

# Oklahoma Library Association

## 2010 Sequoyah High School Masterlist

## Smorgasbord

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\*\*non-fiction

***The Absolutely True Diary of A Part-Time Indian***  
**Sherman Alexie**

Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2008. 230p. (Gr 7-10)

**Annotation**

Arnold Spirit, AKA “Junior” becomes a part-time Indian when he decides to forgo his reservation schooling and go to school off the reservation at an all white school. Only the love of his family, his best friend, and his new friends can get him through this first school year off the reservation.

**Booktalk**

I was called an “apple,” you know red on the outside and white on the inside. It’s not a nice thing for one Indian to say to another Indian. In fact it’s derogatory. In fact it hurt my feelings when my friend Rowdy practically so much as called me a traitor. But let’s go back to the beginnings.

No one I knew lived anywhere but the Spokane Indian Reservation, or the rez. I never thought of leaving until I was almost fourteen. I was a good artist and thought if I got any better I could become rich and famous. But to get better I would have to go to a school off the reservation. Mr. P, my math teacher, told me that if I didn’t get out of the reservation it would kill me forever. That school was twenty miles away and all white. That school had a computer room, a chemistry lab, a drama club, two gyms and textbooks that weren’t thirty years old. That school also meant that my best friend Rowdy would turn his back on me. But I had to go. I didn’t want to end up a rez loser.

Driving to the new school to enroll I realized that we were a poor-ass Indian family from a poor-ass Indian reservation. I would be the second Indian at school, the other one being their mascot, an Indian. Welcome to Reardan High School, Tonto. The first fight I got into over a racist joke happened a week after I started school there. The first white girl I saw I fell in love with. The first basketball game we played that year was against my old high school Wellpinit. What can I say; I was so nervous I vomited four times that day. It was a game to remember; three stitches to my head and a concussion courtesy of my ex-friend Rowdy. Good times.

I love my family; my mother, my dad and my big sister Mary. But we are poor. It blows to be poor. Poverty kills dreams and those dreams get lost on reservations. My sister wanted to be a writer and her high school teacher said she was the smartest student he ever had. Now she stays in the basement all day wasting her life away.

A lot of things happened to me this year. I went to an all white school, our basketball team played my old reservation team, I’ve been to a white dance, I’ve been to pow-wows, and I’ve buried loved ones. I’m a part-time Indian.

Now is where I live. Rowdy says I’m a Nomad. He wants postcards from the outside.

## Author Website

<http://www.fallsapart.com/>

Sherman Alexie's official web site includes all his works. It includes annotated poetry, novels and screen plays. Also listed are his appearances for the year, awards for his writings, photographs, his biography, and links to purchasing his works.

## Awards:

**For *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*:**

Oklahoma – Sequoyah High School Award Nominee, 2010.

2008 Washington Book Award – the Scandiuzzi Children's Book Award for middle grades and young adults

2008 Boston Globe – Horn Book Awards for Excellence in Children's Literature in Fiction

2008 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children

2008 Book Sense book of the Year Children's Literature Honor Book

2008 Pacific Northwest Book Award

2008 American Indian Library Association American Indian Youth Literature Award

2008 National Book Award for Young People's Literature

2007 Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist

Publishers Weekly 2007 Best Books of the Year – Children's Fiction

New York Times Notable Children's Books of 2007

Los Angeles Times Favorite Children's Books of 2007

Amazon.com Best Books of 2007

Barnes & Nobel 2007 Best for Teens

*School Library Journal* Best Books of 2007

Kirkus Reviews Best Young Adult Books of 2007

*Horn Book* Fanfare Best books of 2007

The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Blue Ribbon Winner

Kansas City Star's Top 100 Books of the Year

## Works:

### Poetry

- *The Business of Fancydancing* (poetry, 1991)
- *I Would Steal Horses* (poetry, 1992)
- *Old Shirts and New Skins* (poetry, 1993)
- *First Indian on the Moon* (poetry, 1993)
- *Seven Mourning Songs For the Cedar Flute I Have Yet to Learn to Play* (poetry, 1993)
- *Water Flowing Home* (poetry, 1995)
- *The Summer of Black Widows* (poetry, 1996)
- *The Man Who Loves Salmon* (poetry, 1998)
- *One Stick Song* (poetry, 2000)
- *Dangerous Astronomy* (poetry, 2005)

## **Fiction**

- *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* (short stories, 1993)
- *Reservation Blues* (novel, 1995)
- *Indian Killer* (novel, 1996; referred to by Alexie as "a feel-good novel about interracial murder")
- *The Toughest Indian in the World* (short stories, 2000)
- *Ten Little Indians* (stories, 2003)
- *Flight* (novel, 2007)
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (young adult novel, 2007)

## **Films**

- *Smoke Signals* (writer, 1998; adapted from a short story, "This is What It Means to Say "Phoenix, Arizona" in *Lone Ranger and Tonto*)
- *The Business of Fancydancing* (writer and director, 2002)
- *49?* (writer, 2003)

## **Oklahoma P.A.S.S. Objectives to link with this novel:**

### UNITED STATES HISTORY

1850 to the Present

High School

Standard 3: The student will analyze the impact of immigration and the Westward Movement on American society.

4. Compare and contrast the attitudes toward Native American groups as exhibited by federal Indian policy (e.g., establishment of reservations, assimilation, and the Dawes Act) and actions of the United States Army, missionaries, and settlers.

### **Related Books:**

Bruchac, Joseph. (1997) *Bowman's Store*. New York: Dial. (Autobiography)

Carlson, Lori Marie [ed.] (2005). *Moccasin Thunder*. NY: Harper Collins. (RF - YA)  
Short stories by Harjo, Hogan, Alexie, Smith.

Crum, Robert. (1994). *Eagle Drum: On the Powwow Trail with a Young Grass Dancer*. Simon & Schuster. (Photo essay/NF – All ages)

Geiogamah, Hanay & Darby, Jaye T., (1999). *Stories of Our Way: An Anthology of American Indian Plays*. Los Angeles: UCLA American Indian Studies Center. (Anthology – YA).

**Recommended Resources about Native Americans in Children’s Literature from <http://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.com/>:**

American Indian Library Association website:

<http://www.nativeculturelinks.com/aila.html>

Internet Public Library: Native American Authors. Provides a list of Native American authors, plus a short biography, a list of published works, and links to relevant sites.

<http://www.ipl.org/div/natam/>

Native American Books. This on-line resource contains critical reviews of children’s books. <http://www.kstrom.net/isk/books/bookmenu.html>

Slapin, Beverly, & Seale, Doris. (1998). *Through Indian Eyes: The Native Experience in Books for Children*. University of California, American Indian Studies Center.

Smith, Cynthia L. Native American Themes in Books for Children and Teens. Start exploring Smith’s site with this page:

[http://cynthialeitichsmith.com/lit\\_resources/diversity/native\\_am/NativeThemes\\_intro.html](http://cynthialeitichsmith.com/lit_resources/diversity/native_am/NativeThemes_intro.html)

Smithsonian Institution. A Critical Bibliography on North American Indians for K-12. An extensive site, arranged by geographical area.

<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/anthro/outreach/Indbibl/index.html>

*Twisted*  
**Laurie Halse Anderson**

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Twisted*. New York: Viking, c2007. 250p. (Gr 9 up)

**Annotation:**

After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attentions of a popular girl, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts.

**Booktalk:**

Tyler Miller has always been one of the invisibles. No friends, no girls and he's tired of it. The only way to make his upcoming senior year memorable is to pull off the biggest prank ever.

Tagging the school was a great way to get attention. Unfortunately, the attention is coming from all the wrong people...the police!

Sentenced to pay restitution for the damage, Tyler must sell his car and work off the debt by working at a landscaping company. Having spent his summer hauling lawn supplies, Tyler is no longer the weakling he once was. Not only has he developed muscles, he's also grown several inches. When school starts again, his new body and bad boy reputation is suddenly being noticed by all the girls including the woman of his dreams, Bethany Milbury.

Things are certainly looking up for Tyler. Invited to the party of the year, a wasted Bethany comes on to him. An uncomfortable situation, Tyler doesn't want to take advantage of her. He leaves unaware that someone else at the party has a different opinion. Nude photos of Bethany start surfacing on the Internet and most people think Tyler is to blame because of his bad reputation.

No one believes the truth including his parents; Bethany's brother, Chip, is threatening his life and the police are on his case again. With his record, Tyler might end up in jail this time. If only he could become invisible again. In despair, Tyler considers the ultimate disappearing act...suicide. Read *Twisted* by Laurie Halse Anderson to discover what path Tyler's life takes.

**Reviews:**

Booklist. 01/01/2007

Horn Book. 03/01/2007

Kirkus Reviews. 02/15/2007 (Starred Review)

Publisher's Weekly. 01/15/2007

School Library Journal. 05/01/2007

VOYA. 04/01/2007

**Author Website:**

[www.writerlady.com](http://www.writerlady.com)

**Related Books on Topic:**

Asher, Jay. *Thirteen Reasons Why*. New York: Razorbill, c2007. 288p.

