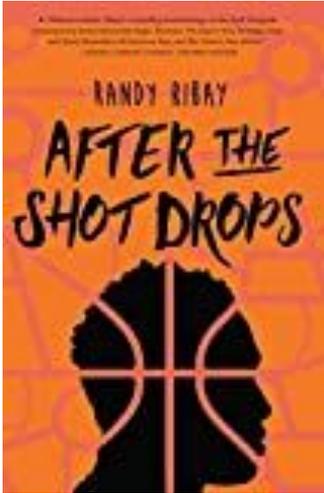

For Rising 8th graders
Selected SC Young Adult BOOK AWARD
NOMINEES 2020-2021

These titles contain mature content

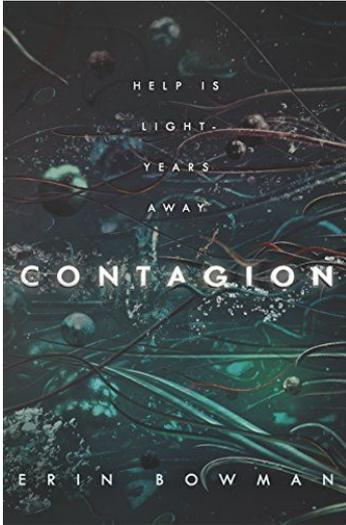


After the Shot Drops by Randy Ribay



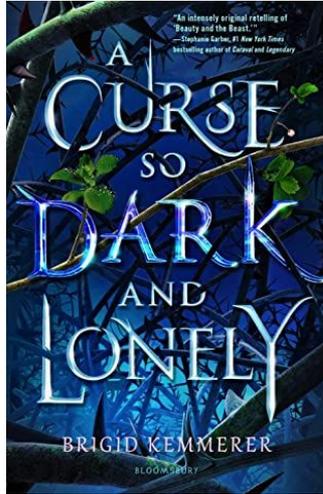
After his best friend basketball superstar Bunny Thompson transfers schools for a better shot at college scholarships, Nasir is left angry and alone, abandoned for bigger and better things. When Nasir's cousin Wallace gets into serious trouble trying to raise money to prevent his grandmother's eviction, Nasir sees only one way out—asking his former best friend to throw the state championship game. Bunny must choose between losing his best friend and throwing away everything he has ever hoped for.

Contagion by Erin Bowman



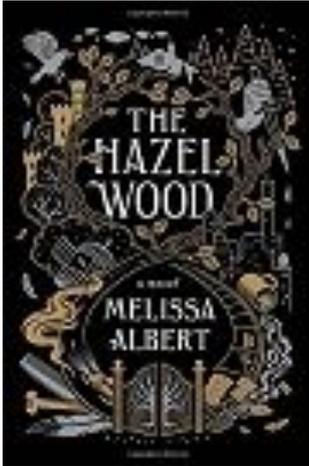
Bowman's newest is a twisting, turning, edge-of-your-seat blend of sf, thriller, and horror. Althea, an ambitious teen girl who harbors a love for science, works as an intern for Hevetz Industries, a multibillion-dollar drilling conglomerate. Nova, a savvy teen girl seeking a permanent job, is also employed by Hevetz. Althea's and Nova's fates become intertwined when both are dispatched as part of a crew on a search-and-rescue mission. When they arrive on Achyls in the Fringe, the search and rescue is revealed to be not at all routine. The inhabitants of the base on which they arrive are dead, and few clues are left behind as to what caused the tragedy.

A Curse So Dark and Lonely by Brigid Kemmerer



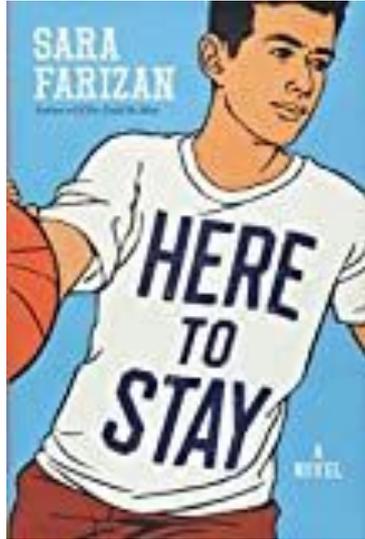
Cursed by a powerful enchantress to repeat the autumn of his eighteenth year, Prince Rhen, the heir of Emberfall, thought he could be saved easily if a girl fell for him. But that was before he turned into a vicious beast hell-bent on destruction. Before he destroyed his castle, his family, and every last shred of hope.

The Hazel Wood by Melissa Albert



Some fairy tales ask to be lived in. They involve enchanted forests and handsome princes, talking animals, kind maidens, and wishes come true. Others are darker. Others have teeth. The Hinterland is one such savage place, not that Alice would know—she hasn't read *Tales from the Hinterland*, the book penned by a grandmother she's never met. They aren't children's stories, her mother, Ella, says, and besides, the book itself is infamously elusive. Alice, quick to anger with a heart of ice, has spent her 17 years in constant motion; trailed by bad luck, she and Ella move from place to place, never staying anywhere long enough to put down roots. But when Ella is taken suddenly, the lines between the real world and the Hinterland start to blur.

