

High School Smorgasbord

The Steep and Thorny Way

By Cat Winters

Winters, Cat. ***The Steep & Thorny Way***. New York: Amulet Books, 2016. 335 p. (Gr. 9 and up).

Annotation:

Hanalee Denney is a mixed raced daughter whose black father has been killed in an Oregon small town that is riddled with hatred and prejudice. When she discovers that her father might have been murdered, the racial intolerance of her community makes it difficult to solve the mystery. But through perseverance and grit, Hanalee is determined to uncover the horrible truth.

Booktalk:

In this modern retelling of *Hamlet*, Hanalee Denney, is the daughter of a white woman and an African American man, living in Elston, Oregon in 1923. The small town is rife with racial prejudice and hatred, and the Ku Klux Klan is organized and active. So how can a bi-racial poor girl uncover the nasty truths of her father's murder?

But Hanalee is determined to do just that. When the boy that was held responsible for her father's death is released from prison, Hanalee seeks him out to mete out her own vengeance. But she leaves that visit, not with satisfaction but with more questions. Maybe her father's death wasn't the result of a horrible accident but murder.

Help for Hanalee comes from the most unexpected and surreal place, her father's ghost who wanders the street where he died and the truth leads her back to her home and the murderous step-father living under her own roof.

Reviews:

- Booklist, 1/2016
- Kirkus, 12/15/2015
- School Library Journal, 1/2016

Awards and Honors:

Oklahoma Sequoyah Book Award Nominee

Websites:

Author's Website: www.catwinters.com

Author's E-mail: catwintersbooks@gmail.com

Other Books by Cat Winters:

The Cure for Dreaming (2014)

The Shadow of Blackbirds (2013)

The Serpent King

By Jeff Zettner

Zentner, Jeff. ***The Serpent King***. New York: Crown Books for Young Readers, 2016. 384 p. (Gr. 9 and up).

Annotation:

Dill, Lydia and Travis are best friends who have a common trait of being outcasts from the small town prejudice of rural Tennessee. Senior year is fast drawing to a close and they are all yearning for and fearing the changes that loom ahead. But none of them can predict or prepare for the tragedy that will define their friendship forever.

Booktalk:

Dill is the son of a preacher man, a Pentecostal minister who handles snakes and is currently residing in prison. To label Dill an outcast would be an understatement. He is bullied because of his family but also because of his best friends, Travis and Lydia.

Travis is a bigger-than-life teen who lives in the fantasy world of his favorite novels. Fashionista Lydia can't wait to get out of small-town dullsville and move to a fashion forward big city. The threesome help each other through the perils of backwoods Tennessee bigotry, bullies, and hardships. But as their senior year draws to an end, they each face their own insecurities and fears.

But nothing can prepare them for the tragedy that will change their lives and friendships forever.

The Serpent King eloquently describes the heartache and joy of friendship and family while reminding us that with great joy often comes devastating sadness but through it all we can persevere with grace and dignity.

Reviews:

- Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, 3/2016
- Kirkus, 12/15/2015
- Publisher's Weekly, 12/14/2015

Awards:

William C Morris YA Debut Award

Lincoln Award Nominee

Oklahoma Sequoyah Book Award Nominee

Websites:

Author's Website: www.jeffzentnerbooks.com

Instagram: @jeffzentner

Facebook: [Jeff Zentner–Writer](#)

Other Books by Jeff Zentner:

Goodbye Days (2017)

Highly Illogical Behavior

By John C. Whaley

Citation:

Whaley, John C. *Highly Illogical Behavior*. New York: Dial, 2016. Print. 256 p.

Annotation:

Lisa, wanting to be accepted into a prestigious college psychology program, needs a topic for her entrance essay. She decides to cure and then write about an old classmate, 16-year-old agoraphobic Solomon.

