

## Alice in Zombieland



Gena Showalter

Harlequin Enterprises Limited, 2012

404 pages

### SUMMARY:

After a car crash kills her parents and younger sister, sixteen year old Alice Bell learns that her dad was right. The monsters are real. Now, Ali must learn to fight the monsters in order to stay alive.

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK TRY...

- *Wake*, Lisa McMann
- *Through the Zombie Glass*, Gena Showalter
- *Infinity*, Sherrilyn Kenyon
- *School Spirits*, Rachel Hawkins

### WEBSITES:

- White Rabbit Chronicles, <http://www.wrchronicles.com>
- Official website of Gena Showalter, <http://genashowalter.com>

### BOOKTALK:

Disclaimer: If (because of the book's title) you are expecting a re-telling of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, you will be disappointed. However, don't let that stop you from picking up this book. It's a great read with a different twist on the whole Zombie concept. Yes, there are zombies in the book, but they're not your typical zombies. Instead of being undead humans that crave human flesh, Showalter's zombies are really infected spirits that eat the spirits of humans which then causes the humans to become infected.

Not everyone can see the zombies. Sixteen year old Alice Bell doesn't see them until after a car crash that kills her parents and younger sister. Alice moves in with her grandparents and attend a different high school. At her new school, Ali hooks up with a group of kids who turn out to be zombie slayers. Cole, the leader of the group, just happens to be the most gorgeous "bad boy" that Ali has ever seen. Between learning how to fight zombies and her fledging romance with Cole, it must seem like to Ali that she has fallen down the "rabbit hole!"

Prepared by:

Kim Hudson, Parent

## Beautiful Music for Ugly Children



Kirstin Cronn-Mills  
Woodbury, Minn.: Flux, 2012  
271 pages

**SUMMARY:** Gabe, whose name used to be Elizabeth, begins a radio show to talk about being a transgender boy in a girl's body.

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *It's Our Prom (So Deal With It)*, Julie Anne Peters
- *Almost Perfect*, Brian Katcher
- *Keeping You a Secret*, Julie Ann Peters
- *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*, John Green
- *Geography Club*, Brent Hartinger

### WEBSITES:

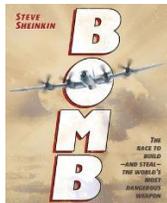
- Gender Spectrum, <https://www.genderspectrum.org>, This group raises public awareness about the challenges faced by children with gender variant identities.
- Bending the Mold, <http://www.lambdalegal.org>, This website includes ideas and information to help students advocate for change. It includes an extensive list of resources to help students connect with the transgender community and find support.
- TransActive, <http://www.transactiveonline.org>, TransActive is an internationally recognized non-profit focused on serving the diverse needs of transgender and gender nonconforming children, youth, their families and allies.

### BOOKTALK:

“Gabe has always identified as a boy, but he was born with a girl's body. With his new public access radio show gaining in popularity, Gabe struggles with romance, friendships, and parents--all while trying to come out as transgendered. An audition for a station in Minneapolis looks like his ticket to a better life in the big city. But his entire future is threatened when several violent guys find out Gabe, the popular DJ, is also Elizabeth from school.” –Provided by Publisher (Link: <http://bit.ly/1e1EG4X>)

Prepared by: Pamela Williams, Columbia High School, [pamwilliams@richlandone.org](mailto:pamwilliams@richlandone.org)

## Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon



Steve Sheinkin

Roaring Brook Press, 2012

266 pages

### SUMMARY:

Who will make the atom bomb first? Will it be Hitler and the Germans? Or the Russians, the Americans, or the British? All that is known for certain is that the British, Russians, and Americans DO NOT want the Germans to have it. The mystery, intrigue, and science of the story keep readers reading while informing them of the true story of this possibly questionable creation.

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Beyond Courage: the Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust*, Doreen Rappaport
- *Come August, Come Freedom : the Bellows, the Gallows, and the Black General Gabriel*, Gigi Amateau
- *Soldiers Secret: The Incredible True Story of Sarah Edmond*, Marissa Moss
- *Take What You Can Carry*, Kevin Pyle

### WEBSITES:

- Bomb | Steve Sheinkin | Macmillan <http://us.macmillan.com/bomb/SteveSheinkin>  
This contains a slide show of photographs from the book.
- Steve Sheinkin’s Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon | Six Trait Gurus  
<http://sixtraitgurus.wordpress.com/2013/03/28/steve-sheinkins-bomb-the-race-to-build-and-steal-the-worlds-most-dangerous-weapon/>  
This contains a great summary in addition to instructional tips – especially for the literature classroom.
- TeachingBooks.net | Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—The World’s Most Dangerous Weapon <http://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=30842&a=1>  
This site has a blog post by Sheinkin that discusses the inception and discovery of the subject for the book.