When high school student Clay Jenkins receives a box in the mail containing thirteen cassette tapes recorded by his classmate Hannah, who committed suicide, he spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death.

Cormier, Robert. *The Chocolate War*. New York: Dell, c1974. 191p.

A high school freshman discovers the devastating consequences of refusing to join in the school's annual fund raising drive and arousing the wrath of the school bullies.

Dessen, Sarah. *Just Listen*. New York: Viking, c2006. 371p.

Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face and share what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life.

Ellis, Dee Ann. *This Is What I Did*. New York: Little, Brown, c2007. 157p.

Bullied because of an incident in his past, eighth-grader Logan is unhappy at his new school and has difficulty relating to others until he meets a quirky girl and a counselor who believe in him.

Jenkins, A.M. *Damage*. New York: HarperCollins, c2001. 186p.

Seventeen-year-old football hero Austin, trying to understand the inexplicable depression that has drained his interest in life, thinks that he has found relief in a girl who seems very special.

Jones, Patrick. *Nailed*. New York: Walker, c2006. 216p.

An outcast in a school full of jocks, sixteen-year-old Bret struggles to keep his individuality through his interest in drama and music, while trying to reconnect with his father.

Lyga, Barry. *Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, c2006. 311p.

A fifteen-year-old "geek" who keeps a list of the high school jocks and others who torment him, and pours his energy into creating a great graphic novel, encounters Kyra, Goth Girl, who helps change his outlook on almost everything, including himself.

Oates, Joyce Carol. *Big Mouth and Ugly Girl*. New York: HarperCollins, 2002. 266p.

When sixteen-year-old Matt is falsely accused of threatening to blow up his high school and his friends turn against him, an unlikely classmate comes to his aid.

Zarr, Sara. *Story of a Girl*. New York: Little, Brown, c2007. 192p.

In the three years since her father caught her in the back seat of a car with an older boy, sixteen-year-old Deanna's life at home and school has been a nightmare, but while dreaming of escaping with her brother and his family, she discovers the power of forgiveness.

**Other Young Adult Books By Laurie Halse Anderson:**

*Speak*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, c1999.

*Fever, 1793*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2000.

*Catalyst*. New York: Viking, c2002.

*Prom*. New York: Viking, c2005.

*Chains*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2008.

**Awards and Honors for *Twisted*:**

ALA Best Book for Young Adults 2008

ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers 2008

International Reading Association Top Ten of 2007

New York Public Library Best Books for the Teen Age

New York Times Bestseller List

**THIRTEEN REASONS WHY**  
**JAY ASHER**

Asher, Jay. *Thirteen Reasons Why*. Razorbill. 2007. 288p. (Gr 7 up)

**Annotation:**

High school student Clay Jenkins receives a box in the mail containing seven cassette tapes recorded by his crush, Hannah Baker, who committed suicide, and spends a night crisscrossing their town, learning the truth about Hannah's pain.

**Booktalk:**

High school student Clay Jensen comes home from school one day to find a strange package on his porch, with his name on it. Inside are seven cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker, Clay's secret crush, before she committed suicide two weeks earlier.

*Cassette 1: Side A*

*Hello, boys and girls. Hannah Baker here. Live and in person. No return engagements. No encore. And this time, absolutely no regrets. I hope you're ready, because I'm about to tell you why my life ended. And if you're listening to these tapes, you're one of the reasons why. I'm not saying which tape brings you into the story. But fear not, if you received this lovely little box, your name will pop up . . . I promise.*

*The rules are pretty simple. There are only two. Rule number one: You listen. Two: You pass it on. Hopefully neither one will be easy for you.*

*In case you're tempted to break the rules, understand that I did make a copy of these tapes. Those copies will be released in a very public manner if this package doesn't make it through all of you. This was not a spur-of-the-moment decision. Do not take me for granted . . . again. You are being watched.*

Clay wants nothing to do with Hannah's tapes. She's dead and her secrets should be buried with her, he reasons. But once Clay hears that his name is on her tapes and that he is in some way responsible for her death, he must listen. Clay spends a torturous night listening and wandering through his town with Hannah's voice as his guide. He bears witness to Hannah's pain as she recounts the events leading up to her death and he learns the painful truth about himself at the same time.

Read *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher for a riveting look into the mind of a teen that chooses suicide and the gut-wrenching pain felt by those left behind.

**Reviews:**

Booklist. 09/01/07

Horn Book. 04/01/08

Kirkus Review. 09/01/07 (\*Starred Review)

Publisher's Weekly. 10/08/07

School Library Journal. 11/01/07  
V.O.Y.A. 02/01/08  
Wilson's Junior High School Catalog. 11/01/08  
Wilson's Senior High School Catalog. 01/01/09

**Awards for *Thirteen Reasons Why*:**

California Book Award Winner  
2008 ALA Best Books for Young Adults  
2008 ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

**Author Website:**

<http://www.thirteenreasonswwhy.com>

Cool, interactive map of Clay's night wandering through town, trying to figure out what happened to Hannah.

Also, Jay Asher will help to make your next book discussion group meeting unique and exciting. Collect questions for the author from the members of your reading group. Email the questions at least one month before the meeting date. Jay will personally answer the questions on a cassette tape, which will be sent to you in time for your book discussion group meeting.

**Other Books by the Author:**

*Thirteen Reasons Why* is Jay Asher's first book.

**Related Books on Topic:**

Adoff, Jaime. *The Death of Jayson Porter*. Hyperion Books for Children. 2008.

In the Florida projects, sixteen-year-old Jayson struggles with the harsh realities of life which include an abusive mother, a drug-addicted father, and not fitting in at his predominately white school, and bring him to the brink of suicide.

Draper, Sharon. *Tears of a Tiger*. Atheneum. 1994.

The death of high school basketball star Rob Washington in an automobile accident affects the lives of his close friend Andy, who was driving the car, and many others in the school.

Fields, Terri. *After the Death of Anna Gonzales*. Henry Holt. 2002.

Poems written in the voices of forty-seven people, including students, teachers, and other school staff, record the aftermath of a high school student's suicide and the preoccupations of teen life.

Freyman-Weyr, Garret. *Stay With Me*. Houghton Mifflin. 2006.

When her sister kills herself, sixteen-year-old Leila goes looking for a reason and, instead, discovers great love, her family's true history, and what her place in it is.

Giles, Gail. *What Happened to Cass McBride?* Little, Brown. 2006.

After his younger brother commits suicide, Kyle Kirby decides to exact revenge on the person he holds responsible.

Hemphill, Stephanie. *Things Left Unsaid*. Hyperion Books for Children. 2004.

After a lifetime of conforming to the image of what her parents and high school friends want her to be, Sarah must come to terms with her own identity when her destructive best friend tries to commit suicide.

Hopkins, Ellen. *Impulse*. Margaret K. McElderry Books. 2007.

Three teens who meet at Reno, Nevada's Aspen Springs mental hospital after each has attempted suicide connect with each other in a way they never have with their parents or anyone else in their lives.

Lynch, Chris. *Freewill*. Harper Collins. 2001.

A teenager trying to recover from the tragic death of his father and stepmother believes himself to be responsible for the rash of teen suicides occurring in his town.

Runyon, Brent. *The Burn Journals*. Alfred A. Knopf. 2004.

The author recounts the year he spent in a burn unit following his suicide attempt at fourteen, describing the painful treatments, skin-grafting procedures, rehabilitation, and psychotherapy.

Vaught, Susan. *Trigger*. Bloomsbury. 2006.

Teenager Jersey Hatch must work through his extensive brain damage to figure out why he decided to shoot himself.

**Related Websites on Topic:**

National Hopeline Network (Kristin Brooks Hope Center)

<http://www.hopeline.com>

KidsHealth – The Nemours Foundation

<http://kidshealth.org/teen/>

Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE)

<http://www.save.org>

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

<http://www.afsp.org>

American Psychological Association (APA)

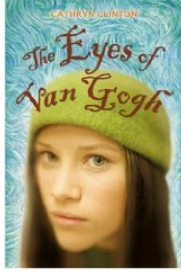
<http://www.apa.org>

SafeUSA

<http://www.safeusa.org>

National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center (NYVPRC)

<http://www.safeyouth.org>



***THE EYES OF VAN GOGH***  
**CATHRYN CLINTON**

Clinton, Cathryn. *The Eyes of Van Gogh*. Candlewick Press. 2007. 216 p. Grades 8 and up.

**Annotation:**

After many moves with her dysfunctional mother, seventeen-year-old Jude begins to believe that she has finally found a home, friends, and some purpose in life when the grandmother she never knew has a stroke and she and her mother come to live in the same town to be near her.

**Booktalk:**

A talented artist, seventeen-year-old Jude is constantly moving from town to town on the whims of her dysfunctional, alcoholic mother. Now they are in Ellenville where Jude finally gets to meet her estranged grandmother who recently became a stroke victim. Unfortunately, she is left with one-way conversations with the grandmother as she makes her daily visits to the nursing home. At school Jude makes two new friends and begins dating the star football player.