Booktalk:

After an embarrassing breakdown that including being in his underwear in the school fountain, 16-year-old agoraphobic Solomon hasn't left his house in a few years. He enjoys his comfortable life with his loving parents, playing card games and reading comics. Lisa, a former classmate, has never stopped remembering the day Solomon went in the fountain. In fact, he inspired her to pursue a scholarship to study psychology at a prestigious college program. She must write an entrance essay detailing her experience with mental illness. She decides Solomon is the perfect person for her to cure and write about. She and her boyfriend Clark develop a genuine friendship with Solomon and things are starting to look up for him. As their friendship grows, Solomon begins to have feelings for Clark and some uncomfortable truths come out.

Reviews:

Booklist, 03/01/16

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, 05/01/16

Horn Book Guide, 10/01/16

Horn Book Magazine, 07/01/16

Kirkus Reviews, Starred, 02/15/16

New York Times, 05/08/16

Publishers Weekly, Starred, 02/29/16

School Library Journal, Starred, 04/01/16

Teacher Librarian, 10/01/16

Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA), Starred, 06/01/16

Awards and Honors:

Oklahoma Sequoyah Book Award Nominee, 2017

People Magazine, Summer's Best Books of 2016

School Library Journal Best Book of the Year

Social Media/Websites:

Author's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/John-Corey-Whaley-330384472829/>

Author's Twitter: https://twitter.com/corey_whaley

Author's Website: <http://johncoreywhaley.com/>

Related Books:

Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon

Underwater by Marisa Reichardt

Other Books by John Corey Whaley:

Noggin

Where Things Come Back

Recommended Grade Level:

Grades 9-12

Holding Up the Universe

By Jennifer Niven

Citation:

Niven, Jennifer. **Holding Up the Universe**. Knopf, October 2016. 400p.

Annotation:

Libby Strout begins to fight her way through the jungle that is high school only to be sidetracked by Jack Masslen, who is also only trying to survive high school. The story examines normal teenage issues as well as obesity and face blindness.

Booktalk:

Being a teenager is hard but being a teenager dubbed the "World's Fattest Teen" is even harder. Libby Strout has recovered from being cut out of her house to save her life, lost a ton of weight, been to thousands of hours of therapy, and now feels ready to face high school.

Jack Masslen has everyone fooled that he has life all figured out especially high school. In reality he has a secret that has him terrified and is barely managing to survive high school.

Sometimes when you meet someone it changes the world yours and theirs. This is what happens when Libby and Jack meet at MVB High through a cruel prank that lands them both in hot water with the principal, their parents, and each other. They are forced to do community service and group counseling and they begin to learn about each other and themselves and find that if you look hard enough you really can see someone.

Websites:

www.jenniferniven.com

www.goodreads.com/author/show/45592.Jennifer_Niven

<http://twitter.com/jenniferniven?lang=en>

www.simonadnschuster.com/authors/JenniferNiven/45270479

Reviews:

Kirkus Review 07/20/2016

Booklist 08/2016

One star review Publisher's Weekly 8/01/2016

One star review School Library Journal 08/2016

Awards and Honors:

TAYSHAS Reading List 2017

Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for YA Fiction 2016

Related Books:

Abbott, Hailey. *Summer Boys*. Scholastic, Oct. 1, 2009.

Draper, Sharon. *Romiette and Julio*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, December 7, 2010.

Elkeles, Simone. *Perfect Chemistry*. Walker Childrens, April 21, 2010.

Forman, Gayle. *Just One Day*. Speak, January 8, 2013.

Han, Jenny. *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, April 15, 2014.

Patterson, James. *First Love*. Jimmie Patterson, January, 2014.

Perkins, Stephanie. *Anna and the First Kiss*. Speak, December 2, 2010.

Other Books by Jennifer Niven:

Ada Blackjack: a true story of survival in the arctic. Hachette Books, February 21, 2012.

All the Bright Places. Knopf Books for Young Readers, January 6, 2015.

American Blonde. Plume, July 30, 2014.

The Aqua Net Diaries. Gallery Books, February 2, 2010.

Becoming Clementine. Plume, September 25, 2012.

The Ice Master: the Doomed 1913 Voyage of the Karluk. Hachette Books, October 1, 2001.

Velva Jean Learns to Drive. Plume, July 28th, 2009.