### BOOKTALK:

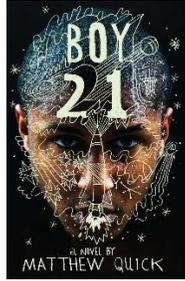
Do you like mysteries? Your history book holds an incredible one. How many people have heard of the atom bomb? To win World War II, the United States not only had to build the most dangerous bomb in the world, but it also had to prevent Germany from developing it first. Both operations were secret, but the Soviet Union had a secret operation in progress, too. They wanted to know about the weapons their “friends” had. They were especially interested in a very dangerous secret weapon called “The Gadget.” That was the code name for the atom bomb. This is the story of how the most brilliant scientists, the most highly skilled spies, and the most daring

commandos cooperated and competed in a cutthroat race to get the *Bomb*. (Lucy Schall. *Teen Talkback with Interactive Booktalks!* ABC-CLIO, 2013, pp. 144-145)

Prepared by:

Donna Maher, Anderson University, [maher.donna@gmail.com](mailto:maher.donna@gmail.com)

## Boy 21



Matthew Quick  
Little, Brown, 2012  
250 pages

### SUMMARY:

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. 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.

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie
- *Taking Sides* by Gary Soto
- *On the Devil's Court* by Carl Deuker
- *Schooled* (Bluford Series #15) by Paul Langan
- *After* by Kristin Harmel
- *The Comeback Season* by Jennifer E. Smith

### WEBSITES:

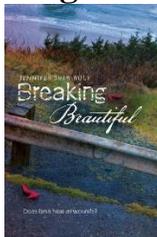
- Matthew Quick Writer: <http://matthewquickwriter.com/>
- Teens Health-Death and Grief: [http://kidshealth.org/teen/your\\_mind/emotions/someone\\_died.html](http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/emotions/someone_died.html)

### BOOKTALK:

Basketball is all Finley wants to do. Dribbling the ball, sinking the perfect shot, being a basketball star are what drive him. Living in the midst of drugs, violence, racism, and the Irish mob in his hometown, Finley feels good when he puts on his 21 jersey even though he is the only white guy on his high school team. Finley's coach needs a favor, and Finley sees this as his chance to more playing time and star status. The favor involves a new student, Russ, whose parents were violently murdered. Russ is moving from California where he was a basketball star himself (but no one knows this except the coach and Finley), heavily recruited by all the top teams. Russ, however, has retreated into a strange world of his own where he only answers to "Boy 21," says he is an alien, and doesn't want to play basketball. The coach wants Finley to get him back in the game, but helping "Boy 21," might mean Finley losing his spot on the team.

Prepared by:Melanie Dillard, Paul M. Dorman High School, [dillarms@spart6.org](mailto:dillarms@spart6.org)

## Breaking Beautiful



Jennifer Shaw Wolf

Walker Books for Young Readers, 2012

356 pages

### SUMMARY:

Allie lost everything the night her boyfriend, Trip, died in a horrible car accident--including her memory of the event. As their small town mourns his death, Allie is afraid to remember because doing so means delving into what she's kept hidden for so long: the horrible reality of their abusive relationship.

When the police reopen the investigation, it casts suspicion on Allie and her best friend, Blake. Allie knows she must tell the truth, even if it could hurt the people who tried to save her from Trip's abuse. Can she reach deep enough to remember that night so she can finally break free? (From [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com))

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *In Honor*, Jessi Kirby
- *Shine*, Lauren Myracle
- *If I Lie*, Corrine Jackson
- *Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock*, Matthew Quick
- *Dead Girls Don't Lie*, Jennifer Shaw Wolf

### WEBSITES:

- Breaking Beautiful book trailer; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AT4TPxhZORw>;
- Jennifer Shaw Wolf author; <http://www.jennifershawwolf.com/>;

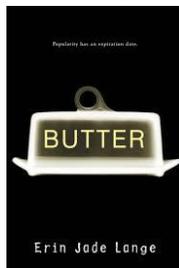
### BOOKTALK:

To the world, Allie was the perfectly happy, spoiled girlfriend. Trip was the rich popular boy who gave her everything she could possibly need or want. Sure, Allie had some enemies in town, but it was nothing Allie couldn't handle. What everyone didn't know was what happened behind the scenes. And then, the accident happened...

The night Trip died in the accident, Allie lost everything including her memory of the event. With no recollection of the events, Allie is left scarred and guilt-stricken. As she and the town mourn Trip's loss, Trip's family and the detective they hired are suspicious of Allie and her best friend Blake. Throughout the book, the mystery of Trip's death is paralleled by Allie's journey of forgiveness and her ability to open up and express herself in order to accept new love and move on. If you want to know the truth about Allie's car accident and Trip's death, read *Breaking Beautiful*. (From [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com))

Prepared by: Susan Adams, Spring Valley High School, [suadams@richland2.org](mailto:suadams@richland2.org)

## Butter



Erin Jade Lange

Bloomsbury USA, 2013

320 pages

### SUMMARY:

Butter is a morbidly obese 16-year-old with a nickname -- some people don't even know his real name. His father barely notices him; his mother smothers him with her protectiveness. His classmates are apathetic to his existence, except at lunchtime when he becomes a spectacle. This year Butter is going to make a change. He announces on the Internet that on New Year's Eve he will eat himself to death and stream it live. Suddenly he is popular in his school-but only because the popular kids encourage him in his feat of daring.

