

***Turtles All The Way Down* by John Green** Sixteen-year-old Aza never intended to pursue the mystery of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, but there's a hundred-thousand-dollar reward at stake and her Best and Most Fearless Friend, Daisy, is eager to investigate. Together they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Russell Pickett's son, Davis. Aza is trying. She is trying to be a good daughter, a good friend, a good student, and maybe even a good detective, while also living within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts.

***An Uninterrupted View of the Sky* by Melanie Crowder** In this heart-wrenching novel inspired by real events, it's 1999 in Bolivia and Francisco's life consists of school, soccer, and trying to find space for himself in his family's cramped yet boisterous home. But when his father is arrested on false charges and sent to prison by a corrupt system that targets the uneducated, the poor, and the indigenous majority, all hope is lost. Francisco and his sister are left with no choice - they must move into the prison too.

***Warcross* by Marie Lu** For the millions who log in every day, Warcross isn't just a game--it's life. The obsession started ten years ago and its fan base now spans the globe. Struggling to make ends meet, teenage hacker Emika Chen works as a bounty hunter, tracking down players who bet on the game illegally. To make some quick cash, Emika hacks into the opening game of the international Warcross Championships--only to glitch herself into the action and become an overnight sensation.

***When Dimple Met Rishi* by Sandhya Menon** Dimple Shah has it all figured out. With graduation behind her, she's more than ready for a break from her family, from Mamma's inexplicable obsession with her finding the "Ideal Indian Husband." Ugh. Rishi Patel is a hopeless romantic. So when his parents tell him that his future wife will be attending the same summer program as him--wherein he'll have to woo her--he's totally on board. Dimple and Rishi may think they have each other figured out. But when opposites clash, love works hard to prove itself in the most unexpected ways.

***Wild Bird* by Wendelin Van Draanen** 3:47 a.m. That's when they come for Wren Clemmens. She's hustled out of her house and into a waiting car, then a plane, and then taken on a forced march into the desert. This is what happens to kids who've gone so far off the rails their parents don't know what to do with them anymore. This is wilderness therapy camp. Eight weeks to turn your life around. Yeah, right. The Wren who arrives in the Utah desert is angry and bitter. But angry can't put up a tent. And bitter won't start a fire. Wren's going to have to admit she needs help to survive.

***Wonder Woman: Warbringer* by Leigh Bardugo** Diana longs to prove herself to her legendary warrior sisters. But when the opportunity finally comes, she throws away her chance at glory and breaks Amazon law--risking exile--to save a mere mortal. Even worse, Alia Keralis is no ordinary girl and with this single brave act, Diana may have doomed the world. Alia is a Warbringer--a direct descendant of the infamous Helen of Troy, fated to bring about an age of bloodshed and misery.



Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award
Indiana Library Federation
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2019-2020 NOMINEES ANNOTATIONS

***The 57 Bus* by Dashka Slater** If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes.

***Backfield Boys* by John Feinstein** *Backfield Boys* follows best friends and football stars Jason Roddin and Tom Jefferson, a perfect, though unconventional, pair: Jason, the Jewish kid, is a natural wide-receiver, while African-American Tom has an amazing arm at quarterback. After summer football camp at an elite sports-focused boarding school, the boys are thrilled to enroll on scholarship for their freshman year. On day one, they're stunned when the coaches switch their positions, a complete contradiction to their skill sets and training. Suspecting deep-seated racial bias, the boys speak out, risking both their scholarships and their chance to play.

***Between the Lines* by Nikki Grimes** Darrian dreams of writing for the *New York Times*. To hone his skills and learn more about the power of words, he enrolls in Mr. Ward's class, known for its open-mic poetry readings and boys vs. girls poetry slam. As Darrian and his classmates get to know one another through poetry, they bond over the shared experiences and truth that emerge from their writing, despite their private struggles and outward differences.

***Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah** Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. *Born a Crime* is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist.

***Caraval* by Stephanie Graber** Scarlett has never left the tiny island where she and her beloved sister Tella live with their powerful and cruel father. Now Scarlett's father has arranged a marriage for her, and Scarlett thinks her dreams of seeing Caraval, the far-away, once-a-year performance where the audience participates in the show, are over. With the help of a mysterious sailor, Tella whisks Scarlett away to the show. Only, as soon as they arrive, Caraval's mastermind organizer kidnaps Tella and whoever finds her first is the winner.

***Daughters Unto Devils* by Amy Lukavics** When sixteen-year-old Amanda Verner's family decides to move from their small mountain cabin to the vast prairie, she hopes for a fresh start. She wants to leave behind terrifying visions she saw as her sanity began to slip last winter. She wants to forget the memories of the boy she secretly meets as a distraction from her pain and whose baby she now carries. When the Verners arrive, their new home is covered in blood. Something isn't right on the prairie.