Velva Jean Learns to Fly. Plume, August 30, 2011.

March: Book Three
By John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell

Citation:

Lewis, John, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell. *March: Book Three*. Top Shelf Productions, 2016. 256 p.

Annotation:

This final volume of Congressman Lewis' graphic memoir about the civil rights era tells the extraordinary story of the pivotal moments and activists that changed our country.

Booktalk:

At its heart, this book is an autobiography of Congressman John Lewis, a Civil Rights icon and current representative for the state of Georgia. It takes one man's story and makes it everyone's story in the highly personal, immersive way that the best graphic novels do. You are there with John Lewis as a Birmingham church is bombed. You are there during the Mississippi Freedom Summer, tirelessly helping people register to vote. And you are there on Bloody Sunday, when nonviolent marchers for voting rights are beaten by Alabama state troopers.

Reviews:

Booklist starred 8/01/16
Publisher's Weekly 8/29/16
Library Journal 11/15/16
School Library Journal 8/01/16

Awards and Honors:

National Book Award for Young People's Literature 2016
Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Graphic Novels and Comics 2016
Sibert Medal 2017
Michael L. Printz Award 2017
Coretta Scott King Award for Author 2017
YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction 2017
Walter Dean Myers Award 2017

Websites:

John Lewis: <https://johnlewis.house.gov/>
Andrew Aydin: <http://www.andrewaydin.com/>
Nate Powell: <http://www.seemybrotherdance.org/>

Related Books:

March: Book One
March: Book Two

A Fierce and Subtle Poison

By Samantha Mabry

Mabry, Samantha. *A Fierce and Subtle Poison*. Algonquin Young Readers, 2016. 278 p.

Annotation:

Lucas is 17 and spends his summers in Puerto Rico, where his father is a hotel developer. He is a part of the local world, but he isn't, living in a hotel, returning to the States regularly, and generally living a good life. Always fascinated by the overgrown house not far from his hotel, he's heard all the stories of why it is shuttered and of the family who lived there. Stories of death and despair and the supernatural surround the house, which only makes Lucas more curious. When Marisol, the cousin of Lucas's friend, disappears, the story of the house and its occupants begins to unravel, revealing a story of parental love, obsession, disappearances going back years, and making life-altering choices.

Booktalk:

Seventeen-year-old Lucas finds the legends and whispered talk about the house at the end of road interesting, especially the talk of the green girl, who has grass for hair and eats the poisonous plants in the garden. But, overall, nothing gets him too excited during his summer visits with his father in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He is most often on his own, and spends his days with local friends, drinking and flirting with girls. Then, life takes an abrupt turn when Marisol, a girl he's gone out with and the cousin of one of his friends, disappears. And she hasn't been the only girl to go missing in recent years. Curiosity - and not a small amount of fear - take over as Lucas begins to dream about the green girl. He soon learns more about the house, its inhabitants, and all the mystery surrounding the eerie property. And, he discovers it is up to him and a surprise ally to keep more girls from disappearing. *A Fierce and Subtle Poison* is a lush book, with beautiful scenery and a plot fast-paced enough to keep readers invested in the story. Magical realism comes alive in this book and melds well with suspense. This is Mabry's debut and is well worth the following I am certain she will develop.

Reviews:

Booklist 1/1/16

Publishers Weekly 1/18/16

Kirkus Reviews 2/1/16

School Library Journal 3/1/16

Horn Book Guide 10/1/16

Awards and Honors:

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books starred 6/1/16

Websites and Social Media:

Author's website: www.samanthamabry.com

Author's Twitter: @samanthamabry

Author's Instagram @samantha_mabry_tx

The Smell of Other People's Houses

By Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock

Citation:

Hitchcock, Bonnie-Sue. *Smell of Other People's Houses, The*. New York: Wendy Lamb Books, 2016. Print. 223 p.

Annotation:

Set in 1970s rural Alaska and told in alternating voices, this novel shares the stories of four teens who are dealing with tough situations. Their tales of poverty, family, and dreams of the future unexpectedly intertwine.

