

YALSA's Best Fiction

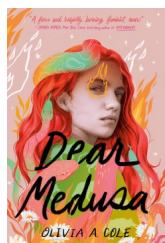
The Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) "Best Fiction for Young Adults" presents fiction titles published for young adults in the past 14 months that are recommended reading for ages 12 to 18. For more recommendations, talk to a librarian or visit alamedafree.org



Becoming a queen

by Dan Clay

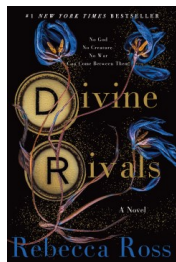
After a devastating tragedy, Mark Davis harnesses the power of drag, which becomes an unexpected outlet for his grief and an opportunity to see others as fully as he wants to be seen. YA FIC CLAY



Dear Medusa

by Olivia A. Cole

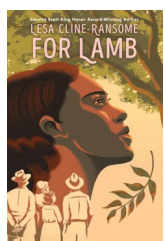
This intense and intimate novel-in-verse follows Alicia, who feels isolated and alone after being sexually abused by a teacher, until she receives mysterious letters hinting at another victim, forcing her to face her trauma and fight back. YA FIC COLE



Divine Rivals

by Rebecca Ross

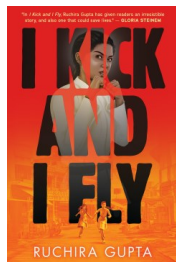
When 18-year-old journalist Iris Winnow's personal letters fall into the hands of her rival at the paper, she forges a magical connection that follows her into the battle for her family, the fate of humankind, and love. YA FIC ROSS



For Lamb

by Lesa Cline-Ransome

In 1930s Jackson, Mississippi, quiet, studious and naïve girl Lamb tentatively accepts the friendly overtures of a white girl, which sets in motion a series of events that end in tragedy. YA FIC CLINE - RANSOME



I kick and I fly

by Ruchira Gupta

Instead of being sold into Bihar, India's sex trade, 14-year-old Heera stays at a local hostel for at-risk girls where she learns, through the practice of martial arts, that her body is a vessel through which she can protect herself and those around her. YA FIC GUPTA



Plan A

by Deb Caletti

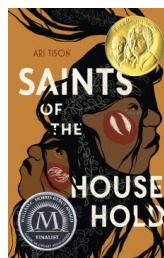
Hitting the road with her boyfriend to the West Coast where she can legally obtain an abortion, 16-year-old Ivy encounters women who share their stories and help her chip away at the stigma, silence and shame surrounding reproduction rights. YA FIC CALETTI



Promise boys

by Nick Brooks

Becoming prime suspects in the murder of their principal known for doling out extreme discipline, three Urban Promise Prep School students team up to catch the real killer and clear their names. YA FIC BROOKS



Saints of the household

by Ari Tison

After breaking up a fight that harms their school's star soccer player in the process, two Bribri American brothers have to lay low due to their physically abusive father and grapple with the weight of their actions to find their way forward. YA FIC TISON

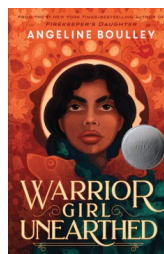


Their vicious games

by Joelle Wellington

Blacklisted from her top choice Ivy League college, prestigious Edgewater Academy scholarship student Adina Walker participates in the Finish, a high-stakes competition whose prize of wealth and power can open any door, only to find that she's playing for her life. YA FIC

WELLINGTON



Warrior girl unearthed

by Angeline Boulley

With the rising number of missing Indigenous women, her family's involvement in a murder investigation and grave robbers profiting off her Anishinaabe tribe, Perry takes matters into her own hands to solve the mystery and reclaim her people's inheritance. YA FIC BOULLEY

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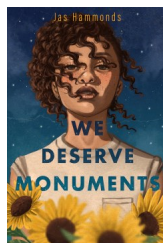
What stalks among us

by Sarah Hollowell

The last thing they expect to come across is a giant, abandoned corn maze. But with a whole day of playing hooky unspooling before them, they make their second mistake. Or perhaps their third? Maybe even their fourth. Because Sadie and Logan have

definitely entered this maze before. And again before that.

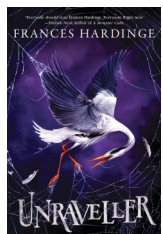
They quickly realize they've not only entered this maze before, they've died in it too. A lot. YA FIC HOLLOWELL



We deserve monuments

by Jas Hammonds

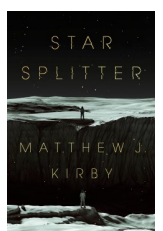
When seventeen-year-old Avery moves to rural Georgia to live with her ailing grandmother, she encounters decade-old family secrets and a mystery surrounding the town's racist past. YA FIC HAMMONDS



Unraveler

by Frances Hardinge

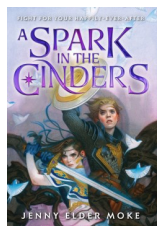
The only person who has the power to unravel curses, Kellen does not yet fully understand his talent but must remove his own curse before he unravels everything—and everyone—around him. YA FIC HARDINGE



Star splitter

by Matthew J. Kirby

In 2199, 17-year-old Jessica Mathers wakes up on a desolate, post-extinction planet 14 light years from Earth and must make sense of the bloody destruction around her, as well as the questionable intentions of a familiar stranger. YA FIC KIRBY



A spark in the cinders

by Jenny Elder Moke

When her stepsister, Queen Ellarose, begs for her help, Aralyn discovers a prophecy that could save the kingdom from ruin and sets out to find the missing pieces of an ancient blade, fighting for her own happily-ever-after. YA FIC MOKE

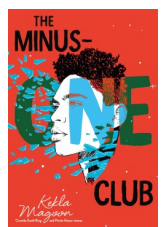


Miles Morales

by Jason Reynolds

Earning a suspension for saving the world, Miles Morales finds a long boring day turning into one that has his spidey-senses tingling as he goes head-to-head with an unexpected enemy who has the power to destroy the world's history, especially Black and Brown

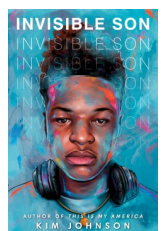
history. YA FIC REYNOLDS



The Minus-One Club

by Kekla Magoon

Joining a secret group called the "Minus-One Club," whose members have all suffered the tragic loss of someone they loved, 15-year-old Kermit finds his crush Matt's headstrong approach to life helping to relieve his constant despair. YA FIC MAGOON



Invisible son

by Kim Johnson

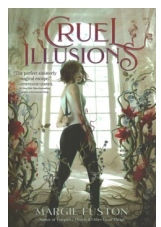
After spending two months in a juvenile detention center for a crime he did not commit, seventeen-year-old Andre Jackson returns home and tries to adapt to a Covid-19 world and find his missing best friend. YA FIC JOHNSON



The do-over

by Lynn Painter

Stuck in some sort of time loop that forces her to live through the worst Valentine's Day EVER over and over again, Emilie Hornby wonders what will happen when the universe stops doling out do-overs when something good starts to come out of her nightmare. YA FIC PAINTER



Cruel illusions

by Margie Fuston

Fueled by revenge against the vampire who killed her mother, Ava makes a deal with an ancient secret society who demands she compete in a deadly competition where illusion and reality blur in exchange for letting her keep the magic power in her blood. YA

FIC FUSTON