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Strange Relations*, Sonia Levitin
- *Reality Check*, Peter Abrahams
- *Bad Apple*, Laura Ruby

### WEBSITES:

- Erin Jade Lange's website, <http://erinlange.com/>

### BOOKTALK:

Butter is a 423-pound lonely teen, nicknamed after an incident in which he was bullied into eating an entire stick of dirty butter. This incident is pretty indicative of his life though, in which he is constantly belittled, and made to feel invisible, despite his massive size. Lonely and sick of his life, Butter declares online one night that he will eat himself to death over a live webcast on New Year's Eve on ButtersLastMeal.com. He doesn't know what to expect after his declaration is made, but what he gets is DEFINITELY *not* what he expected. He is invited to hang out with the "it" crowd, which includes Anna, the girl of his dreams. Their morbid curiosity, masked by fake friendship, urges his new "friends" to egg him on in his suicidal plan, create deadly bucket lists for him, and place bets on what he will eat for his last meal. Though all of their invitations to hang out and party are prompted only by Butter's deadly declaration, he begins to enjoy all the attention and popularity, though he knows it's fake. He begins to question his decision, but knows that if he doesn't go through with his plan, life will go back to normal, or maybe even worse than before. When the big night arrives, Butter must make a decision that can either take or change his life forever. ([www.stephthebookworm.com](http://www.stephthebookworm.com))

Prepared by:

Abby Holdeman, Chapin High School, holdeman2011ala@gmail.com

## Crewel



Gennifer Albin

Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR), 2012

358 Pages

### SUMMARY:

Incapable. Awkward. Artless.

That's what the other girls whisper behind her back. But sixteen-year-old Adeline Lewys has a secret: She wants to fail.

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Beta* by Rachel Cohn
- *Renegade* by J.A. Souders
- *False Memory* by Dan Krokos
- *Dark Star* by Bethany Frenette
- *Level 2* by Lenore Appelhans
- *Shadows Cast By Stars* by Catherine Knutsson

### WEBSITES:

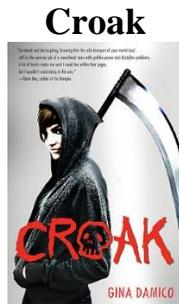
- Gennifer Albin <http://www.genniferalbin.com/#!/books/cnec>  
This is Gennifer Albin's own website where you can see her blog, read the summaries of her books and view other covers of books that she wrote, view newsletters, and view updates of when her books are coming out etc.
- YouTube [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQT1k69a\\_io](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQT1k69a_io)  
This YouTube site is a book trailer called CREWEL by Gennifer Albin. The trailer was made by Fierce Reads.

### BOOKTALK:

For generations, Spinsters have been called by Arras' Manipulation Services to work the looms and determine what people eat, where they live, how many children they have, and even when they die. Gifted with the rare ability to weave time with matter, Adeline is exactly what the Guild is looking for, and in Arras, being chosen as a Spinster is everything a girl could want. It means privilege, eternal beauty, and being something other than a secretary. It also means the power to embroider the very fabric of life. But once you become a Spinster, there is no turning back. Now caught in a web of lies and intrigue, Adeline must decide who to trust: her kind mentor, Enora; the handsome and mysterious valet Jost; or the charismatic Guild ambassador Cormac Patton. They each have secrets, but Adeline is about to unravel the deadliest one of all, a sinister truth that could destroy reality as she knows it.

From:<http://www.publishingcrawl.com/2012/10/16/book-recommendation-giveaway-crewel-by-gennifer-albin/>

Prepared by: Skyler James, Spring Valley High School, [skylerjames12@gmail.com](mailto:skylerjames12@gmail.com)



Gina Damico  
Graphia, 2012  
311 pages

### SUMMARY:

A delinquent sixteen-year-old girl, who has driven her parents to their wit's end, is sent to live with her uncle for the summer. She arrives to learn that he is a Grim Reaper who wants to teach her the family business.

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Hold Me Closer, Necromancer*, Lish McBride
- *Hunger*, Jackie Morse Kessler
- *Every Other Day*, Jennifer Barnes
- *Elsewhere*, Gabrielle Zevin
- *The Raven Boys*, Maggie Stiefvater

### WEBSITES:

- <http://ginadami.co>

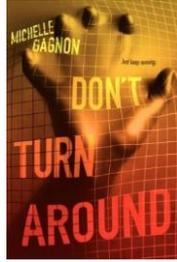
### BOOKTALK:

Pushed to their limits with her wild behavior, sixteen-year-old Lex's parents send her off to upstate New York to live with her Uncle Mort for the summer. They hope that a few months of dirty farm work will result in a change of attitude. But Lex finds that Uncle Mort's true occupation is much dirtier than shoveling manure. It just so happens that he is a Grim Reaper, and he is planning to teach Lex the family business. Lex finds herself quickly assimilating into the peculiar world of Croak, a town populated by reapers who deliver souls from this life to the next. She develops a love/hate relationship with her new partner, Driggs. They stumble across bodies that have no known cause of death. A rogue reaper is apparently the cause, and an investigation with serious consequences ensues. You will be croaking for the sequel!