A class assignment on Vincent Van Gogh leads her to realize how much she and the artist have in common: a fascination with color, a love of nature, a talent for drawing, and an increasing feeling of depression. Following the death of her grandmother, a boyfriend disappointment and an increasingly strained mother-daughter relationship, Jude wonders if she has one more thing in common with the Dutch painter. As Van Gogh's tortured eyes stare at her from his self-portraits, Jude worries that she also sees in her own eyes one who can't go on living. Van Gogh committed suicide. Will Jude do the same?

Find out if her supportive friends, Jazz and John Mark, and the teacher who recognizes her talent might be enough to keep her going by reading *In the Eyes of Van Gogh* by Cathryn Clinton.

**Reviews:**

Booklist 07/01/07

Horn Book 04/01/08

Kliatt 07/01/07

Library Media Connection 01/01/07

School Library Journal 07/01/07

**Author Website:**

Ms. Clinton does not have a website, but the following have some biographical information:

<http://www.candlewick.com/authill.asp?b=Author&m=bio&id=2742&pix=y>

[http://www.litguild.org/content.php?filename=Cathryn\\_Clinton.html](http://www.litguild.org/content.php?filename=Cathryn_Clinton.html)

**Related Books on Topic:**Fiction:

Davis, Deborah. *Not Like You*. Graphia. 268 p.

When she and her mother move once again in order to make a new start, fifteen-year-old Kayla is hopeful that her mother will be able to stop drinking and begin a better life, as she has been promising for years.

Hopkins, Ellen. *Impulse*. Simon & Schuster. 672 p.

In free verse three teenagers tell their stories of their attempted suicides and what followed.

Vizzini, Ned. *It's Kind of a Funny Story*. Miramax, 444 p.

Self-medicating depression and stress with partying, Craig gets help in a hospital where he meets unusual people after calling a suicide hotline.

Nonfiction

Bernard, Bruce. *Van Gogh*. DK. 63p.

Text and accompanying photographs present a study of the works and life of artist Vincent Van Gogh.

Callow, Phillip. *Vincent Van Gogh: A Life*. Elephant Paperbacks. 216 p.

A biography of Van Gogh that reads like a novel.

Stone, Irving. Ed. *Dear Theo: The Autobiography of Vincent Van Gogh*. Plume. 480 p.

Vincent Van Gogh's life is revealed in this collection of letters he sent to his brother Leo.

**Related Websites on Topic:**

\*The author says, "It is my hope that reading *The Eyes of Van Gogh* will encourage teenagers who hear the voices of sadness, pain, and fear in their own lives to find the help they need."

<http://www.candlewick.com/cat.asp?mode=book&isbn=0763622451&browse=author>

Teen Suicide Help

<http://www.aap.org/advocacy/childhealthmonth/prevteensuicide.htm>

<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/help/default.aspx>

<http://www.teensuicide.us/>

<http://www.yellowribbon.org/>

<http://kidshealth.org/teen>

Vincent Van Gogh

[http://www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/van\\_gogh\\_vincent.html](http://www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/van_gogh_vincent.html)

<http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/gogh/>

[http://www.ou.edu/artcollections/collections/european/vangogh\\_portrait.html](http://www.ou.edu/artcollections/collections/european/vangogh_portrait.html) (Fred Jones, Jr. Museum of Art at the University of Oklahoma)

<http://www.vangoghmuseum.nl> (Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam)

<http://www.vggallery.com/>

<http://www.webexhibits.org/vangogh/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dipFMJckZOM> (Van Gogh painting montage accompanied by Don McLean's "Vincent" (also known as "Starry Night"))

**Other Books by the Author:**

*The Calling*. Candlewick Press: Somerville, Massachusetts, c2001.

*Simeon's Fire*. Candlewick Press: Somerville, Massachusetts, 2005.

*A Stone in my Hand*. Candlewick Press: Somerville, Massachusetts. c2002.

*The Underbed*. Good Books. 1990.

**DIAMONDS IN THE SHADOW**  
**CAROLINE B. COONEY**

Cooney, Caroline B. *Diamonds in the shadow*. Delacorte. 2007. 228 p. (Gr 6 up)

Annotation:

The decision of Jared Finch's parents to take in an African refugee family of four takes an almost tragic turn, when unbeknownst to the Finch family, five refugees instead of four arrived on the plane from Nigeria.

Booktalk:

In London, five passengers changed planes for New York City. The four refugees sponsored by Jared's church were seated at the front of the economy section. They did not speak to one another or look at one another. They were separated from a fifth refugee by many rows; now and then he walked down the aisle to stare at them. They did not look back.

In Connecticut, Jared awoke almost sick with knowledge: We should not be taking these people in. Jared did not say this to his parents. They would think he was selfish, racist and unwilling to share a piece of toast, never mind his room and his life. We are taking people under our roof for months at a stretch, thought Jared. We can't read their dates of birth. We can't tell what gender they are. We can't recognize them from their photographs. We know in advance that they are not good guys.

Was Jared the only one observant enough to see that Celestine and Andre Amabo were not behaving like parents? So maybe they weren't. Maybe Alake and Mattu were not the children of Celestine and Andre. He had not heard any Amabo speak to another Amabo. *These people could be anybody!* And, Mattu would be going to school with Jared, and Alake who had not spoken or eaten since they arrived would be going with Jared's sister, Mopsy.

One of Jared's teachers asks Mattu to tell the class about Sierra Leone culture and the Mende tribe; Mattu's face was blank. He doesn't know anything about Sierra Leone or its culture, thought Jared. Maybe he's not from either of those countries! Maybe he and Celestine and Andre and Alake don't even come from the same country. They can't talk about their background because they don't share one. They can't talk in their tribal tongue because it isn't the same one. They can't talk about their escape because they didn't do it together. This is just a set of people. They needed to get out and they used each other. And now they're using my family.

To find out whether Jared's suspicions are correct, read *Diamonds in the shadow* by Caroline B. Cooney.

Reviews:

Booklist, September, 2007.  
Bulletin (Center for Children's Books), October 2007.  
Horn Book, November, 2007.  
Horn Book Starred, April 2008.  
Kirkus Review, September 2007.  
Publisher's Weekly, September. 2007.  
School Library Journal, September, 2007.  
Voice of Youth Advocates (V.O.Y.A.), October, 2007.  
Wilson's Junior High School, November, 2008.  
Wilson's Senior High School, January, 2009.

Author website:

<http://www.teenreads.com/authors/au-cooney-caroline.asp>  
<http://carolinebcooney.com>

Subject areas for discussion:

Africa  
Chad (neighboring African country)  
Liberia  
Black Diamonds  
Blood Diamonds  
Refugees  
Sierra Leone  
Sudan

Author recommendation:

D'Aluisio, Faith. *Hungry planet*. Ten Speed Press. 2005.  
Photographs by Peter Menzel show what families in locations all over the world have for dinner and how they get it. James Beard Foundation Award winning book.

Awards:

Kentucky – Bluegrass Book Award Nominee, 2009.  
Louisiana – Young Reader's Choice Award Nominee, 2009.  
Missouri – Truman Reading Book Award Nominee, 2009-2010.  
Nebraska – Golden Sower Award Nominee (YA), 2009-2010.  
North Carolina – Young Adult Book Award Middle School, 2008-2009.  
Oklahoma - Sequoyah Intermediate Award Nominee, 2010.  
Oklahoma – Sequoyah High School Award Nominee, 2010.

Author quote:

“What more can life hold, than to know that because of your story, somebody out there has decided to read again!” Caroline B. Cooney.

***DEADLINE***  
**CHRIS CRUTCHER**

Crutcher, Chris. *Deadline*. HarperCollins, 2007. 320p. Grades 10 -12.

**Annotation:**

Ben Wolf is told he has a terminal disease at the beginning of his senior year. He decides to keep it a secret so that he can live an entire lifetime in one year.

**Booktalk:**

*I walked away understanding I have a rare form of whatever the hell it is and without treatment my chances sucked, but with it they still sucked and somehow I knew my chances aren't about living, they're about living well.*

*I wouldn't recommend this for anyone else, but I'm not going out bald and puking.*

*I don't have anything to teach anyone about life, and I'm not brave, but I'd rather be a flash than a slowly cooling ember, so I'll eat healthy food, take supplements, sleep good, and take what the universe gives me.*

And that is how 18 year old Ben Wolf makes the biggest decision of his life: fill an entire lifetime's worth of 'living' into a single year, the only year he's got. Ben will get the hot girl, join the football team and do the other typical things high school boys dream about. He'll also face a multitude of hard issues and difficult choices. Cancer, teen pregnancy, censorship, racism, bipolar disorders, alcoholism, the education system, homosexuality, religion and, of course, death are all woven into the journey Ben Wolf takes. What is amazing about Crutcher's writing is that none of these issues bog down the story. His relationships with his friends, family and teachers are realistically flawed. The story is not about the issues, but in how Ben deals with all these things. It is in how he perceives and questions everything around him. Having only one year of life and a 'nothing to loose' attitude give Ben a freedom in his approach to the world.

Deadline is honest and deep and, at times, dark, but Ben's sarcastic and self-depreciating humor is also hysterically funny. As clichéd as it sounds, this really is one of those stories that has it all. It will bring you to tears, make you grip your seat in anxious suspense, shock and outrage you and then make you smile so hard you don't know if you will be able to stop.

