

Young Adult *Non-Fiction* Book List



Denotes new titles recently added to the list



Al-Windawi, Thura **Thura's Diary**

Nineteen-year-old Thura al-Windawi kept a diary during the conflict in Iraq, saying that it was her way of "controlling the chaos." The diary, which

documents the days leading up to the bombings, the war itself, and the lawless aftermath, puts a personal face on life in Baghdad.

Atkins, Jeannine **How High Can we climb? : the Story of Women Explorers**

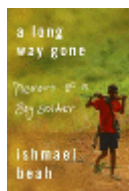
Profiles twelve women explorers of the land, sea, and air: Jeanne Baret, Florence Baker, Annie Smith Peck, Josephine Peary, Arnarulunguaq, Elisabeth Casteret, Nicole Maxwell, Sylvia Earle, Junko Tabei, Kay Cottee, Sue Hendrickson, and Ann Bancroft.



Barakat, Ibtisam **Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood**

A memoir in which the author describes her childhood as a Palestinian refugee, discussing her family's experiences

during and after the Six-Day War, and the freedom she felt at learning to read and write. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2009).



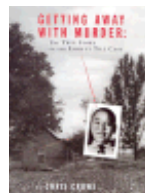
Beah, Ishmael **A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier**

Ishmael Beah, now 25 years old, tells how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and

wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts. (Summary from loc.gov, Sept. 2008)

Bernstein, Seren Turvel **The Seamstress**

Seren Tuvel Bernstein (1918-1983), a brave and spirited Holocaust survivor, recounts the story of her prewar life, the Holocaust years, and her efforts to reconnect with lost relatives and create a better existence for herself and her family after the war.

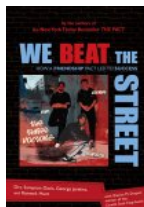


Crowe, Chris **Getting Away with Murder: The True Story of the Emmet Till Case**

Presents a true account of the murder of fourteen-year-old, Emmett Till, in Mississippi, in 1955.

Crutcher, Chris **King of the Mild Frontier**

Chris Crutcher, author of young adult novels such as "Ironman" and "Whale Talk," as well as short stories, tells of growing up in Cascade, Idaho, and becoming a writer.



Davis, Dr. Sampson **We beat the Street: How a Friendship Pact Helped Us Succeed**

An account of how three friends helped each other to



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make it through high school, college, and medical school rather than follow their childhood friends into the criminal life. Now the three doctors work in their home community helping others to have better lives.

Duncan, Lois **Who Killed My Daughter**

Story of Lois Duncan's search for the truth behind her eighteen year old daughter's brutal death while driving alone in her car.



Eggers, Dave **Zeitoun**

Details the experiences of Abdulrahman Zeitoun, a Syrian-American and New Orleans resident, and his family, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and describes how he was arrested and falsely imprisoned because of his ethnicity. (Summary from Follett Destiny, 2011).

Lu, Chi Fa **Double Luck: Memories of a Chinese Orphan**

Tells the story of the author's struggles after being orphaned at the age of three and how he held on to his dream of coming to the United States as he passed from one relative to another and was even sold to a Communist couple.



Frey, James **A Million Little Pieces**

Presents the story of the author at twenty-three when he was addicted to drugs and alcohol and

when his family meets up with him in his sorry state, they bring him to a drug rehabilitation center in Minnesota. (Mature)

Gantos, Jack **A Hole in My Life**

The author relates how, as a young adult, he became a drug user and smuggler, was arrested, did time in prison, and eventually got out and went to college, all the while hoping to become a writer.



Gold, Alison Leslie **A Special Fate: Chiune Sugihara**

A biography of Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese consul in Lithuania, who saved the lives of thousands of Jews during World War II by issuing visas against the orders of his superiors.

Jiang, Ji Li **Red Scarf Girl**

Ji-li Jiang recounts her experiences as a young girl growing up in China during the Cultural Revolution.



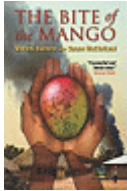
Kamkwamba, William **The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind**

The author details how he ignored naysayers and was able to bring electricity and running water to his Malawian village when he built a makeshift windmill out of scrap metal and spare parts. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).





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Kamara, Mariatu **A Bite of Mango**

Describes the life of Mariatu Kamara, focusing on her experiences as a child during the civil war in Sierra Leone where

she was raped, tortured, and had her hands cut off by juvenile rebel soldiers; and discusses her experiences after the war. (Summary from Follett Destiny, Oct 2009)



Katz, Jon **Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet Out of Idaho**

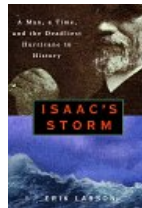
To the rest of the world, themselves included, teenage hackers Jesse and Eric are geeks, a complicated thing to be these days. Katz takes us inside the lives of these two young men, shows us their sense of isolation, complete absorption in the cyber world, distrust of authority and institutions and attempts to negotiate an often-hostile society.