Prepared by:

Alison Patrick, Eastside High School, [apatrik@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:apatrik@greenville.k12.sc.us)

## Don't Turn Around



Michelle Gagnon  
Harper Collins, 2013  
336 pages

### SUMMARY:

Noa is street smart and has been on her own for a while now after years in foster care, but she finds herself on the run after waking up in a warehouse tied to a hospital bed. Peter is rich and runs an online hacking group that tries to take down those who hurt others until men break into his house and steal his computer. These two teens are then thrown together so they can try to outsmart “Mason,” the mystery man who seems to be behind whatever is going on.

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Find Me*, Romily Bernard
- *Hacking Harvard*, Robin Wasserman
- *Don't Look Now*, Michelle Gagnon
- *Brain Jack*, Brian Falkner
- *Born Blue*, Han Nolan
- *Nerve*, Jeanne Ryan

### WEBSITES:

- Author Website - <http://www.michellegagnon.com/>
- Rising Tides, Supporting Children Aging Out of Foster Care - <http://rising-tides.org/supporters/michelle-gagnon>

### BOOKTALK:

Secret organizations, goons with guns, unusual medical facilities, working with the head of the hacking group /ALLIANCE/. Noa never would have expected to be dealing with all of these. For a girl who's already had a hard life after her parents' deaths and many, many foster homes, life has just gotten even more complicated for Noa. Is there anyone she can trust or go to for help?

Noa wakes up one day on a metal medical table and can't remember how she got there. She's trying to get her bearings when two doctors come in. She asks them where she is and how she got there, but their answers don't make sense. Using instinct, smarts, and strength, she manages to escape the building only to find herself on the run. She has no idea who took her or what they want with her.

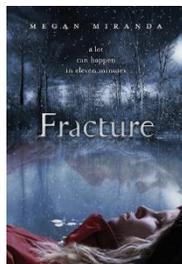
Meanwhile Peter finds himself in his own confusing situation. Peter lives with his parents, but when they're away, he does a little snooping in his dad's office. He comes across a file he's never seen before - AMRF - and the name “Project Persephone.” Peter is a talented computer hacker who founded his own hacking group - /ALLIANCE/. Peter knows he can probably hack

his Dad's computer, but before he gets too far, men break into the house and steal his computer. Peter, like Noa, has no idea who these men are or what they want with his computer. If you'd like to know how Noa and Peter handled these terrifying situations and what comes next for each of them, read Michelle Gagnon's cyber-thriller, *Don't Turn Around*.

Prepared by:

Susan Aplin, Dutch Fork High School, [saplin@lexrich5.org](mailto:saplin@lexrich5.org)

## Fracture



Megan Miranda  
Walker Children's, 2012  
262 pages

### SUMMARY:

When 17-year-old Delaney Maxwell falls beneath a frozen lake, she spends 11 minutes in the freezing water before being rescued by her best friend, Decker. After six days in a coma, Delaney awakens with the inexplicable urge to seek out people on the verge of death. While she fulfills this new calling, she tries her best to manage the unresolved feelings and guilt that threaten her relationship with Decker, a task made all the more difficult by the appearance of Troy, an older boy who shares Delaney's desire to find the dying. Things finally come to a head following a startling prediction of death that changes Delaney's life forever.

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY ...

- *Slide*, Jill Hathaway
- *Harbinger*, Sara Wilson Eteinne
- *When the Sea is Rising Red*, Cat Hellisen

### WEBSITES:

- Megan Miranda, <http://www.meganmiranda.com>

### BOOKTALK:

From the beginning, this book haunted me. It was fascinating to see Delaney change as a character after she had discovered her new skill. She alienates her family and friends, the very people who are thankful for her to be alive after her near death experience falling through the ice. Furthermore, she retreats into a new relationship with a young man who shares her gift. As the reader, you feel elated for someone to explain her 'syndrome,' but you begin to feel distrustful of her new love interest. When everyone from her past continues to love and reach out for her, you want to rip through the pages, shake her by the shoulders and tell her to listen to her family and friends. I was shocked by the ending, and left wondering what Delaney's future holds for her.

Prepared by:

Emma Ball, Liberty Hill Academy, [emma\\_ball@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:emma_ball@charleston.k12.sc.us)

## The Girls of No Return



Erin Saldin

Arthur A. Levine Books, 2012

345 pages

### SUMMARY:

Lida, a troubled sixteen-year-old girl attending a wilderness school in the Idaho mountains, must finally face the consequences of her complicated friendships with two of the other girls at the school as well as facing the truth of why she is troubled.

