

Realistic Fiction August 2015



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New in August 2015

Six Impossible Things by Fiona Wood

Fourteen-year-old Dan Cereill's life is turned upside-down when his father announces he is gay and leaves Dan and his mother with nothing, forcing them to move to an aunt's house, Dan to enroll in public school, and his mother to try to start a business, but the top thing on Dan's list is kissing Estelle, the girl next door.

New in July 2015

Not After Everything by Michelle Levy

—Tyler is drowning in a sea of helplessness and it doesn't seem to be worth the effort to swim up for air. Right before the start of senior year, his mother committed suicide—and Tyler was the one who found her. He was supposed to go to Stanford on a football scholarship. He was supposed to stay interested in his hot girlfriend. All he can manage to do is avoid his dad's growing emotional and physical abuse and keep earning a paycheck after school.

Trouble is a Friend of Mine by Stephanie Tromly

A jaded teen's life takes an exciting turn after a new friend ropes her into his investigation of a local kidnapping. Zoe Webster, 16, is still dealing with the "lifestyle demotion" of moving from Brooklyn to upstate New York due to her parents' divorce when Philip Digby shows up at her front door.

What You Left Behind by Jessica Verdi

A teenage father struggles to cope with grief, guilt, and his daughter. When Ryden falls in love with Meg, he thinks the biggest challenge is her melanoma. But then Meg gets pregnant and forgoes chemotherapy to have the baby, only to die just before giving birth.

Life Unaware by Cole Gibsen

Popularity, Xanax, and the wrong friends turns Regan Flay's life completely upside down overnight. She is usually comfortable trying to "destroy" people who do not follow her lead—a trick she learns from her mother, a local congresswoman. Regan seemed to have her life together—student council, honor society—until one of her frenemies turns the tables on her and she succumbs to the same tricks she has used previously on other people.

New in June 2015

Emmy & Oliver by Robin Benway

Ten years ago, Emmy's friend and next-door neighbor, Oliver, was kidnapped by his father, and his mother has been searching for him ever since. Meanwhile, Emmy's shaken parents have become stifflingly overprotective. But now Oliver, found in New York City, has returned home, and high-school senior Emmy tries to rekindle a friendship with a boy who has become a stranger.

Delicate Monsters by Stephanie Kuehn

—This novel centers on the convergence of the lives of Sadie, a damaged girl who enjoys causing others pain, and Emerson, a boy who's trying desperately to hide the dysfunction inside his family and himself.

Between the Notes by Sharon Huss Roat

—Ivy Emerson, 16, moves from affluent Westside to undesirable Lakeside after her parents declare bankruptcy after getting behind on her brother's medical bills. Leaving her baby grand piano, bedroom with a window seat, and cell phone behind, she fears she'll lose her friends if they ever find out.

The Revenge Playbook by Rachael Allen

—In the small town of Ranburne, TN, football is king. The members of the high school team can and do get away with pretty much anything, but that's all about to change. Liv, Peyton, Ana, and Melanie all have their reasons as to why they want the football team to go down, and they plot to get their hands on the revered "Football of '76."

The Sacred Lies of Minnow Bly by Stephanie Oakes

A girl who has just escaped a destructive cult after her hands were cut off lives in juvenile detention, found guilty of assault, a crime she indeed did commit. Minnow was taken at a young age to live with her family in an extreme cult called the Community. The Prophet rules through fear, inflicting sadistic punishments for any infraction, including chopping off Minnow's hands.

Those Girls by Lauren Saft

Three best friends alternate narration of their junior year of high school as they explore sex, romance, and independence. Each teen clearly represents a high school stock character—Alex: tomboy with a secret crush on her best male friend; Veronica: proudly promiscuous; and Mollie: willing to sacrifice her sense of self to keep her athlete boyfriend.

Finding Audrey by Sophie Kinsella

Audrey, 14, is on a long, slow upswing from disabling anxiety disorders that resulted from the vicious abuse of bullies at school. Under the guidance of thoughtful Dr. Sarah, Audrey begins to deal with her inability to make eye contact—or even to leave the house—by crafting videos of her quirky, near-farcical family, a nifty narrative device that especially shows off her "twitchy" mom.

