Long Way Down By Jason Reynolds YA REYNOLDS

Will takes his dead brother Shawn's gun, intending to kill the person he knows killed his brother. He gets in the elevator on the 7th floor, and as the elevator stops at every floor, someone connected to Will and Shawn gets on. Someone who already died to gun violence. Each of them has something to share with Will. Also available as a graphic novel.

Five Total Strangers By Natalie D. Richards YA RICHARDS

Stuck at the Philadelphia airport by an incoming blizzard, Mira hitches a ride to Pittsburgh with a group of college kids who were on her initial flight. As the trip begins, she discovers that her fellow travelers aren't friends like she thought. They're strangers-- and every one of them seems to be hiding something. The roads go from slippery to terrifying. Someone in the car is lying-- and may be sabotaging the trip. If Mira wants to make it home alive, she needs to uncover the truth about these total strangers.

A List of Cages By Robin Roe YA ROE

When Adam Blake is selected as an aide to the school psychologist, he thinks he's got it made. Sure, it means a lot of sitting around, which isn't easy for a guy with ADHD, but he gets to spend the period texting all his friends. Then the doctor asks him to find the troubled freshman who keeps dodging her, and Adam discovers that the boy is Julian--the foster brother he hasn't seen in five years. At first, Adam is thrilled to be reunited, but as they spend more time together he realizes that Julian is keeping secrets, like where he hides during the middle of the day, and what's really going on inside his house.

This Savage Son By Victoria Schwab YA SCHWAB

As the heirs to opposing sides in a warring city, Kate Harker and Augustus Flynn should never have met. A Romeo and Juliet-esque (but without the romance) fantasy about the difference between good and evil and the blurry gray area in between.

Salt to the Sea By Ruta Sepetys YA SEPETYS

It's early 1945, and World War II is coming toward a close, but it's not over yet. Four refugees all head for the coast, and a ship that might be able to take them to safety. The characters are fictional, but the novel is based on real events.

Dear Martin By Nic Stone YA STONE

Writing letters to the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., seventeen-year-old college-bound Justyce McAllister struggles to face the reality of race relations today and how they are shaping him.

The Amulet of Samarkand By Jonathan Stroud YA STROUD

Nathaniel, a precocious magician's apprentice, summons up the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Lovelace. This act of petty vengeance quickly develops unintended consequences, and Nathanial—and Bartimaeus—find themselves quickly embroiled in something much deeper than they could possibly have been prepared for.

Piecing Me Together By Renee Watson YA WATSON

Tired of being singled out at her mostly-white private school as someone who needs support, high school junior Jade would rather participate in the school's amazing Study Abroad program than join Women to Women, a mentorship program for at-risk girls.

Code Name Verity By Elizabeth Wein YA WEIN

In 1943, a British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France, and passenger Julie is taken captive as a spy. She is forced to write her confession, which she does in the form of a story, while keeping secret what she can.

Dragon Hoops By Gene Luen Yang GRAPHIC YANG

Though he's never been a basketball fan, Yang hears that the Dragons, the team at the school where he teaches, have a chance to win the state championship and be becomes curious. Shadowing the team for the entire season, the author relates the story of the team and the players. A fictionalized version of a true story.

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Romance-Free Reads

Cool stories with none of that mushy stuff

Galesburg Public Library Teen Scene



The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian By Sherman Alexie YA ALEXIE

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an allwhite farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon By Kelly Barnhill JFIC BARNILL

Luna was abandoned as a baby, a sacrifice to Xan, the witch of the forest. But Xan is a kindly witch who saves these abandoned children, and who raises Luna herself. When she turns 13, Luna's magical powers begin to emerge, but Xan is away and unable to guide her. Meanwhile, a young man from the Protectorate heads into the forest, hoping to kill the witch and end the sacrifices.

Shark Girl By Kelly Bingham YA BINGHAM

After a shark attack causes the amputation of her right arm, fifteen-year-old Jane, an aspiring artist, struggles to come to terms with her loss and the changes it imposes on her day-to-day life and her plans for the future.

Beauty Queens By Libba Bray YA BRAY

When a plane crash strands thirteen teen beauty contestants on a mysterious island, they struggle to survive, to get along with one another, to combat the island's other diabolical occupants, and to learn their dance numbers in case they are rescued in time for the competition.