**Reviews:**

Publishers Weekly (\*Starred Review). 07/16/2007

School Library Journal (Top 10 Pick). 07/29/2008

Booklist. 09/01/2007

Kirkus Reviews 07/15/2007

**Author Website:**

[www.chriscrutcher.com](http://www.chriscrutcher.com)

**Other Books by the Author:**

*Athletic Shorts: Six Short Stories.* HarperCollins, 1991.

A collection of short stories featuring characters from earlier books.

*Chinese Handcuffs.* HarperCollins, 1991.

Still troubled by his older brother's violent suicide, eighteen-year-old Dillon becomes deeply involved in the terrible secret of his friend Jennifer, who feels she can tell no one what her stepfather is doing to her.

*Crazy Horse Electric Game.* HarperCollins, 1987.

A high school athlete, frustrated at being handicapped after an accident, runs away from home and is helped back to mental and physical health by a black benefactor and the people in a special school where he enrolls.

*The Deep End.* HarperCollins, 1992.

Wilson Corder has seen some ugly things in his job as a therapist working with families in crisis. But he's about to be involved with a terrifying kidnapping and a shocking murder that will forever change his life.

*Ironman.* HarperCollins, 1995.

While training for a triathlon, seventeen-year-old Bo attends an anger management group at school which leads him to examine his relationship with his father.

*Running Loose.* HarperCollins, 1983.

Louie, a high school senior in a small Idaho town, learns about sportsmanship, love, and death as he matures into manhood.

*Sarah Byrnes.* HarperCollins, 1993.

The daily class discussions about the nature of man, the existence of God, abortion, organized religion, suicide and other contemporary issues serve as a backdrop for a high-school senior's attempt to answer a friend's dramatic cry for help.

*The Sledding Hill.* HarperCollins, 2005.

Billy Bartholomew has an audacious soul, and he knows it. Why? Because it's all he has left. He's dead. Eddie Proffit has an equally audacious soul, but he doesn't know it. He's still alive. And Billy is not about to let a little thing like death stop him from hanging in there with Eddie in his epic struggle to get his life back on track.

*Stotan!* HarperCollins, 1986.

A high school coach invites members of his swimming team to a memorable week of rigorous training that tests their moral fiber as well as their physical stamina.

*Whale Talk.* HarperCollins, 2001.

Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.

**Related Fiction:**

Downham, Jenny. *Before I Die.* David Fickling Books, 2007.

Tessa has just months to live. Fighting back against hospital visits, endless tests, drugs with excruciating side-effects, Tessa compiles a list. It's her To Do Before I Die list.

**Related Website:**

HarperTeen Reading Group Guide:

<http://web3.streamhoster.com/idstaff/PDF/ReadingGuides/0060850892.pdf>

**Awards or Honors for *Deadline*:**

2008 ALA Best Books for YA

2008 ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers

2007 Kansas City Star's TOP 100 Books

***YOUR OWN, SYLVIA: A VERSE PORTRAIT OF SYLVIA PLATH***  
**STEPHANIE HEMPHILL**

Hemphill, Stephanie. *Your own, Sylvia: A verse portrait of Sylvia Plath*. Knopf. 2007. 261 p. Grades 8 and up.

**Annotation:**

The author's interpretation of Sylvia Plath's life told through original poems and chronologically arranged to represent her life from infancy; a wonderful introduction to the life and work of Sylvia Plath.

**Booktalk:**

Theodore  
Imagining Sylvia Plath in the style of "Ode for Ted". April, 1956.

She loves that he names the trees,  
all the creatures and leaves  
of the forest and fen, receives  
his knowledge like a corsage,  
never has she known a man so large;  
she believes he's her Adam and she's his Eve.

When she first drank his blood,  
she knew no other man would taste so good;  
knew what coursed his veins could  
kill her. He dwarfed her previous lovers  
with his talent and his hands. Only her father  
was a figure so grand, a bard of the land, a druid.

She twirls around him on tiptoes,  
polishes her lines like leather shoes;  
he wears her on his lapel like a blue rose –  
a cut flower weathering drought, she withstands  
the squinty eyes of his poet friends,  
is she worthy of Mr. Hughes?

Evangelical about his words, his worth,  
she will spread his poems like fine marmalade, birth  
his name to greatness, expand him breadth and width;  
she breathes Ted, feeds and writes  
him; they dream each other day and night;  
she feels like the moon, a muse, orbiting Ted's earth.

“Ode for Ted” was written April 21, 1956, about Ted Hughes when Sylvia and Ted were courting and falling in love. Ted had an extensive knowledge of indigenous flora and could identify most countryside plants. “Ode for Ted” is a tribute to that skill of his and to his rugged, masculine character. Ted and Sylvia met in February, 1956. They were married June 16, 1956, less than five months later.

**Reviews:**

Booklist starred, February, 2007.  
Horn Book Starred, October, 2007.  
Kirkus Starred, February, 2007.  
Kliatt, March, 2007.  
Library Media Connection, April, 2007.  
Publisher’s Weekly, March, 2007.  
School Library Journal, March, 2007.  
Voice of Youth Advocates (V.O.Y.A.). April, 2007.  
Wilson’s Senior High School, October, 2007.

**Author website:**

[www.randomhouse.com/author/](http://www.randomhouse.com/author/)

**Author’s recommended books about Sylvia Plath:**

Alexander, Paul. *Rough magic: a biography of Sylvia Plath*. Viking. 1991,  
Becker, Jillian. *Giving up: the last days of Sylvia Plath*. St. Martin’s. 2003.  
Butscher, Edward. *Sylvia Plath, method and madness*. Seabury Press. 1976.  
Stevenson, Anne. *Bitter fame: a life of Sylvia Plath*. Houghton Mifflin. 1989.

**Books by Stephanie Hemphill:**

*Things left unsaid*. Hyperion. 2005. 2006 Myra Cohn Livingston Award .

**Awards:**

Kansas – Heartland Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature, 2009.  
Michael L. Printz Honor Book, 2008.  
Oklahoma – Sequoyah Young Adult Award Nominee, 2010.  
Oregon – Young Adult Network Book Rave, 2008.  
Wisconsin – Battle of the Books, Senior Division, 2008-2009.

**GLASS**  
**ELLEN HOPKINS**

Hopkins, Ellen. *Glass*. M.K. McElderry Books, 2007. 681p. (Gr 9 up)

**Annotation:**

Kristina is determined to break her addiction to crystal meth in order to take care of her newborn son, but when life gets too difficult and the pull of the drug becomes too strong, her greatest fears are quickly realized.

**Booktalk:**

Crank. Crystal. Ice. Glass. The Monster. Once it's got hold of you, it will never let you go. Kristina thinks she can control it. She's overcome her crystal meth addiction once before. Kristina now lives in her mother's home with her newborn son, but constantly dreams about getting high.

*I'd love to let / you know I left the / monster screaming / in my dust, shut my / ears,  
scrambled back / to my family, back to / my baby, my heart. I / could tell you those /  
things, but they'd be / lies – nothing new for / me, true. But if all I / wrote was lies, you /  
wouldn't really know / my story. I want you / to know. Not a day / passes when I don't /  
think about getting / high. Strung. Getting / out of this deep well / of monotony I'm /  
slowly drowning in.*

Now, with the responsibilities of motherhood, studying for her GED, and working a humdrum job at 7-11, she can't quite seem to handle life.

*So maybe it will come / as no surprise to you that lately / I have been hearing the plea / of  
the monster, distant / at first but creeping closer. / Louder. Come back to me, / Kristina.  
Hurry back. / I closed my ears for a long / while, pleaded with it to please / shut up,  
please go away, / please leave me alone. / But I'm starting to come / around. Maybe a  
short / (and I mean no long-term / commitments!) stroll / with the monster might / slim  
me down, rev me up / and offer the impetus to slip / into my future, better equipped / to  
deal with the mindless / tedium that is my life.*

When her former connection turns her on to Mexican meth, Kristina quickly loses control again. She gets kicked out of her house and loses custody of the baby to her mother. Kristina spins out of control until she has almost nothing left.

Told in verse, *Glass* is a disturbing tale of addiction and the damage it inflicts. Heart wrenching and brutally honest, Hopkins' novel, based on her own daughter's experiences, reveals the horror of addiction and the damage it inflicts

**Reviews:**

Booklist. 10/01/07

Kirkus Review. 07/15/07

Publishers Weekly. 08/13/07

V.O.Y.A. 08/01/07

**Awards for *Glass*:**

2008 ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

**Author Website:**

<http://www.ellenhopkins.com/>

**Subject Areas for Discussion:**

drug use, addiction, methamphetamines, family life, teen parents

**Other Books by the Author:**

*Burned*. M.K. McElderry Books, 2006. 532p. Grades 9 and up.

Seventeen-year-old Pattyn, the eldest daughter in a large Mormon family, is sent to her aunt's Nevada ranch for the summer, where she temporarily escapes her alcoholic, abusive father and finds love and acceptance, only to lose everything when she returns home.