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *After the Wreck, I Picked Myself up, Spread My Wings, and Flew Away*, Joyce Carol Oates
- *Tending to Grace*, Kimberly Fusco
- *The Opposite of Hallelujah*, Anna Jarzab
- *Without Tess*, Marcella Pixley

### WEBSITES:

- <http://erinsaldin.wordpress.com>

### BOOKTALK:

The Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area stretches across two million acres in northern Idaho. Right in the heart of it is the Alice Marshall School, where fifty teenage girls come to escape their histories and themselves. Lida Wallace's attempts to negate herself in every way possible have caused her father and step-mother to send her away. At Alice Marshall, she meets Elsa Boone, a fierce and tough native Idahoan; Jules, who has a deep secret and seems too healthy to belong at the school; and Gia Longchamps, whose icy glamour entrances the entire camp except for Boone. As the girls prepare for a wilderness trek, Lida is both thrilled and terrified to be chosen as Gia's friend. But everyone has their secrets--their "Things" they try to protect; and when those secrets come out on the trek, Lida makes a dramatic choice between the two friends which leads to lifelong consequences for all of them. Read this psychological mind-bender to its unpredictable chilling conclusion.

Prepared by:

Alison Patrick, Eastside High School, [apatrick@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:apatrick@greenville.k12.sc.us)

## Grave Mercy



Robin LaFevers

Houghton Mifflin Publishers, 2012

550 pages

### SUMMARY:

In 15th-century Brittany, 17-year-old Ismae flees an abusive father and the brutality of an arranged marriage into the sanctuary of the convent of St. Mortain, where the sisters still serve the gods of old. Here she learns that the god of Death Himself has blessed her with dangerous gifts--and a violent destiny. If she chooses to stay at the convent, she will be trained as an assassin and serve as a handmaiden to Death. To claim her new life, she must destroy the lives of others. Ismae reluctantly accepts and soon after, her most important assignment takes her straight into the high court of Brittany--where she finds herself woefully under prepared--not only for the deadly games of intrigue and treason, but for the impossible choices she must make. For how can she deliver Death's vengeance upon a target who, against her will, has stolen her heart? (From [www.titlewave.com](http://www.titlewave.com))

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Girl of Fire and Thorns* trilogy *Daughter of Smoke and Bone*, Laini Taylor
- *Throne of Glass*, Sarah Maas
- *Dark Triumph*, Robin LaFevers

### WEBSITES:

- *Grave Mercy* Book Trailer; <http://www.goodreads.com/videos/20562-grave-mercy-book-trailer>
- His Fair Assassins Trilogy website; <http://hmfbooks.com/hisfairassassin/>
- Robin LaFevers, author; <http://www.robinlafevers.com/books/>
- *Central Brittany Journal*; [http://www.thecbj.com/history/anne\\_of\\_brittany.html](http://www.thecbj.com/history/anne_of_brittany.html); The actual history of Anne of Brittany, and the setting of the book *Grave Mercy*.

### BOOKTALK:

Ismae is 14 years old and about to be forced into marriage by her father. Rumor in their small village has long held that Ismae was really sired by the god of death himself, St. Mortain. This is supposedly the reason that Ismae's mother tried to abort her and Ismae bears a long, ugly scar on her body as a reminder of the poison that failed to expel her from the womb.

On her wedding night, Ismae is beaten and locked in a cellar by her husband. She is rescued by the very same herb witch who had tried to abort her years before. The herb witch takes her to a convent where Ismae discovers her value, as well as some special gifts.

Prepared by: Susan Adams, Spring Valley High School, [suadams@richland2.org](mailto:suadams@richland2.org)

## I Hunt Killers



Barry Lyga

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2012

368 pages

### SUMMARY:

Seventeen-year-old Jasper “Jazz” Dent understands crime-scenes from a unique perspective—that of the murderer. Son of the 21<sup>st</sup> century’s worst serial killer, Jazz was brought along by his father to many of his 123 official murders, so he knows the ins and outs of a killer’s style and mind. Now that his father is in jail for life, Jazz tries his best to overcome the stigma of his father’s legacy. When a new serial killer’s work is found in his small town of Lobo’s Nod, Jazz, along with his best friend Howie and his girlfriend Connie, helps Sheriff G. William Tanner by offering inside knowledge of a serial killer’s mind.