Booktalk:

“I’ve realized over time that houses with moms in them do tend to smell better.” 16-year-old Ruth has learned to cope after the loss of both of her parents—one to death and one to grief. She and her little sister live a meager life with her strict grandmother and she has a secret that won’t stay hidden for long. Dora is living with neighbors after an incident with her abusive, alcoholic father. All she wants is to stay under the radar. Alyce is a ballet dancer and her dream is to attend a prestigious program, but her summer visitation with her dad on his fishing boat is holding her back. Her family just does not understand her. Hank and his brothers can’t put up with his mom’s new boyfriend after the death of his father. They run away and one of them ends up in danger. The lives of these four teens in 1970s rural Alaska unexpectedly intertwine as they try to navigate life and chase their dreams.

Reviews:

Booklist starred, 12/15/15
Horn Book Guide, 10/01/16
Kirkus Reviews, 11/15/15
Publishers Weekly, 11/09/15
School Library Journal, 01/01/16
Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) starred, 02/01/16

Awards and Honors:

William C. Morris YA Debut Award Finalist, 2017
Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal
Tayshas Reading List—Top 10 List
New York Public Library’s Best 50 Books for Teens
Chicago Public Library, Best of the Best List
Oklahoma Sequoyah Nominee

Social Media/Websites:

Author's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bonniesue.hitchcock>

Author's Twitter: <https://twitter.com/hitchcockbs>

Author's Website: <https://hitchcockbs.com/>

Related Books:

Up to this Pointe by Jennifer Longo

The Mystery of Hollow Places by Rebecca Podos

Leaving Protection by Will Hobbs

Recommended Grade Level:

Grades 8 and up

The Reader
by Traci Chee

Chee, Traci. *The Reader*. New York: G.P. Putnam & Sons, 2016. 464p.

Annotation:

After her aunt is kidnapped, Sefia sets out to rescue her, aided only by a mysterious object passed down to her by her murdered parents. But the object – a book – is dangerously powerful in her illiterate society, and soon Sefia's journey becomes an adventure, complete with pirates and assassins.

Book talk:

Sefia is in danger. Her parents were killed when she was a child and now her aunt has been kidnapped - all because of a strange rectangular object Sefia inherited. Soon she realizes that this object is a book - something unknown in her world - and that it is powerful and magical, and there are those who would stop at nothing to take it from her. As Sefia flees from assassins and attempts to rescue her aunt, she meets a boy with a dark past and a crew of swashbuckling pirates. And as she learns to read the pages of her book, the story contained within it begins to intertwine with, and even alter, her own journey. This is a book full of magic and adventure -- and look for a secret message hidden in the pages, too!

Author websites:

<http://tracichee.com/>

<https://twitter.com/tracichee>

<https://www.facebook.com/TraciCheeAuthor>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/6567825.Traci_Chee

Reviews:

Kirkus (starred) – June 15, 2016
School Library Journal (starred) – June 2016
Booklist (starred) – August 2016
Publisher’s Weekly (starred) – September 2016

Awards and Honors:

Finalist for the 2016 Kirkus Prize
A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year – 2016
A Kirkus Best Book of the Year – 2016
An NPR Best Book of the Year – 2016

Related Books:

Funke, Cornelia. *Inkheart*. New York, NY : Chicken House, 2003. 544p. Both are novels with magical worlds in which books and reading have enormous power.
Caine, Rachel. *Ink and Bone*. New York : New American Library, 2015. 384p. Both novels are full of adventure and feature alternative worlds in which books are rare and powerful commodities.
Heilig, Heidi. *The Girl From Everywhere*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2016. 464p. Both are young adult fantasy novels in which pirates play a significant role.

Other Books by Traci Chee:

The Speaker (sequel – coming September 2017)

In the Shadow of Liberty: The Hidden History of Slavery, Four Presidents, and Five Black Lives

By Kenneth C. Davis

Davis, Kenneth C. *In the Shadow of Liberty: The Hidden History of Slavery, Four Presidents, and Five Black Lives*. New York: Holt, 2016. 304p.