Here to Stay by Sara Farizan



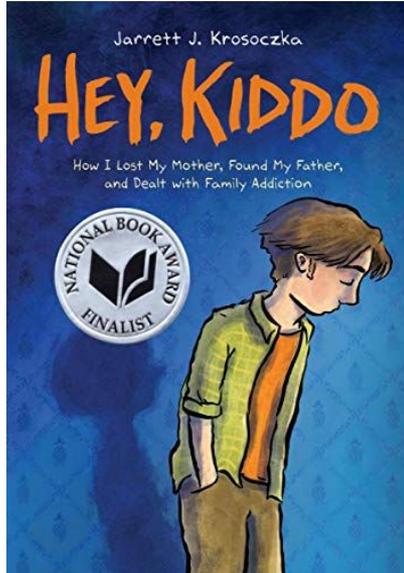
Bijan Majidi is surprised when he gets called off the bench and scores the winning points in his varsity basketball game. For this studious, goofy teen who loves reading comic books, hanging out with his best friend, and harboring a crush on Elle, this new attention comes with some popularity perks. But not for long. A photoshopped picture of him cast as a terrorist goes viral and unleashes a flurry of responses from students, parents, and teachers.

Heretics Anonymous by Katie Henry



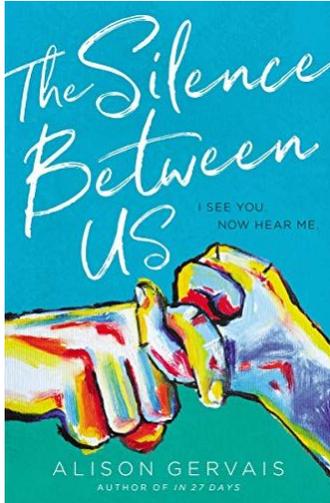
Michael is not happy about spending his junior year attending a Catholic high school, but his father's job entails moving around, and it is the best school in the area. Who, he wonders, is going to be friends with an atheist? But he finds a group, collectively known as Heretics Anonymous, who hang out in a hidden room of the school basement to discuss their dissatisfaction with St. Clare's. Avi is Jewish, and gay Max is eccentric; Eden practices paganism; and Lucy—well, Lucy, a rebellious Catholic, is just wonderful. In her debut, Henry takes on a lot: a strained father-son relationship, a first romance between Michael and Lucy that's more tentative than torrid, and a group dynamic that propels the Heretics to take action rather than just gripe.

Hey, Kiddo by Jarrett J. Krosoczka



In this deeply vulnerable, moving graphic memoir, Krosoczka, well known for his popular Lunch Lady series, recounts his sometimes troubled childhood, spent largely with his grandparents; his struggle to maintain a relationship with his heroin-addicted mother; and his gradually developing love for making art and comics. His grandfather officially took custody of Krosoczka when he was not yet five years old, and it wasn't until much later that he learned about his mother's heroin addiction and imprisonment. Life with his grandparents—a hard-drinking couple who bickered constantly—wasn't always easy, but his grandfather was a stalwart supporter of his artistic aspirations, and he slowly realized that the atypical family he ultimately collected (even eventually his father, whom he finally met late in his teen years) could be enough.

The Silence Between Us by Alison Gervais



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

Skyward by Brandon Sanderson



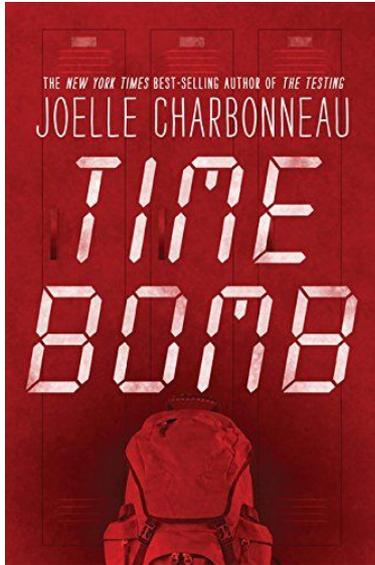
Spensa Nightshade, aka Spin, grew up with stories of her dead father's military cowardice, but she's determined to be a pilot just like him. She finds a way into flight school, where, as a traitor's child, she is forbidden to live on-base. As a result, Spin lives in a cave and, with a friend's help, rebuilds a found W-shaped, AI-enhanced jet she names M-Bot. When the enemy Krell launch their biggest attack against her people, a day after she's been kicked out of school, Spin powers up M-Bot to defend her planet and reclaim the truth of her father's story.

