

YA AND

**Speak** by Laurie Halse Anderson

Having broken up an end-of-summer party by calling the police, freshman Melinda Sordino begins high school as a social outcast. She was raped at the party by popular senior Andy Evans. With the help of a teacher, she begins to recover from the trauma, only to find Andy threatening her again.

YA BAU

**Hope was Here** by Joan Bauer

When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways Diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

YA BUR

**Smack** by Melvin Burgess

After running away from their troubled homes, two English teenagers move in with a group of squatters in the port city of Bristol and try to find ways to support their growing addiction to heroin.

YA COB

**Love Sick** by Jake Coburn

After an accident seems to end his college and athletic dreams, Ted is offered a second chance at school if he agrees to spy on a classmate and help her father monitor her bulimia.

YA FLA

**Begging for Change** by Sharon Flake

Teenaged Raspberry Hill tries to sort out her confused feelings of disgust, shame, and love for her homeless, drug addicted father and worries that she may have inherited his lying and stealing ways.

YA FRA

**Friction** by E. R. Frank

When a new girl at the private school Alex attends starts rumors about Alex's favorite teacher, Alex and her eighth-grade classmates are not sure how to act around him or with each other.

YA HID

**Born Confused** by Tanuja Desai Hidier

Seventeen-year-old Dimple, whose family is from India, discovers that she is not Indian enough for the Indians and not American enough for the Americans, as she sees her hypnotically beautiful, manipulative best friend taking possession of both her heritage and the boy she likes.

YA HOP

**Teen Queens and Has Beens** by Cathy Hopkins

After a game of truth or dare, Lia manages to gain the interest of the school heartthrob, and alienates "teen queen" Kaylie, who was after Jonno for herself. Kaylie and her friends then start a bullying campaign against Lia. Rumors, threats and secrets are exposed, and confidence is undermined.

YA HOP

**Crank** by Ellen Hopkins

Kristina Georgia 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, she's fearless. Bree meets the monster, crank and what begins as a wild, ecstatic ride turns into a struggle through hell for her mind, her soul and her life.

YA INC

**Her Daughter's Eyes** by Jessica Barksdale Inclan

As she prepares for the birth of her baby, sixteen-year-old Kate, from an upper middle-class neighborhood, hides her pregnancy from her family and friends, telling no one except her younger sister.

YA JOH

**First Part Last** by Angela Johnson

Bobby becomes a father at the age of 16. The story focuses on Bobby's relationship with his girlfriend Nia and how his parents and friends react to the news of her pregnancy. He's scared, but he's totally devoted to caring for his baby, even as she keeps him up all night, and he knows that his college plans are on hold.

YA MCC

**Cut** by Patricia McCormick

While confined to a mental hospital, thirteen-year-old Callie slowly comes to understand some of the reasons behind her self-mutilation, and gradually starts to get better.

YA MYE

**Shooter** by Walter Dean Myers

Written in the form of interviews, reports, and journal entries, the story of three troubled teenagers ends in a tragic school shooting.

YA OSA

**Cuba 15** by Nancy Osa

Violet Paz, a Chicago high school student, reluctantly prepares for her upcoming "quince," a Spanish nickname for the celebration of a Hispanic girl's fifteenth birthday.

YA ROS

**How I Live Now** by Meg Rosoff

To get away from her pregnant stepmother in New York City, fifteen-year-old Daisy goes to England to stay with her aunt and cousins, with whom she instantly bonds. But soon, war breaks out and devastates the land while ripping the family apart.

YA VIZ

**It's Kind of a Funny Story** by Ned Vizzini

A humorous account of a New York City teenager's battle with depression and his time spent in a psychiatric hospital.

YA WER

**Rules of Survival** by Nancy Werlin

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.

YA WIL

**Broken China** by Lori Aurelia Williams

China Cup Cameron, a fourteen-year-old single mother with only her paralyzed Uncle Simon for support, takes on tremendous personal debt in hopes of a beautiful funeral after her daughter dies.

YA ZUS

**I am the Messenger** by Markus Zusak

After capturing a bank robber, nineteen-year-old cab driver Ed Kennedy begins receiving mysterious messages that direct him to addresses where people need help, and he begins to get over his lifelong feeling of worthlessness.

YA 362.28 RUN

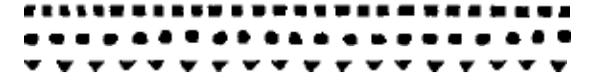
**The Burn Journals** by Brent Runyon

Brent Runyon was fourteen years old when he set himself on fire. This is a true story about a boy named Runyon who describes a devastating suicide attempt and his recovery over the following year.

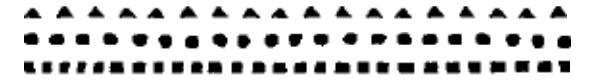
YA B GANTOS GAN

**Hole in My Life** by Jack Gantos

"The bleakest year of my life." Just twenty years old, Gantos was in a medium security prison for his participation in a get-rich-quick drug scam. Scared silly by the daily violence he saw around him, his only lifeline was a battered copy of **The Brothers Karamazov**, which he painstakingly turned into a journal by scratching his own thoughts into the tiny spaces between the lines.



# Tough Times



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