*Crank*. Simon Pulse, 2004. 537p. Grades 9 and up.

Kristina Snow is the perfect daughter, but she meets a boy who introduces her to drugs and becomes a very different person, struggling to control her life and her mind.

*Identical*. M.K. McElderry Books, 2008. 565p. Grades 9 and up.

Sixteen-year-old identical twin daughters of a district court judge and a candidate for the United States House of Representatives, Kaeleigh and Raeanne Gardella desperately struggle with secrets that have already torn them and their family apart.

*Impulse*. M.K. McElderry Books, 2007. 666p. Grades 9 and up.

Three teens who meet at Reno, Nevada's Aspen Springs mental hospital after each has attempted suicide connect with each other in a way they never have with their parents or anyone else in their lives.

**Related Books on Topic:**

Brooks, Kevin. *Candy*. Scholastic. 2005

When fifteen-year-old Joe Beck gets lost in a disreputable neighborhood in London, he meets sixteen-year-old Candy, a heroin-addicted prostitute, and as he tries to help her, he experiences some unexpected consequences.

Coy, John. *Crackback*. Scholastic. 2005.

Miles barely recalls when football was fun after being sidelined by a new coach, constantly criticized by this father, and pressured by his best friend to take performance-enhancing drugs.

Deuker, Carl. *Gym Candy*. Houghton Mifflin. 2007.

Groomed by his father to be a star player, football is the only thing that has ever really mattered to Mick Johnson, who works hard for a spot on the varsity team his freshman year, then tries to hold onto his edge by using steroids, despite the consequences to his health and social life.

Going, K.L. *Saint Iggy*. Harcourt. 2006.

Iggy Corso, who lives in city public housing, is caught physically and spiritually between good and bad when he is kicked out of high school, goes searching for his missing mother, and causes his friend to get involved with the same dangerous drug dealer who deals to his parents.

Harazin, S.A. *Blood Brothers*. Delacorte. 2007.

With his best friend on life-support after taking drugs at a party, seventeen-year-old Clay, a medical technician, recalls their long friendship, future plans, and recent disagreement, and tries to figure out who is responsible for the accidental overdose.

**Related Websites on Topic:**

<http://www.crystaldarknessoklahoma.org>

<http://www.nida.nih.gov/InfoFacts/methamphetamine.html>

<http://www.methabuse.net>

<http://www.methamphetamine.org>

***Lemonade Mouth***  
**Mark Peter Hughes**

Hughes, Mark Peter. *Lemonade Mouth*. Delacorte Press, 2007 352p. (Gr 6 up)

**Annotation:** Funny, yet moving story of five teenage outsiders who find new friends and empower others when they are sentenced to detention in the school's basement and find that music can be a tool of revolution.

**Booktalk:** Written in many voices, *Lemonade Mouth* is the story of the birth of an alternative music band and the revolution they led in their high school. Considered by classmates, some teachers, and at least one principal as geeks, outsiders, and freaks; Wen, Stella, Charlie, Olivia, and Mo find themselves sentenced to basement detention with the music teacher. While there they create a band with a beat-up ukulele, congas, timbales, concert bass, trumpet, and a rough, ragged voice. They then find themselves competing in a music contest, challenging school priorities, and helping others to step out of their shell. This is an enjoyable book about the joy of diversity and the power of music.

**Something about the Author:** Mark Peter Hughes was born in Liverpool, England and grew up in Barrington, Rhode Island. His fascination with the Beatles led to an obsession with music and musicians. He now lives in Massachusetts with his wife and three children.

**Author's other works:**

*I Am the Wallpaper*, 2005

*The Wild Orange Yonder*, Forthcoming

**Awards:**

Nominee 2008 ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers

Finalist 2008 Boston Authors Club Young Reader Award

2007 *Booksense* Top Ten Pick

**Reviews:**

*Booklist* February 15, 2007, p.71

*Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*, June 2007

*Kirkus Reviews*, January 15, 2007

*Publishers Weekly*, March 12, 2007, p. 59

*School Library Journal*, May 1, 2007, p. 134

*VOYA: Voice of Youth Advocates*, February 1, 2007

## Similar Fiction Books

Dent, Grace. *LBD: It's a Girl Thing*. Puffin. 2004. 288pages ISBN 9780142401828. Barred by their overprotective parents from attending a rock music festival, Ronnie, Fleur and Claude (Also known as “Les Bambinos Dangereuses”) decide to stage their own music festival.

Benway, Robin. *Audrey, Wait*. Razorbill. 2008. 320pages ISBN 9781595141910. Audrey gains unwanted fame when her ex-rock musician boyfriend records a breakup song about her that soars to the top of the Billboard charts.

Brothers, Meagan. *Debbie Harry Sings in French*. Henry Holt 2008. 240 pages ISBN9780805080803. When Johnny finished alcohol rehabilitation, he was sent to live in North Carolina with an uncle. While there he met Maria, explored his fascination with the rock band, Blondie, and learned of his deceased father’s past.

Dressen, Sarah. *This Lullaby*. Puffin 2004. ISBN 9780142501559. Raised by a mother who has had 5 husbands, Remy believes in fleeting, no-commitment relationships until Dexter, a rock musician enters her life.

Davis, Joyce E. *Can't Stop the Shine*. Harlequin. 2007. ISBN 9780373830787 When American Idol-like competition comes to Atlanta, Kalia tries out and makes the top 20 which brings about jealousy on stage and at home.

## Non-Fiction Titles: Poetry, Music, Vegetarianism, Hindu, Relationships

Adoff, Jamie. *The Song Shoots Out of My Mouth*. Dutton. 2002. ISBN 9780525469490. Explores how music plays an important role in the lives of teens by 24 poems in celebration of different musical genres.

*Angst!: Teen Verses from the Edge*. Workman Pub. 2001. ISBN 9780761123835. Contains a collection of poetry by teen girls about society, crushes, anger, and love. Also offers tips for aspiring poets.

Raymond, Carole. *Student's Vegetarian Cookbook: Quick, Easy, Cheap, and Tasty Vegetarian Recipes*. Three Rivers Press. 2003. ISBN 9780761511700. Includes recipes for breakfast foods, dips and spreads, soups and stew, salads, fast foods, bean meals, grain meals, pasta dishes, stir-fries, quick breads, and desserts.

Schwartz, Ellen. *I'm a Vegetarian: Amazing Facts and Ideas for Healthy Vegetarians*. Tundra Books. 2002. ISBN 9780887765889. Introduces vegetarianism by describing the different types of vegetarians and the core foods consumed by each type and provides advice to anyone considering a change in lifestyle.

Nichols, Travis. *Punk Rock Etiquette: the Ultimate How-To Guide for Punk, Underground, DIY, and Indie Bands*. Roaring Brook Press. 2008. ISBN 9781596434158. From picking the right band mates to selecting the perfect name to suit the mood of the group, this guide to everything provides helpful rules on what to do to be a successful punk band.

Mann, Gurinder Singh. *Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs in America*. Oxford University Press. 2001. ISBN 978195124422. Presents the basic tenets of these three religions.

Kirberger, Kimberly. *On Relationships: A Book For Teenagers*. Health Communications. 1999. ISBN 9781558747340. Combines personal advice with poetry and stories about teenage love and relationships.

**Suggested Web Pages:**

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/wayland/homepage/x1095117162>

[http://www.yourlibrary.ws/ya\\_webpage/ritba/ritba09/lemonademouth.htm](http://www.yourlibrary.ws/ya_webpage/ritba/ritba09/lemonademouth.htm)

[www.randomhouse.com/teachers/librarians/BookTalk\\_LemonadeMouth.htm](http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/librarians/BookTalk_LemonadeMouth.htm)

[www.markpeterhughes.com/LemonadeMouth.htm](http://www.markpeterhughes.com/LemonadeMouth.htm)

**Quick Lemonade Slush**

In blender, combine 2 tbsp. Lemon juice, 2 tbsp. Sugar, ¼ c. Water, Add crushed ice to make 1 cup and blend.

***Unwind***  
**Neal Shusterman**

Shusterman, Neal. *Unwind*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2007. 335p. (Gr 9 up).

**Summary:**

In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives “unwound” and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to uphold their beliefs and perhaps save their own lives.

**Booktalk:**

Our three “Unwinds:”

Connor Lassiter, age sixteen, troublemaker, with a quick temper, found out by accident that he was to be unwound. Connor was looking through his father’s desk one evening for a stapler when he came upon three airline tickets for a vacation to the Bahamas. Strange, he thought because there were four in his family. Looking further he found an unwind order signed by his dad for the day before the vacation. Play it cool he said to himself, don’t let them know you know. Connor plans his “kick-AWOL” or running away. He gets some money together; he leaves his bike so it can’t be traced; he hitches a ride with a friendly trucker and hopes not to be found until he is eighteen and safe.

Risa is fifteen an orphan and a ward of the state. She has lived in Ohio State Home or StaHo as it is called all her life. Risa is talented and can play the piano “better than most” kids her age. That’s the problem, she is “better than most” but not the best. One morning she goes before the Tribunal. It doesn’t go well. She is told there will be a cutback of 5% of the teenage population to make room for the babies who have been orphaned. She is to be transported immediately to Twin Lakes Harvest Camp to be unwound.