### IF YOU LIKE THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *The Book of Blood and Shadow*, by Robin Wasserman
- *Anna Dressed in Blood*, by Kendare Blake

### WEBSITES:

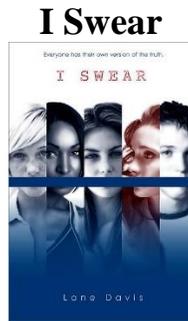
- Barry Lyga Dot Com: <http://barrylyga.com/novels/i-hunt-killers/>
- Hachette Book Group: <http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/titles/barry-lyga/i-hunt-killers/9780316125840/>

### BOOKTALK:

Jasper Dent is not a serial killer. He knows how to charm and manipulate people. He knows how to kill people. He knows how to cut up their bodies. He knows how to clean up a crime scene. Jasper Dent is not a serial killer. But he could be. That’s because his father killed over a hundred people, and his father spent years teaching Jasper everything he knows. Jasper’s father is in prison now, but Jasper will always be known as the son of a killer. When a woman’s body is found in a field in Jasper’s town, the police start looking for her killer. But only Jasper suspects that this is no ordinary killer. He believes that she will be the first of many victims. Jasper starts his own investigation, and tells the sheriff about his suspicions. But the sheriff doesn’t believe him. Jasper wants to find the killer for two very important reasons. The first reason is that he spent enough time with his father to think like a killer, so he’s uniquely qualified to help the police. The second reason is that serial killers are very uncommon, and the odds of two serial killers attacking people in the same small town are about a billion to one. Which means that as soon as the public realize what’s going on in their town, their number one suspect is going to be Jasper. (<http://beabetterbooktalker.com/2012/06/26/booktalk-i-hunt-killers-by-barry-lyga.aspx>)

Prepared by:

Samantha Ihm, Andrew Jackson High School, [theswimmer002233@gmail.com](mailto:theswimmer002233@gmail.com)



Lane Davis

New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2012

279 pages

**SUMMARY:** “Told in alternating perspectives and through flashbacks, this novel sheds light on both the victims of bullying and the consequences bullies face.” Source:

(<http://bit.ly/1aPOVrz>, Richland Library Catalog)

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Shooter*, Walter Dean Myers
- *Inside Out*, Terry Trueman
- *Jumped*, Rita Williams-Garcia
- *Period 8*, Chris Crutcher
- *Freak*, Marcella Fleischman Pixley
- *The Buffalo Tree*, Adam Rapp
- *Endgame*, Nancy Garden
- *Bullyville*, Francine Prose
- *Ink Me*, Richard Scrimger

### WEBSITES:

- Stop Bullying, [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov), Find out what bullying is and learn about the different types of bullying. You can also learn more about other topics related to bullying.
- Dealing with Bullying, [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org), Bullying has everyone worried, not just the people on its receiving end. Learn about dealing with bullies, including tips on how to stand up for yourself or a friend.

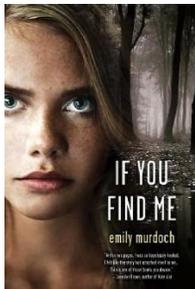
### BOOKTALK:

“After years of abuse from her classmates, and thinking she had no other options, Leslie took her own life. Now her abusers are dealing with the fallout. In the eyes of the accused girls, they are not to blame: Leslie chose to take her life. She chose to be the coward they always knew she was. As criminal proceedings examine the systematic cyber bullying and harassment that occurred, the girls vow to keep their stories straight and make Leslie seem weak. But as the events leading up to her death unfold, it becomes clear that although Leslie took her own life, her bullies took everything else.” Source: (<http://bit.ly/1aPOVrz>, Richland Library Catalog)

Prepared by:

Pamela Williams, Columbia High School, [pamwilliams@richlandone.org](mailto:pamwilliams@richlandone.org)

## If You Find Me



Emily Murdoch

St. Martin's Press, 2013

256 pages

### SUMMARY:

Fifteen-year-old Casey lives in the middle of the Tennessee woods in a broken down trailer where she takes care of her younger sister, Janessa. Her mentally ill mother comes by sometimes, but it has been a while since they have seen her. One day two people show up, Casey's father and a social worker. They take Casey and Janessa back to civilization where Casey must come to terms with the lies her mother told her and the new life she is not sure she wants to be a part of.

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Out of the Easy*, Ruta Sepetys
- *17 & Gone*, Nova Ren Suma
- *Forgotten Country*, Catherine Chung
- *Earth Girl*, Janet Edwards
- *Lily and Taylor*, Elise Moser
- *Bitter Melon*, Cara Chow
- *Split*, Swati Avasthi

### WEBSITES:

- Author Webpage - <http://www.emilymurdoch.com/>
- Author Blog - <http://emilymurdoch.wordpress.com/>

### BOOKTALK:

Strong. Smart. Independent. Resourceful. Those words describe 15-year old Casey Violet Blackburn. Scared. Poor. Abandoned. Hungry. Unfortunately those words describe Casey too. For almost as long as Casey can remember, she has lived in the middle of the woods in Tennessee in a broken down trailer with her mom, Joelle (a drug addict who disappears for weeks at a time), and her younger sister, Janessa. It's always been up to Casey to take care of them. Casey has been the one who's had to figure out how to survive or how to keep little Nessa safe. This time their mom has been gone too long, and Casey isn't sure if their food will hold out. But she's resourceful and smart and knows she'll do whatever it takes to take care of her precious sister. But then . . . crack . . . strange noises in the woods. It's rare to have people come through this part of the woods. Casey's worried about who they might be and what they might want. Two strangers appear and call out for Casey and Janessa. To find out who these people

are and what happens to Casey and Janessa, read Casey's powerful first person story: *If You Find Me* by Emily Murdoch.