Kraske, Robert **Marooned; The Strange But True Adventures of Alexander Selkirk**

In 1704, Alexander Selkirk was dropped off, alone, on a deserted South Pacific Island after arguing with the ship's captain. For four years, Selkirk not only survived on the island, "alone, both master of the island and its prisoner," he also had grown to become quite comfortable and happy there. After being rescued by a British privateer, Selkirk became rich by looting a mother lode of Spanish riches, and then returned to England before enlisting in the Royal Navy and



eventually dying of jungle fever in Africa. Kraske gives vivid descriptions of Selkirk's days on the island and aboard the ship, including details of the violent, bloody, pirating that went on in the early eighteenth century.



Larson, Erik **Isaac's Storm**

Based on weatherman Isaac Cline's letters, telegrams, and reports, this novel examines the events surrounding the worst hurricane in American history and the human arrogance that failed to recognize it.

Lobel, Anita **No Pretty Pictures**

The author, known as an illustrator of children's books, describes her experiences as a Polish Jew during World War II and for years in Sweden afterwards.



Mah, Adeline Yen **Chinese Cinderella**

After Adeline Yen Mah's mother dies giving birth to her, the little girl is considered bad luck and faces a life of ridicule and despair, although her family is wealthy. Discover how the author returned to her roots and faced a painful childhood in a real-life Cinderella story.

McBride, James **The Color of Water**

Around the narrative of Ruth McBride Jordan, a.k.a. Rachel Deborah Shilsky, the daughter of an angry, failed Orthodox





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Jewish rabbi in the South, her son James writes of the inner confusions he felt as a black child of a white mother and of the love and faith with which his mother surrounded their large family.

Mortenson, Greg **Three Cups of Tea**

Greg Mortenson recounts the experiences he had while trying to help impoverished villages in Pakistan's Karakoram Himalaya build schools for their children. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2009).



Nelson, Pete **Left for Dead**

Recalls the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis at the end of World War II, the navy cover-up and unfair court martial of the ship's captain, and how a young boy helped the survivors set the record straight fifty-five years later.



Opdyke, Irene and Jennifer Arms **In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer**

Recounts the experiences of the author who, as a young Polish girl, hid and saved Jews during the Holocaust.

Paulsen, Gary **The Beet Fields**

The author recalls his experiences as a migrant laborer and carnival worker after he ran away from home at age sixteen.



Pfetzer, Mark **Within Reach: My Everest Story**

The author describes his teenage years climbing mountains all over the world with emphasis on his two expeditions up Mount Everest.

Rhodes-Courter, Ashley **Three Little Words: A Memoir**

Ashley spent nine years in foster care after being taken away from her mother. She endured many caseworkers, moving from school to school and manipulative, humiliating and abusive treatment from one foster family. See how she survives and eventually thrives against the odds. (Summary from Hennepin County, Sept. 2008)



Rodriguez, Deborah **Kabul Beauty School: An American Woman Goes behind the Veil**

Hairdresser Deborah Rodriguez details her experiences in post-Taliban Afghanistan, discussing the opening of her beauty school and recalls the personal stories of various women who overcame obstacles to obtain an education in cosmetology. (Summary from Destiny Follett, March 2011).

Rosengren, John **Blades of Glory**

In this story of a town's obsession, Rosengren follows a season in the lives of a Minnesota championship high-school hockey team for whom winning is everything.





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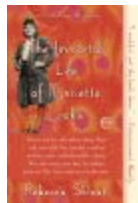


Runyon, Brent **The Burn Journals**

Presents the true story of Brent Runyon, who at fourteen set himself on fire and sustained burns over eighty percent of his body and describes the months of physical and mental rehabilitation that followed as he attempted to pull his life together. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2011).

Skloot, Rebecca **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks**

Examines the experiences of the children and husband of Henrietta Lacks, who, twenty years after her death from cervical cancer in 1951, learned doctors and researchers took cells from her cervix without consent which were used to create the immortal cell line known as the HeLa cell; provides an overview of Henrietta's life; and explores issues of experimentation on African-Americans and bioethics. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2011).



Ung, Loung **First They Killed My Father.**

From a childhood survivor of Cambodia's brutal Pol Pot regime comes an unforgettable narrative of war crimes and desperate actions, the unnerving strength of a small girl and her family, and their triumph of spirit.

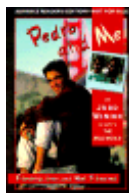


Walls, Jeanette **The Glass Castle : a memoir**

The author recalls her life growing up in a dysfunctional family with an alcohol father and distant mother and describes how she and her siblings had to fend for themselves until they finally found the resources and will to leave home. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2009).

Wiesel, Elie **Night**

A terrifying account of the Nazi death camp horror that turns a young Jewish boy into an agonized witness to the death of his family, the death of his innocence and the death of his God. (Summary from Hennepin County Library, 2006)



Winick, Judd **Pedro and Me**

In graphic art format, describes the friendship between two roommates on the MTV show "Real World," one of whom died of AIDS.

Woodson, Jacqueline **Locomotion**

In a series of poems, 11-year-old Lonnie writes about his life—after the death of his parents, separation from his younger sister and living in a foster home.