Lev is ready to go to Twin Lakes Harvest Camp. He has been told of it his entire life. Now, his parents are throwing a going away party for him on his thirteenth birthday. He is the tenth child in his family and the only tithe. What an honor to be the tithe for his family. What he doesn’t understand is why his oldest brother Marcus is mad about his honor. Doesn’t he know what an honor it is to be a tithe? Lev can hardly wait for tomorrow morning after breakfast with the entire family. He’ll wear his new white clothes and get in his Dad’s Cadillac and be on his way to glory.

Join the three as their lives collide outside a truck stop. See how they cope with a life on the run with the run for their lives. Can they make it to the legendary and mysterious “graveyard?” Can they stay together? Do they want to stay together? Who gets unwound, who doesn’t?

**More about the author:**

Neal Shusterman is the author of young adult novels. He also writes screenplays for motion pictures and television shows such as *Animorphs* and *Goosebumps*. Currently Neal is adapting his novel *Everlost* as a feature film for Universal Studios. He is the father of four children.

Neal Shusterman's Web Site:

[www.storyman.com](http://www.storyman.com)

Shusterman's web site is packed with information. His biography includes a personal message explaining some of his writing strategies. Find twenty-five reviews of his novels here, information on games, films and movies, links and author visits. Also included on the review for *Unwind* are a study guide and a recipe for Unwind Cookies.

[www.MySpace.com/NealShusterman](http://www.MySpace.com/NealShusterman)

Not as extensive as his website but worth the visit.

**Awards for *Unwind***

- 2008 American Library Association "BEST BOOK" `
- 2008 American Library Association "QUICK PICK – TOP TEN"
- 2008 Texas Lonestar Award List nomination
- 2010 Oklahoma Sequoyah High School Award Nominee

**Reviews:**

School Library Journal starred 01/01/08

Publishers Weekly starred 11/26/07

New York Times 03/16/08

Book Links 01/01/08

Booklist 10/15/07

Horn Book 10/01/08

***Peak***  
**Roland Smith**

Smith, Roland. *Peak*. Harcourt: Orlando. 2007. 246p. (Gr 6 up)

**Annotation:**

A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

**Booktalk:**

Peak Marcello was born to climb.

As the son of two well-known mountain climbers, Peak naturally loves the challenge but scaling skyscrapers in New York City isn't exactly what you'd call "legal". Caught trying to tag a high-rise, Peak is given only one chance to avoid jail....spend the year with his long-lost father in Tibet.

Upon his arrival in Asia, Peak discovers his father didn't exactly tell the whole truth to the judge back in New York. He isn't interested in getting to know his only son. He simply wants Peak to help him in his new expedition business, Peak Performance. Business has been slow but mounting an expedition to climb Mount Everest with Peak in tow is just the boost it needs. A fourteen-year-old summiting the highest peak in the world is one for the record books. Peak could be the youngest person ever to conquer Everest.

A challenge attempted by few men and women, summiting Mount Everest is rife with danger. The mountain presents harsh terrain, high altitudes, bitter winds and searing cold. Peak, unaccustomed to this environment struggles up the mountain face with the help of a wise monk and his grandson, Sun-Jo, who could also break the record.

Will Peak survive the harsh conditions and make it to the top? If he does, will he beat Sun-Jo to the summit and into the record books? Read *Peak* by Roland Smith to find out.

**Reviews:**

Booklist. 04/01/2007 (\*Starred Review)

Horn Book. 05/01/2007

Kirkus Reviews. 05/01/2007

Publisher's Weekly. 06\04\2007 (\*Starred Review)

School Library Journal. 06/01/2007

VOYA. 04/01/2007

**Author Website:**

[www.rolandsmith.com](http://www.rolandsmith.com)

Includes curriculum, podcast, blog and more.

## **Related Books on Topic:**

### Nonfiction:

Pfetzner, Mark. *Within Reach: My Everest Story*. New York: Dutton Books, 1998. 224p.  
The author describes how he spent his teenage years climbing mountains in the United States, South America, Africa, and Asia, with an emphasis on his two expeditions up Mount Everest.

Hemmler, Jochen. *Ghosts of Everest: The Search for Mallory & Irvine: From the Expedition That Discovered Mallory's Body*. Seattle: Mountaineers Books, 1999. 205p.  
Chronicles the search for George Mallory and Andrew Irvine who attempted a summit climb in 1924, only to disappear into the mists of Everest, never to be seen again. Did they reach the summit of Mount Everest years before Hillary?

Hillary, Edmund. *High Adventure: The True Story of the First Ascent of Everest*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003. 245p.  
An autobiographical look at the first ascent of Mount Everest written shortly after the historic event in 1953.

Krakauer, Jon. *Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster*. New York: Villard, c1997. 293p.  
Krakauer details the catastrophic May 10, 1996 ascent of Mount Everest, which killed eight climbers and stranded several others.

### Fiction:

Hobbs, Will. *Far North*. New York: Morrow Junior Books, c1996. 226p.  
After the destruction of their floatplane, sixteen-year-old Gabe and his Dene friend, Raymond, struggle to survive a winter in the wilderness of the Northwest Territories.

Korman, Gordon. *Everest Series*.

*The Contest*. New York: Scholastic, c2002. 137p.  
Juveniles compete to see which of them will be the youngest person to climb Mount Everest.

*The Climb*. New York: Scholastic, c2002. 151p.  
The climbing contest to see who will be the youngest person to climb Mount Everest turns into a life-or-death rescue mission.

*The Summit*. New York: Scholastic, c2002. 154p.  
Four young climbers make a final attempt to be the youngest person to reach the summit of Everest. In the process, they must deal with low supplies, extreme conditions, a storm, and possible sabotage by one of their companions.

Myers, Edward. *Climb or Die*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, c1994. 190p.  
After a car accident in a snowy Colorado pass seriously injures their parents, athletic fourteen-year-old Danielle and her brainy younger brother Jake must scale a mountain to find help.

Paulsen, Gary. *Brian's Winter*. New York: Delacorte Press, c1996. 133p.  
Instead of being rescued from a plane crash, as in the author's book *Hatchet*, this story portrays what would have happened to Brian had he been forced to survive a winter in the wilderness with only his survival pack and hatchet.

**Related Websites on Topic:**

[www.nationalgeographic.com/everest](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/everest)

Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first ascent of Mount Everest (1953-2003).

[www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/everest/](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/everest/)

Companion website to the PBS program "Lost on Everest". The program chronicles a successful 1999 NOVA expedition to investigate the mysterious disappearance of George Mallory and Andrew Irvine high on Everest in 1924.

[www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/denali/](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/denali/)

Details the PBD documentary "Deadly Ascent" in which a team of doctors and climbers test the body's response to extreme cold on America's highest peak, Denali. Includes teacher's guide and special site for kids.

**Other Young Adult Books By Roland Smith:**

*Jaguar*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, c1997.

*Sasquatch*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, c1998.

*The Captain's Dog: My Journey With the Lewis & Clark Tribe*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace, c1999.

*The Last Lobo*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, c1999.

*Zach's Lie*. New York: Hyperion Books For Children, c2001.

*Cryptid Hunter*. New York: Hyperion Books For Children, c2005.

*Jack's Run*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, c2005.

*Elephant Run*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, c2007.

**Awards and Honors for *Peak*:**

Winner of the National Outdoor Book Award, 2007

ALA 2008 Best books for Young Adults

ALA 2008 Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

ALA 2008 Selected Audiobooks for Young Adults

Miami Herald Best Kid's Books for 2007.

Booklist Editor's Choice, 2007

New York Public Library's 2008 Books for the Teen Age List

***7 Days at the Hot Corner***  
**Terry Trueman**

Trueman, Terry. *7 Days at the Hot Corner*. HarperTempest, 2007. 150p. (Gr 6 up)

**Annotation:**

Third baseman Scott Latimer deals with his feelings after his best friend tells him that he is gay.

**Booktalk**

What would you do if you found out your best friend was gay? How would you feel? Scott is having a great year. He plays third base, often referred to as the hot corner, on his high school team. At the hot corner you have to be ready for anything that happens because you are so close to home plate. The All City High School Tournament is just around the corner and Scott thinks he might have a chance at being drafted by the pros. But suddenly life comes at him like a line drive off of home plate. Travis, his best friend since 2nd grade, gets kicked out of his house and asks if he can come and stay with Scott. He doesn't tell him why but when he hands Scott a school newspaper that has an article about "Coming Out" Scott gets the picture. Travis has a younger brother and his parents feel like he could be a bad influence. Scott doesn't know what to think or feel about how Travis fits into his life now. Confused and upset he remembers a day at the batting cages several weeks ago when Travis got hit by a ball and bled all over the place. Scott got the blood all over him too. Could he have AIDS? Another line drive right at him! That thought is so overwhelming that he goes to the County Health Clinic for testing. It will be 7 days before he receives the results of his test. 7 days to worry about the consequences of AIDS. 7 days to deal with comments from his team members wondering just who the gay guy is. 7 days. It all seems overwhelming to Scott as he attempts to sort out his feelings. Read *7 Days at the Hot Corner* to find out whether the team wins the tournament and whether Scott is drafted. More importantly read the book to see how Scott deals with his problems with Travis and their friendship. Read the book to see if Scott's knowledge of the game of baseball transfers to real life and helps him to deal with all of the problems thrown at him so suddenly.