Code Talker By Joseph Bruchac YA BRUCHAC

The United States is at war, and 16 year-old Ned wants to join the cause , especially when he hears that Navajos are being specifically recruited by the Marines. He breezes through boot camp and becomes a code talker, a crucial part of the war effort that used the Navajo language to form an unbreakable code. Ned joins other code talkers in providing a valuable but totally secret—service to the war effort.

Ender's Game By Orson Scott Card YA CARD

Once again, the Earth is under attack. An alien species is poised for a final assault. The survival of humanity depends on a military genius who can defeat the aliens. But who? Ender Wiggin is a brilliant, ruthless, cunning, a tactical and strategic master, and a child.

The Girl in Between By Sarah Carroll YA CARROLL

A homeless girl and her Ma, always hiding from the authorities, take shelter in an abandoned mill in the center of a big city. But when developers make plans to knock the mill down, everything changes, prompting the girl to wonder what kind of ghosts are haunting both the mill and her mother.

Labyrinth Lost By Zoraida Córdova YA CORDOVA

Alex is a bruja and the most powerful witch in her family. But she's hated magic ever since it made her father disappear into thin air. When a curse she performs to rid herself of magic backfires and her family vanishes, she must travel to Los Lagos, a land in-between as dark as Limbo and as strange as Wonderland, to get her family back.

Losers Bracket By Chris Crutcher YA CRUTCHER

While Annie's foster parents are great (mostly), her birth family would not have been her first pick. And no matter how many times Annie tries to write them out of her life, she always gets sucked back into their drama. Love is like that. But when a family argument breaks out at Annie's swim meet and her nephew goes missing, Annie might be the only one who can get him back. With help from her friends, her foster brother, and her social service worker, Annie puts the pieces of the puzzle together, determined to find her nephew and finally get him into a safe home.

Huda F Are You? By Huda Fahmy GRAPHIC FAHMY

Huda and her family just moved to Dearborn, Michigan, a small town with a big Muslim population. In her old town, Huda knew exactly who she was: She was the hijabi girl. But in Dearborn, everyone is the hijabi girl. Huda is lost in a sea of hijabis, and she can't rely on her hijab to define her anymore. She has to define herself. So she tries on a bunch of cliques, but she isn't a hijabi fashionista or a hijabi athlete or a hijabi gamer. She's not the one who knows everything about her religion or the one all the guys like. She's miscellaneous, which makes her feel like no one at all. Until she realizes that it'll take finding out who she isn't to figure out who she is.

Dangerous By Shannon Hale YA HALE

When aspiring astronaut Maisie Danger Brown, who was born without a right hand, and the other space camp students get the opportunity to do something amazing in space, Maisie must prove how dangerous she can be and how far she is willing to go to protect everything she has ever loved.

Dread Nation By Justina Ireland YA IRELAND

Jane was born two days before the dead rose up during the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863, interrupting the Civil War and changing the course of American history forever. Trained at a combat school to fight the dead, Jane dreams of returning home but gets involved in helping her ex search for missing families. Joining forces with frenemy Katherine, Jane must find the missing people, fight off the dead, and try to find her way home.

White Smoke By Tiffany D. Jackson YA JACKSON

When Marigold's family relocates from California to Midwestern Cedarville, it's a chance for them all to start over, and Mari to prove she's kicked her addiction for good. But Mari quickly realizes things are not what they seem in their new house: items go missing or turn up in strange places, the TV turns on by itself, and her stepsister Piper has a new imaginary friend—one who wants Mari gone.

Hold Me Closer, Necromancer By Lish McBride YA MCBRIDE

Sam LaCroix, a Seattle fast-food worker and college dropout, discovers that he is a necromancer, part of a world of harbingers, werewolves, satyrs, and one particular necromancer who sees Sam as a threat to his lucrative business of raising the dead.

I Am Princess X By Cherie Priest YA PRIEST

Years after writing stories about a superheroine character she created with a best friend who died in a tragic car accident, sixteen-year-old May is shocked to see stickers, patches, and graffiti images of the superheroine appearing around Seattle.