

NOT JUST FOR

Young Adults

Summer is a great time to pick up a Young Adult novel, no matter your age. These fast-reading favorites hold loads of appeal.

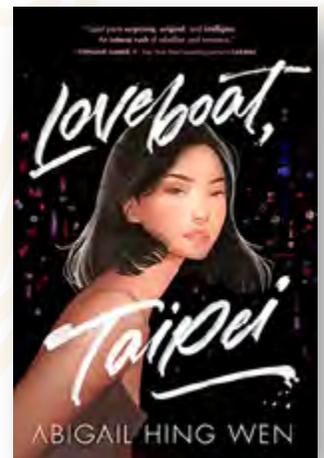


Tweet Cute by Emma Lord Wednesday Books - January 21

Listen up, *You've Got Mail* fans! In this new romantic comedy, Jack and Pepper are classmates at an Upper East Side private school. Unlike their privileged peers—and unbeknownst to each other—they spend their leisure hours managing the social media accounts for their families' respective restaurants. Pepper's family owns a hugely profitable burger chain; Jack's family owns a beloved deli on the Lower East Side. When a twitter battle about a grilled cheese recipe erupts between the two businesses, Jack and Pepper are each playing to win—but they don't know they're fighting each other. This breezy read features snappy dialogue and a slowburn friends-to-something-more story, while closely following the beats of Nora Ephron's film. I read this adorable (and chaste) story in a single evening.

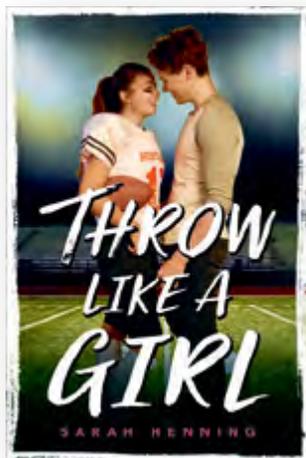
Loveboat, Taipei by Abigail Hing Wen Harper Teen - January 7

In this fast-paced YA debut, a girl travels halfway around the world to find herself, and maybe find love, too. Ever Wong is an eighteen-year-old Asian American girl in Ohio, a talented dancer who, unbeknownst to her family, harbors dreams of pursuing professional dance. When her parents find out she's considering dance instead of med school, they send her to Taiwan to spend the rest of the summer at Chien Tan—an immersive high school program devoted to language and culture. When Ever arrives she's surprised to discover that far from the scholarly summer she expected, the students themselves call the program "Loveboat," because it's tons of fun and so many long-term relationships begin here. I enjoyed the audiobook version, narrated by Emily Woo Zeller. A sequel is expected in 2021.



Throw Like a Girl by Sarah Henning

Poppy - January 7



When Olive (or “O-Rod”) Rodinsky throws a punch that gets her kicked off her school’s softball team, she’s forced to quit the sport she loves and transfer to the school she hates. But then a second chance arrives in a form she never expected: her new school’s injured quarterback recruits Liv to be his back-up. The familiar premise feels fresh in Henning’s hands; she manages to cover serious issues relevant to teens and today’s culture (*hello, concussions*) while still delivering an easy, light-hearted read. If you’re on the lookout for a sweet, smart, and chaste YA novel—whether that’s for you or a young reader in your life—this could be exactly what you’re looking for.

Girl, Serpent, Thorn by Melissa Bashardoust

Flatiron - July 7

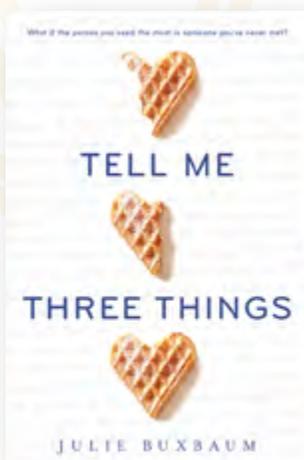
From the author of *Girls Made of Snow and Glass*, a brilliantly imagined fairy tale featuring dangerous demons, poisonous girls, and a kingdom in peril, inspired by the Persian epic *The Shahnameh*. The cursed princess

Soraya has been living inside her family’s palace walls—touching no one—for eighteen years. As her twin brother’s wedding day approaches, the palace guards capture a demon who may be able to tell her how to break the curse and gain her freedom. But the answers she seeks plunge her into personal crisis and political intrigue, and Soraya is soon forced to question everything she thought she knew about herself—while facing choices that may endanger not just her own fate, but that of the entire kingdom. An enthralling fantasy with broad appeal, lyrical prose and incredible worldbuilding.



Tell Me Three Things by Julie Buxbaum

Delacorte Press



I was so excited to share Buxbaum’s new release *Admission* with you in this year’s guide—but then coronavirus bumped the pub date till December. In the meantime, please enjoy my favorite book of hers, a crowd-pleaser I often recommend. When a girl-next-door type suddenly finds herself in an elite California prep school, she has to figure out how to navigate this new privileged world while still grieving her mother’s death. When she gets an email from an unidentified boy who calls himself “Somebody Nobody” offering to be her spirit guide to her new school, she doesn’t want to say yes—but she really needs his help. A sweet and fun teen romance, but also a pitch-perfect portrayal of the grieving process. I couldn’t stop myself from cheering for Jessie as she puts her life together again.

Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo
Hot Key - May 5



The Poet X author Acevedo dedicates her new novel in verse to the memory of the lives lost on American Airlines flight 587, the passenger flight that crashed en route to Santo Domingo from JFK on November 12, 2001. Taking this historical event as her leaping off point, Acevedo tells the story of two teenage girls—one in New York, one in Santo Domingo—who are shocked to discover they are sisters in the aftermath of the crash, when the truth of their father’s double life is unceremoniously revealed. The girls tentatively bond as they explore the love—and pain—they share. A lyrical, heartfelt exploration of what it means to discover secrets, to find family, and to discover your own hidden resources in the face of great loss, and surprising joy.

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a lot shorter for these gems!