**Reviews:**

Booklist (February 1, 2007 (Vol. 103, No. 11))

Horn Book (Fall 2007)

Kirkus Review (February 1, 2007)

Publishers Weekly (March 5, 2007)

School Library Journal (April 1, 2007)

**Author's Website:**

<http://www.terrytrueman.com/index.htm>

**Sports Fiction:**

Carter, Alden. *Love, Football, and Other Contact Sports*. New York: Holiday House. 2006.

Crutcher, Chris. *Athletic Shorts : Six Short Stories*. New York: HarperTempest. 2002.

Crutcher, Chris. *Whale Talk*. New York: Greenwillow. 2001.

Deuker, Carl. *Painting the Black*. New York: Avon. 1997.

Deuker, Carl. *Night Hoops*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. 2000.

Deuker, Carl. *On the Devil's Court*. Boston: Joy Street Books. 1988

Fehler, Gene. *Beanball*. New York: Clarion Books, 2008

Hobbs, Will. *Downriver*. New York: Bantam Doubleday Books for Young Readers. 1991.

Hobbs, Will. *Thunder River*. Bantam Doubleday Books for Young Readers. 1997

Lipsyte, Robert. *The Brave*. New York: HarperTrophy. 1991.

Lipsyte, Robert. *The Contender*. New York: HarperTrophy 1967.

Meyers, Walter Dean. *The Game*. New York: HarperTeen. 2008.

Peet, Mal. *The Penalty*. New York: Candlewick Press. 2007.

Rottman, S.L. *Rough Waters*. Atlanta: Peachtree. 1997.

Wallace, Rich. *Losing is Not an Option : Stories*. New York: Knopf. 2003

Voigt, Cynthia. *Bad Girls, Bad Girls, Whatcha Gonna Do?* New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2006

Voigt, Cynthia. *The Runner*. New York: Simon Pulse. 1995.

***Last Dance at the Frosty Queen***  
**Richard Allen Uhlig**

Uhlig, Richard Allen. *Last Dance at the Frosty Queen*. Knopf, 2007. 358p. (Gr 9 up)

**Annotation:**

Arthur M. Flood, aka Artie, is thinking about his impending high school graduation. He desperately wants to leave his small Kansas town and get on with his life. The only obstacles standing in his way are money, an unwanted girlfriend, an amorous teacher and his father's failing funeral business.

**Book Talk:**

Artie's goals for leaving town:

1. Get the \$1400 owed me from the dog people. You see, I've worked for these people who make dog clothes for quite a while and they haven't paid me in quiet a while. I need that money to get away from here. How can I leave if I don't have enough money to make it out of town?
2. Quit dating Geraldine the sheriff's daughter (who say's she is pregnant). You see, the sheriff has been blackmailing me into dating his daughter. Don't get me wrong, she's OK but I don't think she likes me very much either. How would this ever work?
3. Break off my affair with Mrs. Kaye my teacher (who says she loves me). You see, we get together in the back of my car, a hand-me-down hearse my dad gave me on my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. Can you see how this isn't going to work?
4. Don't worry about Flood & Son my family's failing funeral home business. I'm not the "Son." That distinction goes to my older brother. Question: Can a pot head run a funeral home?
5. Whoa, I didn't figure on falling for the girl from California! She just appeared from nowhere when I was at the lake. Just came out or the lake in front of me and stood there all wet and shiny. Can she change my life in ways I never could imagine?

Artie has dreams but not many options. He has obstacles piled on top of obstacles. He is pursued by the sheriff, by the sheriff's daughter, by his English teacher, and by his family. Oh, and did we mention, his boss died in a mysterious fire. This off beat character in his off the beaten path Kansas town is treading water every day just to stay afloat.

**About the author:**

Richard Allen Uhlig is a small-town boy from Kansas who now lives with his wife and family in New York City. This is his first novel.

**Reviews:**

School Library Journal 11/01/07

Booklist 07/01/07

Horn Book 04/01/07

Kliatt starred 07/01/07

**Related Books:**

Collier, Kristi. *Throwing Stones*. Henry Holt and Co., 2006. 208 p. (Gr 9 up) .

A promising basketball player in his small Indiana town, Andy enters high school in 1923 and joins the varsity team. A rivalry with another boy prompts Andy to take a reckless dare, leading to a broken arm and collarbone. Sidelined, Andy finds a new outlet for his knowledge of basketball: reporting on his team's games for the local newspaper. Meanwhile, as Andy struggles with first love, jealousy, and a dangerous secret, his family continues to cope with the death of their oldest son and faces the possibility of losing their farm.

Cornwell, Autumn. *Carpe diem*. Feiwel and Friends, 2007. 360p (Gr 7 up).

Sixteen-year-old Vassar Spore's detailed plans for the next twenty years of her life are derailed when her bohemian grandmother insists that she join her in Southeast Asia for the summer, but as she writes a novel about her experiences, Vassar discovers new possibilities.

Dunbar, Dana. *The Saints and Sinners of Okay County: A Novel*. Ballentine, 2005. 352 p. (Gr 11-adult).

Aletta Honor is a young woman married pregnant for the fourth time, keeping her eye on a roving husband, trying to pay the bills, down on her luck in her small Oklahoma town. In need of money she turns to her "second sight" that has haunted her from her childhood days. Small town mysteries and nuances abound in Okay County.

Dunbar, Dana. *The Wings That Fly us Home*. Ballentine, 2006. 320 p. (Gr 11-adult).

In her continuing story of Aletta Honor, Dunbar delves deep into mysteries when Aletta's psychic powers leave. Aletta then goes on a quest to New Mexico to uncover family secrets.

\*\*Kimmel, Haven. *A Girl Named Zippy: Growing Up Small in Mooreland Indiana*.

Broadway; Today Show Book Club edition, 2002. 282p. (Gr 10-adult).

Haven Kimmel was born and grew up in a town of 300 in Indiana. With a much older brother and sister she was and was treated like the baby of the family. Nicknamed "Zippy" because she always zipped around town, she proves to be an observer of small town life. The sequel *She Got Up Off the Couch* explores further what happened when her mother got up off the couch.

***Grief Girl***  
**Erin Vincent**

\*\*Vincent, Erin. *Grief Girl*. Delacorte Press, 2007. 306p. (Gr 9 up)

**Annotation:**

Erin Vincent's parents both died in an automobile accident in October 1983; her mother immediately and her father one-month later. Erin, fourteen, Tracy, seventeen and Trent, three are left orphans. Tracy tries to keep the family together through thin and thinner times, Erin mourns and Trent forgets. Gritty language.

**Book Talk:**

**The 5 stages of grief:**

1. **Shock & Denial:** Someone just called and said my Mum and Dad have been in a car accident. They were hit by a tow truck crossing the street. It was just a prank call. They're on their way home I know they are. But how did that woman get our phone number and my name? Please God don't let them be dead. Call the hospital. They aren't there. The nurse hangs up on me. Call Aunt Connie and Uncle Steele. No. Not really my aunt and uncle just friends. Their son Theo, he'll find out for me. Lock the door, go to Theo's, have Uncle Steel call again. NO. Don't let it be. Dad is in critical condition. And Mum? No, no, no.
2. **Pain & guilt:** Last week I was daydreaming about Mum and Dad dying in a car accident. Please God I didn't mean it. I'll take it back. I feel guilty eating all this funeral food and Dad has tubes in him.
3. **Anger & Bargaining:** When I go in to see Dad I wonder if one of those nurses is the bitch who hung up on me.
4. **Depression, Reflection Loneliness:** I feel like I'm at the bottom of a pool and I hear voices above me and my heart below. I'm glad Mum's brothers are here. When we talk about Mum and laugh I hope God doesn't punish us. We're using her favorite tablecloth and crystal glasses. Is that right? Tracy won't even let me help her plan the funeral. "I don't need your help with this Erin. I'm the one who knows best what she would want." She gets annoyed with me and says just to let her alone. That makes two of us. Mum once said, "The good people always go first and the assholes live on forever." Well, Tracy is living proof of that. She is just mean all the time. Real mean.
5. **Acceptance & the Upward Turn:** I'm going back to school. I don't know why. I can't sleep and look like shit and I don't know how the hell I can cope in front of everybody but I'm going back to school. A month after Mum died they come to get me at school. I know what they're going to say. He's dead, Dad is dead. I can't bear it.

Follow along with Erin and Tracy as they go back to square one, "Shock & Denial" to try and rebuild their lives. It's a long and bumpy road to get back to "Acceptance." How many times will they have to climb the stages?