Stay Sweet by Siobhan Vivian



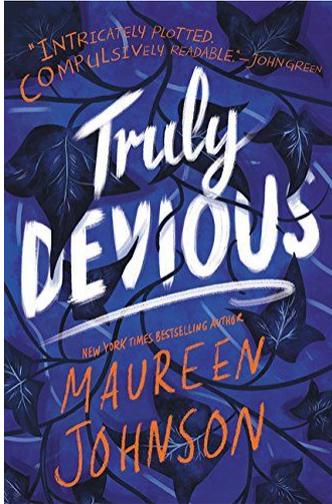
Practical, responsible Amelia is nothing like her fun-loving, social-butterfly best friend, Cate. Cate brings people together, but it was Amelia who was chosen as head girl of Meade Creamery their last summer before college. She was handpicked by Molly Meade herself, who makes the ice cream and founded the stand back during WWII. Since then, Meade Creamery has employed all girls, and Amelia has spent the best, most important summers of her life there. But when Molly passes away, everything changes.

Time Bomb by Joelle Charbonneau



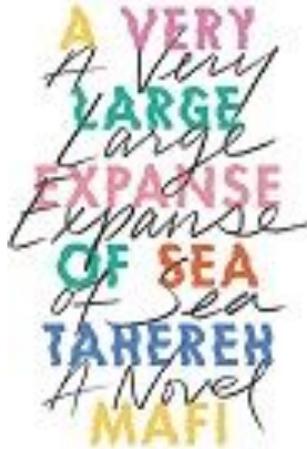
Summer is ending, which, for most students, means visits to school for new IDs or early sports practices. No one is expecting the bomb that goes off, devastating the school and trapping a group of students inside. Six students search for a way out: Diana, the perfect girl whose congressman father is pushing an unpopular privacy bill; Frankie, the golden-boy quarterback who hooked up with one of his teammates over the summer; Tad, half white and half black, determined to force Frankie to recognize their relationship; Cas, a clarinet player who can't stand another day trapped in her body; Rashid, a Muslim boy who's tired of being judged for his religion; and recently orphaned Z, trying to rescue a friend seriously injured in the explosion. The stakes are high enough, but the group soon realizes they have bigger problems: the bomber is one of them, and the danger is far from over.

Truly Devious by Maureen Johnson



Stevie Bell’s deepest wish is to see a dead body. A true-crime aficionado and aspiring detective, she wanted to come to Ellington Academy for one reason: it’s the site of one of the most infamous unsolved kidnappings in the world. Founded by the wealthy, generous Albert Ellington, the private school is an academic haven where learning is playful. But in the 1930s, Ellington’s wife and young daughter were kidnapped, held for ransom, and then, presumably, murdered; the true perpetrator, who left enigmatic letters signed “Truly, Devious,” was never found.

A Very Large Expanse of Sea by Tahereh Mafi



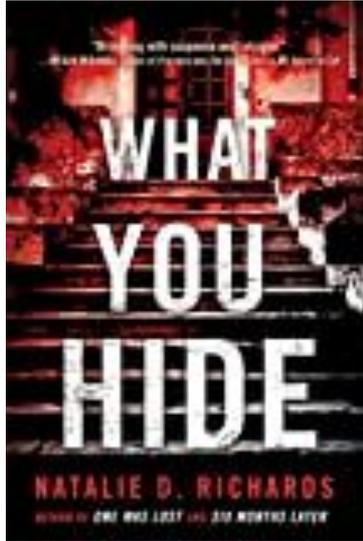
Mafi ([Whichwood](#), 2017) tackles the life of an American Muslim teenager in the wake of 9/11 in this visceral, honest novel. Jaded and cynical in the face of humanity's repeated cruelty at the sight of her hijab, Shirin only plans to get through high school as quickly as she can and let no one past her guarded exterior. It works until she meets Ocean James, who sees more than just her headscarf and is charmingly persistent about learning who she is, from her love of music to her burgeoning skills on the break dancing team her brother starts. But while Ocean's presence is a breath of fresh air, it also terrifies her.

The Waning Age by S.E. Grove



In a world without emotions, Natalia will do anything to get her little brother back. As children go through the waning, their emotions begin to fade; when they reach adulthood, they are completely emotionless. Natalia is old enough to be deprived of all emotion, but when her brother, Cal, is taken from her by a corporation, she begins to feel.

What You Hide by Natalie D. Richards



Spencer's privileged family expects him to go to college and live a life of wealth and prominence. Mallory comes from a lower-income home, where her stepfather is controlling and manipulative. Scared about the future for different reasons, the two discover their own escapes: Spencer climbs mountains (or anything else he can find), while Mallory evades her stepfather by running away. Mallory and Spencer meet under stressful circumstances, but it's not long before they start to help each other through their problems and lead their own lives.

Book Review Sources

Booklist Online: Book Reviews from the American Library Association

<https://www.booklistonline.com/>

Goodreads

<https://www.goodreads.com/>