New in May 2015

Extraordinary Means by Robyn Schneider

When Lane's drug-resistant tuberculosis lands him in a sanatorium, he finds that one of the other residents is a girl he met at summer camp years ago. College-bound Lane is in denial about his illness, assuming that he can keep up with his AP work and go home soon. Sadie's condition is neither improving nor getting worse; she's been at Latham House long enough to have formed a group of friends who go on nighttime excursions to buy contraband in the nearby town.

I Am Princess X by Cherie Priest

Back in fifth grade, best friends May and Libby created Princess X, a katana-wielding heroine who wears Converse sneakers with her ball gown. Ever since Libby and her mother died in a freak accident, May's life has been as gray

as her Seattle home—until the 16-year-old spots a Princess X sticker in a store window, leading her to a Princess X webcomic that suggests that Libby might still be alive.

Painless by S.A. Harazin

Unable to feel physical pain or discomfort, David has always been an outcast and recluse, needing reminders to use the restroom, check body temperature, and be alert for cuts, broken bones, or burns, but when enigmatic Luna takes over as his personal assistant, he kicks his plans into high gear, starting with a road trip to track down his missing parents. David, who can't produce tears, is sure to evoke both laughter and sobs in this emotional yet practical look at what it means to feel pain, whether the suffering is physical, mental, solitary, or shared.

Saint Anything by Sarah Dessen

Sydney's charismatic older brother, Peyton, has always been the center of attention in the family but when he is sent to jail, Sydney struggles to find her place at home and the world until she meets the Chathams, including gentle, protective Mac, who makes her feel seen for the first time.

Hit Count by Chris Lynch

Arlo Brodie loves being at the heart of the action on the football field, and while his dad cheers him on, his mother quotes head injury statistics and refuses to watch, but Arlo's winning plays, the cheering crowds, and the adrenaline rush are enough to convince him that everything is OK--in spite of the pain, the pounding, the dizziness, and the confusion.

Hold Me Like a Breath by Tiffany Schmidt

Penny Landlow, seventeen, the overprotected daughter of a powerful crime family, has rarely left the family estate due to a blood disorder but when tragedy strikes and she is left alone in New York City, she must prove she is not as fragile as everyone believes.

The Cost of All Things by Maggie Lehrman

When her boyfriend dies, a grieving Ari uses a spell to erase her memories of him, but this spell triggers a series of events that reveal hidden, and sometimes dangerous, connections between her friends and the boyfriend she no longer remembers.

Three Day Summer by Sarvenaz Tash

During the three days of the music festival known as Woodstock, Michael Michaelson of Somerville, Massachusetts, and Cora Fletcher, a volunteer in the medical tent who lives nearby, share incredible experiences, the greatest of which is meeting each other.

The Secrets We Keep by Trisha Leaver

"When her identical twin sister Maddy is killed in a car accident, seventeen-year-old Ella assumes Maddy's life, only to discover that it was filled with dark secrets"--Provided by publisher.

The Rise and Fall of the Gallivanders by M.J. Beaufrand

In 1983, a band led by a David Bowie lookalike prepares to compete in a battle of the bands at a possibly evil brewery, and must also cope with the fact that bass player Evan is getting sicker and sicker, much like his best friend Noah's abusive father did before his death several years earlier.

The Game of Love and Death by Martha Brockenbrough

In Seattle in 1937 two seventeen-year-olds, Henry, who is white, and Flora, who is African-American, become the unwitting pawns in a game played by two immortal figures, Love and Death, where they must choose each other at the end, or one of them will die.

A Tale of Two Besties by Sophia Rossi

In ultra-cool Los Angeles, can two freshman girls remain best friends despite a tidal wave of high school drama, or does growing up mean leaving some friends behind?

Material Girls by Elaine Dimopoulos

Teens Ivy Wilde and Marla Klein, both minor celebrities, face major lifestyle changes as pop-star Ivy questions the rampant consumerism required to maintain her image, and fashionista Marla sees first-hand the appalling working conditions that allowed her to be a trend-setter.