Annotation:

Many of America’s Founding Fathers, who fought for liberty, were also slaveholders. This well-researched work of nonfiction focuses on five enslaved people owned by four presidents.

Book talk:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...” You probably recognize these words from the Declaration of Independence. But did you know that Thomas Jefferson, one of our Founding Fathers and the man who penned these words, owned slaves? In fact, ten of the first fifteen American presidents owned slaves or grew up in slaveholding households. *In the Shadow of Liberty* tells the story of slavery in America by focusing on five

enslaved people owned by four presidents, from Billy Lee, valet to George Washington, to Alfred Jackson, faithful servant of Andrew Jackson.

Author websites:

<http://dontknowmuch.com/>

<https://twitter.com/kennethcdavis>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/dkmahistory/videos>

<https://www.facebook.com/kendavisdontknowmuch>

Reviews:

Kirkus – June 15, 2016

Publisher's Weekly (starred) – September 2016

Booklist (starred) – June 1, 2016

School Library Journal (starred) – August 2016

Awards and Honors:

Finalist for the 2017 Excellence in Young Adult Nonfiction Award (YALSA)

“Notable Books-2017” American Library Assoc./ALSC

Selected “2016 Top of the List Youth Nonfiction” by Booklist

Related Books:

Bolden, Tonya. *Emancipation Proclamation: Lincoln and the Dawn of Liberty*. New York : Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2013. 128p. Bolden's work of juvenile nonfiction uses plenty of primary sources to examine both the Emancipation Proclamation and the events leading up to it.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Chains*. New York : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008. 316p. Anderson's novel about a slave during the Revolutionary War pairs well with Davis's nonfiction work about slaves during the same time period.

Osborne, Linda Barrett. *Traveling the Freedom Road: From Slavery and the Civil War through Reconstruction*. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2009. 128p. Osborne's book tells the experiences of African Americans from 1800 to 1877 through diaries, newspaper clippings, and other first-person accounts.

Other Books by Kenneth C. Davis:

Don't Know Much About... (Series of books for both adults and children)

Still Life With Tornado

by A.S. King

King, A.S. ***Still Life With Tornado***. Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2016. 304 p.

Annotation:

Teenaged artist Sarah works her way through a fractured family, a blocked talent, and an existential crisis with the help of her future and past selves in this surrealist take on the small and large cruelties of everyday life.

Booktalk:

Sarah's having an existential crisis. That's not new, but this is: she's seeing her past and future selves on the bus, in the art museum, and walking down the street, trying to help her remember things she's forgotten. 10-year-old Sarah hints about why they never see their big brother anymore. 23-year-old Sarah wants to get to the bottom of what happened in art class that made them stop going to school. 40-year-old Sarah is worried about their parents, whose marriage is imploding. Is Sarah going crazy? Has she had a break with reality? Or is reality just a little overrated?

Reviews:

Booklist, starred Jul 2016
Bulletin, starred Oct 2016
Horn Book, starred Sep/Oct 2016
Publisher's Weekly, starred 7/18/16
School Library Journal, starred Sep 2016
Kirkus, Aug 2016

Awards and Honors:

A 2016 *New York Times* Notable Children's Book
A *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of 2016
A *School Library Journal* Best Book of 2016
A *Booklist* Best Book of 2016
Booklist Top of the List 2016

Websites:

Author's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/as.king.author/> Author's Instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/as_king_/
Author's Twitter: https://twitter.com/AS_King
Author's Website: <https://www.as-king.com/>

Related Books:

Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky
The Strange and Beautiful Sorrows of Ava Lavender by Leslye Walton
Bone Gap by Laura Ruby
Every Day by David Levithan
Split by Swati Avasthi

Other Books by A.S. King:

I Crawl Through It
Glory O'Brien's History of the Future
Reality Boy
Ask the Passengers
Everybody Sees the Ants
Please Ignore Vera Dietz
The Dust of 100 Dogs

The Female of the Species

By
Mindy McGinnis

Citation:

McGinnis, Mindy. *The Female of the Species*. Katherine Tegen Books. 2016. 352 p.

