Chef's Kiss (Graphic Novel)
Jarrett Melendez, 2022
When Ben begins developing a crush on Liam, one of the super dreamy chefs at the restaurant, and he starts ditching his college friends and his career path starts to become less clear. (S)

The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen
Isaac Blum, 2022
Hoodie meets and falls for Anna-Marie, the daughter of the obstinate mayor trying to keep Hoodie’s Orthodox Jewish community out of the town. Things only get more complicated by a series of antisemitic crimes. As his community turns on him for siding with the enemy, Hoodie finds himself caught between his first love and the only world he’s ever known. (J, S)

Messy Roots (Graphic Memoir)
Laura Gao, 2022
After spending her early years in Wuhan, China, riding water buffalos and devouring stinky tofu, Laura immigrates to Texas, where her hometown is as foreign as Mars—at least until 2020, when COVID-19 makes Wuhan a household name. (J, S)

The Sunbearer Trials
Aiden Thomas, 2022
As each new decade begins, 10 of the most worthy semidioses are selected to compete in the Sunbearer Trials. Teo, a jade semidiós and the trans son of the goddess of birds, is determined to get himself and his friends through the trials unscathed—for fame, glory, and survival. (J, S)

This Rebel Heart
Katherine Locke, 2022
In post-WWII Budapest, Csilla must navigate her complicated feelings toward her Hungarian home, where magic lives alongside horror. (J, S)

These titles have been selected by a committee of Teen Services Librarians in Monroe County (NY). Selections were based upon the excellent quality of the writing, as well as popular appeal. These and other fine books for teenagers are available through your local library. Blurbs adapted from publisher marketing.

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Each title includes an age level indicator: (M=middle school, J=junior high, and S=senior high). Some of these books are also available as eBooks and eAudiobooks. To download them to your device, visit libraryweb.overdrive.com.

Family of Liars
E. Lockhart, 2022
In this prequel to We Were Liars, Carrie Sinclair tells the ghost of her son Johnny about the summer of 1987, when “the boys” arrive on Beechwood island, setting off events that will haunt her for years to come. (J, S)

I Must Betray You
Ruta Sepetys, 2022
In a country governed by isolation and fear, Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer. He’s left with two choices: betray everyone and everything he loves—or use his position to undermine the most notoriously evil dictator in Eastern Europe. (J, S)

What’s Coming to Me
Francesca Padilla, 2022
Minerva Gutiérrez plans revenge on her predatory boss, while navigating grief, anger, and the possibilities of escape from her dead-end town in this riveting ice cream shop noir. (S)

Coven (Graphic Novel)
Jennifer Dugan, 2022
After members of her coven are murdered, sixteen-year-old Esmy moves across the country with her parents to master her neglected craft in order to find the killer and protect her coven. (J, S)

Highly Suspicious and Unfairly Cute
Talia Hibbert 2023
Forced to work as a team for the chance to win a survival course competition, Celine and Brad must trudge through not just mud and dirt but their messy past. (J, S)

Ride On (Graphic Novel)
Faith Erin Hicks, 2022
Twelve-year-old Victoria, burned out from the high-pressure world of riding competitions, tries to rekindle her love of horses. (M)

Punching Bag
Rex Ogle, 2022
Rex describes his real-life struggle to survive a childhood defined by poverty and punctuated by outbreaks of domestic abuse. Rex reflects on his complex relationship with his mother, charts the trajectory of his stepdad’s anger, and recalls cycles of violence, blame, and attempts at forgiveness. (J, S)

Blue Period (Manga)
Tsubasa Yamaguchi, 2020-
Yatora wanders into the art room one day, and a lone painting captures his eye. Compelled and consumed, he dives in headfirst. He’s about to learn how savage and unforgiving art can be... (J, S)

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