The Unlikely Hero of Room 13 B by Teresa Toten

"Adam not only is trying to understand his OCD, while trying to balance his relationship with his divorced parents, but he's also trying to navigate through the issues that teenagers normally face, namely the perils of young love"--Provided by publisher.

New in April 2015

Mosquitoland by David Arnold

"When she learns that her mother is sick in Ohio, Mim confronts her demons on a thousand-mile-odyssey from Mississippi tht redefines her notions of love, loyalty and what it means to be sane"--Provided by publisher.

Our Endless Numbered Days by Claire Fuller

Seventeen-year-old Peggy Hillcoat, abducted by her survivalist father to live in woods when she was eight, learns the truth about her father's reasons for seclusion and finds her way back to London and the mother she thought was dead.

None of the Above by I.W. Gregorio

Popular Kristin Lattimer learns to deal with her doctor's diagnosis that she is intersex, meaning she looks like a girl and identifies as a girl, but has male chromosomes and internal male organs.

Eden West by Pete Hautman

Eden West is the story of two worlds, two hearts, the power of faith, and the resilience of the human spirit.

Challenger Deep by Neal Shusterman

"A teenage boy struggles with schizophrenia."--Provided by publisher.

Finding Paris by Joy Preble

"When Leo's sister Paris goes missing, she and her new friend Max must follow Paris's secret notes and clues to find her."--Provided by publisher.

Every Last Promise by Kristin Halbrook

After witnessing a crime and making a fateful promise, Kayla's contented teen life falls apart.

New in March 2015

Biggie by Derek E. Sullivan

Henry "Biggie" Abbott has hidden behind his weight for years, and although he is the son and stepson of two of Finch, Minnesota's most famous athletes, he prefers academic success until the girl of his dreams suggests he join the baseball team, and, with his stepbrother's help, he discovers he is a great pitcher.

We All Looked Up by Tommy Wallach

The lives of four high school seniors intersect weeks before a meteor is set to pass through Earth's orbit, with a 66.6% chance of striking and destroying all life on the planet.

The Tightrope Walkers by David Almond

Coming of age in the shadow of northern England's shipyards, young Dominic is torn between the extremes of his shipbuilder family's lifestyle, a complex bully to whom he finds himself irresistibly drawn, and the tightrope-walking girl he loves.

Infamous by Elana K. Arnold

Seventeen-year-old Sephora, a surfer and artist who loves fairy tales and mythology, struggles with a secret so horrible she cannot speak it aloud, especially not to her beautiful, single mother, although they have always been unusually close.

The Bunker Diary by Kevin Brooks

Sixteen-year-old Linus Weems, a street person since leaving his wealthy father's home, is kidnapped and taken to an underground bunker where he's soon joined by five others, ranging in age from nine to seventy, who are alternately cared for and tortured by their unseen captor.

The Wrong Side of Right by Jenn Marie Thorne

After her mother dies, sixteen-year-old Kate Quinn meets the father she did not know she had, joins his presidential campaign, falls for a rebellious boy, and when what she truly believes flies in the face of the campaign's talking points, Kate must decide what is best.

Hold Me Closer: The Tiny Cooper Story by David Levithan

"Larger-than-life Tiny Cooper finally gets to tell his story, from his fabulous birth and childhood to his quest for true love and his infamous parade of ex-boyfriends, in the form of a musical he wrote."--Provided by publisher.

Everybody Knows Your Name by Andrea Seigel and Brent Bradshaw

"Teenagers Magnolia and Ford unexpectedly fall love as they share a mansion in the Hollywood Hills and compete on a reality TV singing competition"--Provided by publisher.

The Alex Crow by Andrew Smith

The story of Ariel, a Middle Eastern refugee who lives with an adoptive family in Sunday, West Virginia, is juxtaposed against those of a schizophrenic bomber, the dairies of a failed arctic expedition from the late nineteenth century, and a *depressed, bionic reincarnated crow*.

Game Seven by Paul Volponi

"A sixteen-year-old shortstop in Cuba who dreams of playing with the pros must choose between his country and his father who defected to the U.S."--Provided by publisher.

The Dead I Know by Scot Gardner

Aaron Rowe's new job at a funeral parlor may be his salvation from sleepwalking, dreams he cannot explain, and memories he cannot recover, but if he does not discover the truth about his hidden past soon, he may fall asleep one night and never wake up.