**About the author:** Erin Vincent was born and grew up in Australia. After graduating from high school she began her career as a journalist. She has worked at a theater actress, a fashion designer, a waitress on a paddle steamer, and a bartender. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband Adam Knott and a pet crab named Charlie. Erin has no web site but from her publisher, Random House, you can link to her My Space page. [http://www.randomhouse.com/author/results.pperl?authorid=70345&view=full\\_sptlight](http://www.randomhouse.com/author/results.pperl?authorid=70345&view=full_sptlight)

**The books that have inspired me, Erin Vincent:**

*The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath,  
*The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank,  
*The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole* by Sue Townsend,  
*The Color Purple* by Alice Walker.

**Reviews and Awards:**

Wilson's Junior High School 08/01/07  
Publishers Weekly 04/02/07  
Horn Book 10/01/07  
Voice of Youth Advocates (V.O.Y.A.) 04/01/07  
School Library Journal 02/01/07  
Booklist 02/01/07  
Library Media Connection 08/01/07  
Oklahoma Sequoyah High School Award Nominee, 2010.

**Related books:**

Agee, James. *A death in the family*. Vintage International, p1998, c1998. 310p. (Gr 10 up)  
The story of a family for the first few days after the accidental death of the 35-year-old husband and father.

\*\*Myers, Edward. *When will I stop hurting? : Teens, loss, and grief*. Scarecrow Press, c2004. 159p. (Gr 7 up)

Includes bibliographical references and index. Presents first-hand accounts from teens who have experienced the loss of a loved one, explains the grief process and the emotions involved, discusses types of loss and their consequences, and offers suggestions for handling bereavement

**STORY OF A GIRL**  
**SARA ZARR**

Zarr, Sara. *Story of a Girl*. Little, Brown, and Company. 2007. 192p. Grades 9 and up.

**Annotation:**

When she was only thirteen Deanna was caught having sex with a seventeen-year-old friend of her older brother. Now Deanna longs to escape from a life that is being defined by her past.

**Booktalk:**

(Read p1. Paragraphs 1-3)

*I was thirteen when my dad caught me with Tommy Webber in the back of Tommy's Buick, parked next to the old Chart House down in Montara at eleven o'clock on a Tuesday night.*

*Tommy was seventeen and the supposed friend of my brother, Darren.*

*I didn't love him.*

*I 'm not sure I even liked him.*

For Deanna, high school life is hell. The story of what happen her eighth grade year has been told in shocked voices, hushed whispers, and raucous laughter in hallways, locker rooms, parties, and the back of classrooms ever since the boy, Tommy, first came to school the morning after it happened. Even though Deanna is now a sophomore and Tommy has graduated, the lasting repercussions and the label of “school slut” lives on.

Home is no sanctuary either. Deanna's always been close to her protective, older brother Darren but his life has become ridiculously complicated. He's living in his parents' basement, working a dead end job, and constantly fighting with his girlfriend while both are dealing with the pressures of a newborn. Her mom and dad struggle just to make ends meet. But the most painful part of Deanna home life is that her father hasn't really been able to look Deanna in the eye since the night he caught her in the act.

Deanna's only source of solace seems to be in her friendships; other loyal outcasts who also carry the all too heavy burden of their own secrets and self-imposed shame. Deanna so longs to escape a life that has been defined by her past. Forgetting hasn't worked perhaps the healing lives in the remembering, and ultimately, within Deanna's own heart.

## **Reviews:**

### **Full-Text Reviews**

#### ***Booklist starred (March 1, 2007 (Vol. 103, No. 13))***

Deanna was 13 when her father caught her and 17-year-old Tommy having sex. Three years later, she is still struggling with the repercussions: how Tommy jokingly made her into the school slut; how the story became legend in her small town; how her father looked at her then--and now doesn't look at her at all. Her brother, Darren, has mistakes to handle, too: he lives with his girlfriend and their baby in his parents' basement. And while Deanna's mother seems numb, her father is perpetually angry and depressed. Meanwhile, in a misguided search for love brought on by the confusion of seeing Tommy again, Deanna intentionally hurts her two closest friends. Although she's more aware than most how a single event can define a person, Deanna still struggles to gain insight into herself, her family, and her friends. When she finally does, she's able to create small but positive changes in her relationships with them all. Characters are well drawn, especially Deanna, whose complicated, deeply felt emotions turn the story. There are plenty of heartbreaking moments, too, including a poignant confrontation with Tommy. Though nothing is miraculously fixed by the close, everyone's perspective has changed for the better. This is a thoughtful, well-executed debut from an author who understands how to write for teens.

#### ***Horn Book (Fall 2007)***

At thirteen, Deanna is caught by her father having sex with Tommy, a seventeen-year-old. Three years later, Deanna's peers still whisper about her reputation, and her father hardly speaks to her. Deanna desperately struggles to escape her past, despite sometimes missing the way Tommy made her feel wanted. Deanna's motivations to have sex, and the consequences, are thoughtfully, honestly, and convincingly explored.

#### ***Kirkus Review (December 15, 2006)***

Sophomore Deanna Lambert made just one mistake to turn herself into the "school slut." Back in eighth grade, Deanna's father caught her having sex with a high-school boy. Nothing has been the same since that painful night, and Deanna's extremely dysfunctional family is not much help. There are just two people who are willing to take the razing of being the friends of "slutty Deanna," and she misses her loving dad who has turned into a man who can neither look her in the eye nor give her any affection. She continues to make mistakes when vain hopes of leaving her folks' house with her brother, his girlfriend and baby are squashed. Ultimately, she resolves her anger toward the boy who seduced her, realizing she is repeating patterns and wants to change. Zarr's story ends on a hopeful but realistic note with everyone taking baby steps toward something approaching normalcy. This involving, touching first novel will resonate with those who have made mistakes and those who have not. (Fiction. YA)

***Publishers Weekly (January 28, 2008)***

A finalist for the National Book Award, this debut novel introduces a girl whose unwanted encounter in the backseat of a car has labeled her as the school slut. Ages 12-up. (Feb.) Copyright 2008 Reed Business Information.

***Publishers Weekly (January 29, 2007)***

Zarr's involving yet somewhat anti-climactic debut opens with a bang as Deanna Lambert recalls the moment that caused everything in her life to change: "I was thirteen when my dad caught me with Tommy Webber in the back of Tommy's Buick." Following this incident with the then 17-year-old boy, Deanna is shunned by her father and labeled "the school slut" by her peers. In her small town, the tag sticks, and continues to define Deanna's life for the next three years. Now 16, she lands a summer job only to discover that Tommy works at the same place. But seeing him sparks flashbacks, and through them Zarr give readers insight into how Deanna was drawn to Tommy, and the complicated feelings the teen experienced ("I don't mean anything corny like I fell in love.... It was more a feeling like when I'd get picked first for volleyball"). The author credibly explores Deanna's confusion about how good it feels to be with Tommy and her thoughts that she should be feeling something else. The narrative is less credible when she erupts at her best (girl)friend, Lee-paving the way for Deanna to kiss her longtime best friend, Jason (who is also Lee's boyfriend)-and also when Deanna confronts Tommy after a makeout session. Although the loose ends are tied up at the end, readers may find Deanna's character somewhat contradictory. But Zarr convincingly creates a teen trapped by small-minded people in a small town. Ages 12-up. (Jan.) Copyright 2007 Reed Business Information.

***School Library Journal (January 1, 2007)***

Gr 9 Up-When Deanna's father catches her having sex in a car when she is 13, her life is drastically changed. Two years later, he still can't look her in the eye, and though Tommy is the only boy she's been with, she is branded the school slut. Her entire family watches her as though she is likely to sleep with anyone she sees, and Tommy still smirks at and torments her when she sees him. Her two best friends have recently begun dating, and Deanna feels like an intruder. She tries to maintain a close relationship with her older brother, but Darren and his girlfriend are struggling as teenage parents. Deanna learns to protect herself by becoming outwardly tough, but feels her isolation acutely. Her only outlet is her journal in which she writes the story of an anonymous girl who has the same experiences and feelings that she does. Through this, readers see the potential that Deanna cannot identify in herself. This is a heartbreaking look at how a teenager can be defined by one mistake, and how it shapes her sense of self-worth. This is realistic fiction at its best. Zarr's storytelling is excellent; Deanna's reactions to the painful things said to her will resonate with any reader who has felt like an outsider. It is an emotionally charged story, with language appropriate to the intensity of the feelings. *Story of a Girl* is recommended for both teens and the adults who live and work with them.-Stephanie L. Petruso, Anne Arundel County Public Library, Odenton, MD Copyright 2007 Reed Business Information.

**Author Website:**

[sarazarr.com](http://sarazarr.com)

Sara Zarr's website has lots of appeal to YA's. Along with the typical information concerning her writing, upcoming books, etc., she also has a blog (Rand-O-Sara) where she does just that – blogs! In the “Types of Sara” pull down menu, readers can find random information on Sara such as her obsessions and pets. Very entertaining!

**Awards: Story of a Girl**

**National Book Award Finalist**

**ALA Best Book for Young Adults**

**Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers**

**IRA Honor Book**

**Capitol Choices Book**

**Utah Book Award Finalist**

**Other Books by this author:**

Sweethearts (now in paperback w/a reader's guide)

Once was lost – due out soon