Annotation:

McGinnis, Mindy. *The Female of the Species*. Katherine Tegen Books, 2016. 352 pages. (Gr. 10 & up). Alex's older sister was brutally murdered. Her murderer was brutally murdered. Alex did it, but no one knows. Alex is vengeance. She cannot be trusted if she sees someone wronged because violence is her second language.

Booktalk:

Alex Craft is a tough, small town girl. Small towns are protective of their secrets. Alex Craft's sister was brutally murdered. Everyone in town knows about Alex's sister's murder. Everyone also knows that after the murderer walked free, he ended up gruesomely murdered. Not everyone knows that Alex Craft murdered him including her teachers and classmates. Alex is a loner at the local high school but then shy PeeKay and handsome Jack, 2 classmates, become Alex's friends. Alex's own words to describe herself are "I am vengeance". Violence does not bother her. PeeKay and Jack may not be so safe now that they've befriended "vengeance".

Reviews:

Publishers Weekly starred 7/4/2016
VOYA, October 2016 (vol. 39, No.4)
School Library Journal 12/1/2016
Kirkus Review starred 6/1/2016
Booklist starred review

Awards and Honors:

YALSA Top 10 Best YA Fiction of 2017
School Library Journal Best of 2016
Junior Library Guild Selection
ALA Best Fiction for Young Adults
The Globe and Mail Best Books of 2016
Bustle's Best Young Adult Books of 2016
Mashable's 8 Best YA Books of 2016
Seventeen's 10 Best YA Books of 2016

Websites:

Mindy McGinnis: www.mindymcginnis.com

Other Books by Mindy McGinnis:

Not a Drop to Drink
In A Handful of Dust
A Madness So Discreet
Given to the Sea
this darkness mine

The Sun Is Also a Star

by Nicola Yoon

Yoon, Nicola. ***The Sun Is Also a Star***. Delacorte Books, 2016. 384 p.

Annotation:

Natasha likes science and facts. She's not the type to fall in love with a boy in the middle of New York City, especially when her family is 12 hours away from being deported to Jamaica. Enter Daniel. Daniel has always been the good son who works hard to live up to his parents' high expectations. When they meet on the street, a million futures lie before them. Which one will come true?

Booktalk:

Natasha is looking for answers all over New York City. Her father has been arrested for drunk driving, exposing her family who has been living in the United States as undocumented immigrants for the past decade. On her search for answers, she meets Daniel who is on his way to interview for acceptance at Yale. Daniel's parents emigrated from South Korea and have high hopes for him to become a doctor. As the day winds down and the universe intervenes, Daniel and Natasha find themselves falling in love. Will the unlikely couple be able to make it past today?

Reviews:

Booklist, starred
Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, starred
Horn Book, starred
Kirkus Reviews, starred
Publishers Weekly, starred
School Library Journal
Teacher Librarian

Awards and Honors:

Booklist 2016 Top 10 Books for Youth, Romance
National Book Awards: Young People's Literature, 2016, Finalist
Publishers Weekly Best Books of 2016, Young Adult
The New York Times Notable Children's Books of 2016, Young Adult
Goodreads Choice Awards 2016, Young Adult Fiction

Kirkus Reviews Best Books of 2016, Teen
BuzzFeed Best YA Book of the Year
POPSUGAR Best Book of the Year
New York Public Library Best Book for Teens
Amazon Best Book of the Year
Booklist 2016 Editors' Choice, Books for Youth, Older Readers, Fiction
Shelf Awareness 2016 Best Books of the Year, Teen Novels
YALSA 2017 Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults
Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books 2016 Blue Ribbons, Fiction
#1 New York Times Bestseller
John Steptoe Award, Author 2017
Michael L. Printz Honor, 2017
National Book Award Finalist 2016
Oklahoma Sequoyah Book Award Nominee, 2017

Websites:

Author's Website: <http://www.nicolayoon.com>
Twitter: @nicolayoon

Related Books:

All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven
Holding Up the Universe by Jennifer Niven
What Light by Jay Asher

Other Books by Nicola Yoon:

Everything, Everything
Meet Cute, Meet Cute: Collected Stories

Underwater
by Marisa Reichardt

Reichardt, Marisa. ***Underwater***. . Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016. 288 p.