***The Diabolic* by S.J. Kincaid** Nemesis is a Diabolic, a humanoid teenager created to protect a galactic senator's daughter, Sidonia. The two have grown up side by side, but are in no way sisters. Nemesis is expected to give her life for Sidonia, and she would do so gladly. In order to thwart the power-mad Emperor's plan to hold Sidonia hostage for her father's rebellion ties, Nemesis travels to the court disguised as Sidonia--a killing machine masquerading in a corrupt world. It's a nest of vipers with threats on every side, but Nemesis must keep her true abilities a secret or risk everything.

***The Female of the Species* by Mindy McGinnis** Alex Craft knows how to kill someone. And she doesn't feel bad about it. Three years ago, when her older sister, Anna, was murdered and the killer walked free, Alex uncaged the language she knows best--the language of violence. While her own crime goes unpunished, Alex knows she can't be trusted among other people.

***The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas** Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Everyone wants to know what really went down that night, but the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. Will what she says - or doesn't say - change her?

***I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika L. Sánchez** Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was her sister Olga's role, but when Olga dies in a tragic accident on a busy Chicago street, Julia is left to pick up the shattered pieces of her family. It's not long before Julia realizes Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. With the help from her best friend and boyfriend, Julia searches for her sister's story while trying to define her own.

***The Language of Thorns* by Leigh Bardugo** Travel to a world of dark bargains struck by moonlight, of haunted towns and hungry woods, of talking beasts and gingerbread golems, where a young mermaid's voice can summon deadly storms and where a river might do a love-struck boy's bidding but only for a terrible price.

***Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds** A cannon. A strap. A piece. Or you can call it a gun. That is what fifteen-year-old Will has shoved in the back waistband of his jeans. See, his brother Shawn was just murdered. Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. *Revenge*. That's where Will is now heading. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he's after. Or does he?

***Moxie* by Jennifer Mathieu** Vivian Carter is fed up. Fed up with an administration at her high school that thinks the football team can do no wrong. Fed up with sexist dress codes, hallway harassment, and gross comments from guys during class. But most of all, Viv Carter is fed up with always following the rules. Her mom's history as a punk rock Riot Grrrl in the '90s inspires Viv to create a feminist zine to distribute anonymously to her classmates. As Viv forges friendships with other young women she realizes that what she has started is nothing short of a girl revolution.

***Nimona* by Noelle Stevenson** Nimona is an impulsive young shapeshifter with a knack for villainy. Lord Ballister Blackheart is a villain with a vendetta. As sidekick and supervillain, Nimona and Lord Blackheart are about to wreak some serious havoc. Their mission: prove to the kingdom that Sir Ambrosius Goldenloin and his buddies at the Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics aren't the heroes everyone thinks they are.

***One of Us Is Lying* by Karen M. McManus** Pay close attention and you might solve this. On Monday afternoon, five students at Bayview High walk into detention. Bronwyn the brain, Addy the beauty, Nate the criminal, Cooper the athlete, and Simon the outcast. Only, Simon never makes it out of that classroom. Before the end of detention, Simon's dead. And according to investigators, his death wasn't an accident.

***One Was Lost* by Natalie D. Richards** A group of teens wake up in the woods with strange words inked onto their skin. Are they labels? A warning? They must find the truth before a killer finds them. While on a mandatory senior field trip, a flash flood cuts off Sera and three classmates from their group with no way to call for help. But they're not as alone as they thought.

***The Special Ones* by Em Bailey** Esther is one of the Special Ones: four young spiritual guides who live in a remote farmhouse under the protection of a cult leader. *He* watches them around the clock, ready to punish them if they forget who they are--and all the while, broadcasting their lives to eager followers on the outside. Esther knows that if she stops being Special, *he* will "renew" her. Nobody knows what happens to the Special Ones who are taken for renewal, but Esther fears the worst. Esther must keep up the performance if she wants to survive long enough to escape.

***Tell Me Three Things* by Julie Buxbaum** Sixteen-year-old Jessie, still grieving her mother's death, must move from Chicago to "The Valley" with a new stepfamily but no new friends. When an anonymous fellow student emails her as Somebody/Nobody and offers to help navigate the wilds of Wood Valley High, Jessie wonders if it is an elaborate hoax or the help she so desperately needs to stay.

***There's Someone Inside Your House* by Stephanie Perkins** It's been almost a year since Makani Young came to live with her grandmother in landlocked Nebraska, and she's still adjusting to her new life away from Hawaii. One by one, the students of her small town high school die in gruesome murders, each with increasingly grotesque flair. As the terror grows closer, Makani will be forced to confront her own dark secrets.