Prepared by:

Susan Aplin, Dutch Fork High School, [saplin@lexrich5.org](mailto:saplin@lexrich5.org)

## No Man's Land



S. T. Underdahl  
Flux, 2012  
288 pages

### SUMMARY:

Although Dov considers himself the “loser” of his family, he faces multiple home and school situations with remarkable courage and capability, particularly when his golden boy brother returns from Afghanistan with a range of PTSD symptoms.

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Somebody Please Tell Me Who I Am* by Harry Mazer
- *Sunrise Over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Myers
- *The Things a Brother Knows* by Dana Reinhardt
- *Purple Heart* by Patricia McCormick

### WEBSITES:

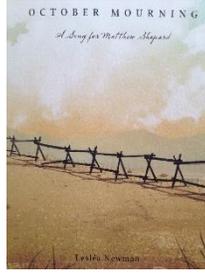
- Official S. T. Underdahl site – <http://www.susanunderdahl.com/> – This site contains biographical information on the author and a bibliography of her works.
- National Center for PTSD -- <http://www.ptsd.va.gov> -- This site, from the US Department of Veterans Affairs, offers resources for the public and for professionals in dealing with posttraumatic stress disorder.

### BOOKTALK:

Dov considers himself the lesser sibling in his household. How could he not, when his brother Brian is so perfect--athletic, manly, the town football star, and now, war hero? Then, the family receives the call they have dreaded: Brian has been injured. But is Dov the only one who notices that Brian is not quite himself when he returns early from Afghanistan? Are the wounds from the roadside bomb more than physical? Life kind of sucks for Dov right now. His father has only scorn for him, a new girl in town is slowly letting Dov in on some scary secrets, and Dov's best friend, pet gecko Leo, hasn't eaten in days. Dov, the bullied emo kid with the mad crush on his art teacher, faces man-sized challenges when Brian comes home. Can the “loser” brother handle treading through this “no man's land?”

Prepared by: Kelly Price, Batesburg-Leesville High School, [kprice@lex3.k12.sc.us](mailto:kprice@lex3.k12.sc.us)

## October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard



Leslea Newman

Candlewick Press, 2012

111 pages

### SUMMARY:

A collection of 68 poems that describe the night Matthew Shepard, a 21 year old gay college student was kidnapped from a bar in Laramie, Wyoming. He was brutally beaten and left to die tied to a fence.

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK TRY...

- *King of the Screwups*, K.L. Going
- *Tillmon County Fire*, Pamela Ehrenberg
- *In the Garage*, Alma Fullerton
- *Peter*, Kate Walker
- *Boy Meets Boy*, David Levithan

### WEBSITES:

- Gay Straight Alliance Network, <http://www.gsanetwork.org>
- Official website for Leslea Newman, <http://www.lesleanewman.com>
- The Matthew Shepard Foundation, <http://www.matthewshepard.org>
- Matthew's Place, <http://www.matthewsplace.com>

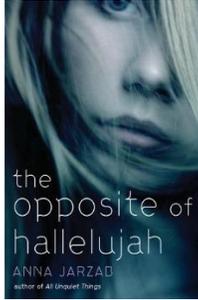
### BOOKTALK:

A fence. A doe. A housekeeper in the ICU. Newman effectively uses different points of view and different poetic forms to give voice to the night Matthew Shepard was murdered. Shepard was a gay 21 year old University of Wyoming college student who left a Laramie bar with two males. They beat him, tied him to a fence and left him to die. Matthew wasn't discovered until 18 hours later. He was taken to a hospital, but never regained consciousness. He died five days later.

Prepared by:

Kim Hudson, Parent

## The Opposite of Hallelujah



Anna Jarzab

Delacorte Press, 2012

449 pages

### SUMMARY:

For eight of her sixteen years Carolina Mitchell's older sister Hannah has been a nun in a convent, almost completely out of touch with her family. So, when she suddenly abandons her vocation and comes home, nobody knows quite how to handle the situation, or guesses what explosive secrets she is hiding.

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *The Fault in our Stars* by John Green
- *Intentions* by Deborah Heiligman
- *Send Me a Sign* by Tiffany Schmidt
- *Impulse* by Ellen Hopkins

### WEBSITES:

- Official Website of Anna Jarzab: [www.annajarzab.com](http://www.annajarzab.com)
- Sisters of Mercy: Catholic Women Religious Congregation: [www.sistersofmercy.org](http://www.sistersofmercy.org)

### BOOKTALK:

Carolina Mitchell's sister is dead. At least that is the story she has been telling. Her sister, Hannah, is actually a nun and has been away for the past eight years at a convent. Caro's life and her family's is suddenly taking a drastic change as they have to learn to accept Hannah back in her lives. But something is wrong. Hannah is very thin, sleeps all the time, and refuses to eat. Caro begins to get curious about the sister who is eleven years older than her. She finds some letters to St. Catherine that Hannah had written as a teenager when her mom tells her to clean her room. The letters send Caro on a search to find the answer to the question of what happened to Hannah as a teenager and why she is depressed and miserable as an adult.