Annotation:

Morgan can't move on from that horrible day. She can't even get past the front door of her apartment. She feels like she is constantly underwater. Just when it seems she can't catch her breath, a new boy moves in next door. Evan helps Morgan remember the rush she used to get from swimming. Will his friendship be what it takes to get outside and back in the water? Will he be able to convince her to move on from that deadly day?

Booktalk:

Everything changed the day that she tried to do a good deed. Before Morgan loved the beach and the feel of the water when she competed on the school swim team. But since the school shooting, she can't move. She can't even step outside of her apartment because she feels as if she is underwater and unable to surface. Her therapist tells her to breathe...but Morgan finds it hard. Will a new friend next door help her be able to forgive herself and move on from the terrible tragedy?

Reviews:

Booklist
Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books
Horn Book
Kirkus Reviews
Publishers Weekly, starred
School Library Journal
VOYA
Library Media Connection

Awards and Honors:

Oklahoma Sequoyah Book Award Nominee, 2017

Websites:

Author's Website: <http://www.marisareichardt.com>
Twitter: @youngadultish

Related Books:

This Is Where it Ends by Marieke Nijkamp
All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven
The First Time She Drowned by Kerry Kletter

Up to this Pointe

By Jennifer Longo

Longo, Jennifer. ***Up to this Pointe***. New York: Random House, 2016. 360 p. (Gr. 8 and up)

Annotation:

Seventeen-year-old Harper has a plan, “The Plan,” – to become a professional ballerina with the San Francisco Ballet alongside her best friend, Kate. When Harper’s “Plan” takes an unexpected turn, she finds herself contemplating her future (and a cute boy) while working as a research assistant in Antarctica.

Booktalk:

You’ve been told as long as you can remember, you can be anything you want to be if you just work hard enough. Well, what happens when you have all the drive and determination to live out your dream, but you still fail?

Harper and her best friend, Kate, have a plan, “The Plan!” They are going to graduate early, audition for the San Francisco Ballet, and live out their dream of being professional ballerinas together. When “The Plan” goes south (literally), Harper finds herself as a research assistant in Antarctica. While in Antarctica, Harper has to find out who she is and where she’s going now that “The Plan” isn’t an option.

Reviews:

- *Booklist*, 12/01/15
- *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books starred*, 03/01/16
- *Horn Book Guide*, 10/01/16
- *Horn Book Magazine*, 03/01/16
- *Kirkus Reviews*, 11/01/15
- *Publishers Weekly*, 11/02/15
- *School Library Journal*, 02/01/16

Awards and Honors:

Oklahoma Sequoyah Book Award Nominee

Selected as an *Indies Next* title

Shortlisted for the *YALSA 2017 Best Fiction Young Adult*

Websites:

Author’s Website: <http://www.jenlongo.com>

Author’s Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JenLiaLongo>

Author’s E-mail: jenlongowrites@gmail.com

Other Books by Jennifer Longo:

Six Feet Over It (2016)

And I Darken
by Kiersten White

White, Kiersten. ***And I Darken***. Delacorte Press, 2016. 496 p.

Annotation:

Lada Dragwyla along with her brother Radu are sent as royal hostages from Wallachia to the Ottoman Empire, where they must determine whether they will be loyal to their brutal birthplace or their elegant yet sinister new home.

Booktalk:

For fans of *Game of Thrones* -- this tale of political intrigue in a historical fantasy setting will satisfy readers who thirst for scheming, alliances, wars, and an empire in turmoil. When young Lada and her brother Radu are sent to the Ottoman Empire as royal hostages, Lada is distraught while Radu can't believe his good fortune. Fate throws them together with the heir to the empire, Mehmed, who grows to trust and confide in the siblings. But Lada and Radu each want something out of Mehmed, and their machinations will pit them against each other. In the end, who will win?

Reviews:

Booklist, starred May 2016

School Library Journal, starred May 2016

Websites:

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