Seed by Lisa Heathfield

When a new boy comes to Pearl's commune, the only home she has ever known, he makes her question all she has been told about her sheltered, heavily controlled life.

Read Between the Lines by Jo Knowles

Ten people whose behaviors belie their feelings and motivations tell their stories as their lives briefly touch.

Silent Alarm by Jennifer Banash

Alys, a Plaineville, Wisconsin, junior who dreams of studying violin at Julliard, must deal with the aftermath of a tragic high school shooting in which her older brother, Luke, was the shooter.

The Boy in the Black Suit by Jason Reynolds

Soon after his mother's death, Matt takes a job at a funeral home in his tough Brooklyn neighborhood and, while attending and assisting with funerals, begins to accept her death and his responsibilities as a man.

The Brilliant Light of Amber Sunrise by Matthew Crow

Life threatening cancer brings Francis and Amber together. But Francis's recovery is taking a different path from Amber's. He's actually getting better. And although he knew who he was before cancer, before Amber, now he has no idea how to live--or how to let go.

The Distance Between Lost and Found by Kathryn Holmes

Sophomore Hallie Calhoun, her former friend Jonah, and her new friend Rachel leave a church youth group hike in the Great Smoky Mountains and become lost for five days, struggling to survive as Hallie finally speaks about the incident that made her a social pariah and Jonah admits why it hurt him so much.

Breakout by Kevin Emerson

Fourteen-year-old eighth-grader Anthony Castillo uses "f-bombs" on the angst-ridden song he writes for his rock

band, the Rusty Soles, and while it becomes an instant viral hit, he must decide if being a hero is worth the trouble that singing it on Arts Night would cause.

Down from the Mountain by Elizabeth Fixmer

"Fourteen year-old Eva tries to be a good disciple of Righteous Path, a polygamy cult in Colorado, but her forays into the 'heathen world' cause her to question all she knows"--Provided by publisher.

When My Heart Was Wicked by Tricia Stirling

After her father dies, leaving sixteen-year-old Lacy with her much-loved stepmother, Lacy's birth mother suddenly shows up wanting Lacy back--and she will stop at nothing, not even dark magic, to control her daughter and draw her into her own twisted life.

Disappear Home by Laura Hurwitz

In 1970, fourteen-year-old Shoshanna, six-year-old Mara, and their mother escape from Sweet Earth Farm, a declining commune run by their tyrannical and abusive father, but after finding peace and stability at Avery Elliot's farm, their mother's crippling depression returns.

Not Otherwise Specified by Hannah Moskowitz

Auditioning for a New York City performing arts high school could help Etta escape from her Nebraska all-girls school, where she is not gay enough for her former friends, not sick enough for her eating disorders group, and not thin enough for ballet, but it may also mean real friendships.

New in February 2015

This Side of Home by Renee Watson

Twins Nikki and Maya Younger always agreed on most things, but as they head into their senior year they react differently to the gentrification of their Portland, Oregon, neighborhood and the new white family that moves in after their best friend and her mother are evicted.

When Reason Breaks by Cindy L. Rodriguez

Elizabeth Davis and Emily Delgado seem to have little in common except Mr. Diaz's English class and the solace they find in the words of Emily Dickinson, but both are struggling to cope with monumental secrets and tumultuous emotions that will lead one to attempt suicide.

The Last Time We Say Goodbye by Cynthia Hand

After her younger brother, Tyler, commits suicide, Lex struggles to work through her grief in the face of a family that has fallen apart, the sudden distance between her and her friends, and memories of Tyler that still feel all too real.

My Heart and Other Black Holes by Jasmine Warga

"Seventeen-year-old Aysel's hobby--planning her own death--take a new path when she meets a boy who has similar plan of his own"--Provided by publisher.

Burning Nation by Trent Reedy (Sequel to *Divided We Fall*)

Idaho is a war zone under Federal occupation, and Danny Wright and his friends in the Idaho Militia are determined to fight back, running guerrilla missions against the army--but what at first seemed like a straightforward battle against government repression quickly grows murky, and Danny finds that even winning the war does not mean an end of tyranny.

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