Prepared by:

Melanie Dillard, Paul M. Dorman High School, [dillarms@spart6.org](mailto:dillarms@spart6.org)

## Out of the Easy



Ruta Sepetys  
Philomel Books, 2013  
368 pages

### SUMMARY:

Seventeen-year-old Josie Moraine lives in New Orleans in 1950. She is torn between the world in which she's grown up and the future she imagines far away from New Orleans. Josie lives above a bookstore where she meets a man who dies shortly after. The mystery of his death is a catalyst for just the kind of change Josie has been looking for.

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Tell*, Norah McClintock
- *With a Name Like Love*, Tess Hilmo
- *The Twin's Daughter*, Lauren Baratz-Logsted
- *The Diviners*, Libba Bray
- *My Mother the Cheerleader*, Robert Sharenow
- *Orleans*, Sherri L Smith
- *Amber House*, Kelly Moore
- *Being Henry David*, Cal Armistead
- *Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, Robin Palmer
- *That Time I Joined the Circus*, J.J. Howard
- *Between Shades of Grey*, Ruta Sepetys

### WEBSITES:

- Authors Official Website - <http://rutasepetys.com/>
- New Orleans History - <http://www.neworleansonline.com/neworleans/history/>
- City of New Orleans - <http://www.nola.gov/home/>

### BOOKTALK:

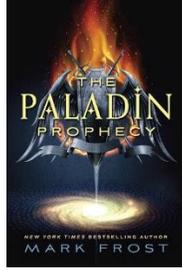
Josie has grown up with a prostitute as a mother, but she's always longed for more than the life she's been dealt. Growing up in 1950s New Orleans, Josie has seen more than most seventeen-year-olds. Most of her life has been spent in and around the women of Willie's brothel, so she understands how limited the options for women are. But she also knows about finding strength in the strangest of places and that if you have hope, almost anything is possible. Josie has always dreamed of leaving New Orleans's behind. Despite the circumstances with her mom, she has taken what control she can of her life. She's smart, well-read, and knows how to protect herself. She's been slowly saving up money so that someday she'll be able to leave New Orleans. One day a stranger visiting from Memphis talks with Josie, and the kind and respectful way he treats Josie ignites her imagination. But then, the man dies mysteriously while in New Orleans, which

leads Josie to ask questions about his death as well as his life before. Read *Out of the Easy* by Ruta Sepetys to meet the wonderful collection of characters in Josie's life and to follow Josie on her journey to figure out what direction her life will take.

Prepared by:

Susan Aplin, Dutch Fork High School, [saplin@lexrich5.org](mailto:saplin@lexrich5.org)

## The Paladin Prophecy



Mark Frost

Random House Books for Young Readers, 2013

549 pages

### SUMMARY:

Will West is careful to live life under the radar. At his parents' insistence, he's made sure to get mediocre grades and to stay in the middle of the pack on his cross-country team. Then Will slips up, accidentally scoring off the charts on a nationwide exam. Now he is being courted by an exclusive prep school . . . and followed by men driving black sedans. When Will suddenly loses his parents, he must flee to the school. There he begins to explore all that he's capable of-- physical and mental feats that should be impossible--and learns that his abilities are connected to a struggle between titanic forces that have lasted for millennia. (From [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com))

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *The Maze Runner*, James Dasher
- *I Am Number Four*, Pittacus Lore
- *Legend*, Marie Lu
- *Alliance*, *Paladin Prophecy Book 2*, Mark Frost

### WEBSITES:

- *The Paladin Prophecy* Book Trailer; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AiuXM0liW4I>; a book trailer created by publisher Random House
- Wired Magazine; <http://www.wired.com/geekmom/2012/09/author-mark-frost/>; interview with *The Paladin Prophecy* author Mark Frost

### BOOKTALK:

Will West's parents are a bit different from the parents of most fifteen-year-olds. Will's parents don't want him to get top grades, win his cross-country meets or even have lots of friends. Will's parents want him to be average, to never stand out in any way! But Will isn't average. He's nearly a genius and he can run really fast. When Will forgets himself and accidentally gets top scores on a national exam, he suddenly gets lots of notice from the very people from whom his parents have been trying to hide him. An exclusive prep school offers Will a scholarship and black cars follow him everywhere he goes. After Will's parents go missing, Will must accept the offer from the Center for Integrated Learning and learn who he is and just what he is capable of.

Prepared by:

Susan Adams, Spring Valley High School, [suadams@richland2.org](mailto:suadams@richland2.org)