# <u>commended</u>







#### Neanderthal Opens the Door to the Universe by Preston Norton YA FIC NORTON

Cliff Hubbard is a huge loser. Literally. His nickname is Neanderthal because he's so enormous — 6'6" and 250 pounds to be exact. There's no one Cliff hates more than Aaron Zimmerman, who returns to school after a neardeath experience with a bizarre claim: while unconscious he saw God, who gave him a list of things to do to make Happy Valley High suck less. God said there's only one person who can help: Neanderthal. To his own surprise, Cliff says he's in. The List involves a vindictive English teacher, a mysterious computer hacker, a decidedly unchristian cult of Jesus Teens, the local drug dealers, and the meanest bully at HVHS.





#### Winger by Andrew Smith **YA FIC SMITH**

Ryan Dean West is a fourteen-year-old junior at a boarding school. He's living in the dorm for troublemakers, and rooming with the biggest bully on the rugby team. And he's madly in love with his best friend Annie. With the help of his sense of humor, friends, and his comics, Ryan Dean manages to survive life's complications and even find some happiness along the way. But when the unthinkable happens, he has to figure out how to hold on to what's important when it feels like everything has fallen apart.









#### My Lady Jane by Cynthia Hand **YA FIC HAND**

Edward is the King of England. He's also dying, which is inconvenient, as he's only sixteen and he'd rather be planning his first kiss than who will inherit his crown. Jane is Edward's cousin. Unfortunately for Jane, Edward has arranged to marry her off to secure the line of succession. But there's something a little odd about her intended, Gifford (call him G). G is a horse. Every day at dawn he becomes a noble chestnut steed-but then he wakes at dusk with a mouthful of hay. With the fate of the kingdom at stake, can they pull off their plan before it's off with their











#### **An Abundance of Katherines** by John Green **YA FIC GREEN**

When it comes to relationships, Colin Singleton's type is girls named Katherine. And when it comes to girls named Katherine, Colin is always getting dumped. On a road trip miles from home, this anagram-happy, washed-up child prodigy has ten thousand dollars in his pocket, a bloodthirsty feral hog on his trail, and an overweight, Judge Judyloving best friend riding shotgun—but no Katherines. Colin is on a mission to prove The Theorem of Underlying Katherine Predictability, which he hopes will predict the future of any relationship, avenge Dumpees everywhere, and finally win him the girl.





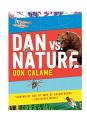




#### **Beauty Queens** by Libba Bray **YA FIC BRAY**

The 50 contestants in the Miss Teen Dream pageant thought it was going to be a fun trip to the beach where they could parade in their state-appropriate costumes and compete in front of the cameras. But sadly, their airplane had another idea, crashing on a deserted island and leaving them stranded with little food, water, and practically no eyeliner. What's a beauty queen to do? Continue to practice for the talent portion of the program - or wrestle snakes to the ground? Get a perfect tan - or learn to run wild? And what should happen when the sexy pirates show up?





#### Dan vs. Nature by Don Calame **YA FIC POWER**

Dan Weekes has two dreams in life: become a famous graphic novelist and to one day ask Erin Reilly out. Dan's mom has just one goal: date every man in California until she finds her Prince Charming. When Dan comes home to find a Hugh Jackman look-alike in his kitchen, his mom drops a bomb: she and Hugh—er, Hank—are engaged, and she's sending her them on a camping trip in the wilds of Idaho to "bond." Together with his best friend, Charlie, Dan launches Operation Torment Crusade—a series of pranks they'll pull on Hank until he breaks like a twig. But the boys didn't count on a hot girl joining their trip or a man-hungry bear stalking their every move. How can Dan possibly scare off Hank when his very survival now depends on him?





### Whatshistage by Gordon Korman YT FIC KORMAN

When 12-year-old Cooper Vega moves for the third time in five years, he receives a state-of-the-art smartphone to help him stay in touch with old friends. He's had phones before, but this one is buggy and unpredictable. When a boy named Roderick Northrop communicates with him through the phone, Cooper realizes that his phone isn't buggy at all; the thing is haunted!





#### Have a Little Faith in Me by Sonia Hartl YA FIC HARTL

When CeCe's born-again boyfriend dumps her after they have sex, she follows him to Jesus camp in order to win him back. Problem: She knows nothing about Jesus. But her best friend Paul does. He accompanies CeCe to camp, and the plan—God's or CeCe's—goes awry when her ex shows up with a new girlfriend, a True Believer at that. Scrambling to save face, CeCe ropes Paul into faking a relationship. But as deceptions stack up, she questions whether her ex is really the nice guy he seemed. And what about her strange new feelings for Paul—is this love, lust, or an illusion born of heartbreak?





### Grasshopper Jungle by Andrew Smith YA FIC SMITH

Austin Szerba and his best friend, Robby, brought about the end of humanity and the rise of an army of unstoppable, six-foot tall praying mantises in small-town lowa. To make matters worse, Austin's hormones are totally oblivious; they don't care that the world is in utter chaos: Austin is in love with his girlfriend, Shann, but is confused about his sexual orientation. He's stewing in a self-professed constant state of maximum horniness, directed at both Robby and Shann. Ultimately, it's up to Austin to save the world.







# **Heretics Anonymous** by Katie Henry YA FIC HENRY

Michael needs a friend, and when a girl challenges their teacher in class at his new Catholic School, Michael thinks he might have found one. Lucy introduces Michael to other St. Clare's outcasts, and he joins Heretics Anonymous, where he can be an atheist, Lucy can be an outspoken feminist, Avi can be Jewish and gay, Max can wear whatever he wants, and Eden can practice paganism. Michael encourages the Heretics to go from secret society to rebels intent on exposing the school's hypocrisies one stunt at a time. But when Michael takes one mission too far he must decide whether to fight for his own freedom or rely on faith, whatever that means, in God, his friends, or himself.







#### Angus, Thongs, and Full-Frontal Snogging by Louise Rennison YA FIC RENNISON

Follow fourteen-year-old Georgia as she stumbles through life trying to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighborhood animals, and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie.



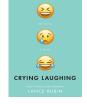


#### My Life Uploaded by Rae Earl

Millie Porter is sensible, and that's why she starts an advice vlog. It's the perfect way for her to feel like she's making a difference and catch the eye of the super-cute new boy in school. Putting herself out there has some serious drawbacks for Millie, including a social media war with the schools Instagram queen. As Millie becomes more and more caught up with her online persona, her role as a good friend and daughter falls by the wayside. Can Millie learn to balance friendship, high school, family drama, dating, and her online life?







### Crying Laughing by Lance Rubin YA FIC RUBIN

After bombing a stand-up set at her own bat mitzvah, Winnie has kept her jokes to herself. Then, on the second day of tenth grade, the funniest guy in school actually laughs at a comment she makes and asks her to join the improv troupe. Just when Winnie's ready to say yes to comedy again, her father reveals that he's been diagnosed with ALS. That is . . . not funny. Caught up in a spiral of epically bad dates, bad news, and bad performances, Winnie's struggling to see the humor in it all. But finding a way to laugh is exactly what will see her through.





### The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora by Pablo Cartaya YT FIC CARTAYA

When his family's restaurant and Cuban American neighborhood in Miami are threatened by a greedy land developer, thirteen-year-old Arturo, joined by Carmen, a cute poetry enthusiast, fight back, discovering the power of poetry and protest through untold family stories and the work of José Martí.





### The Field Guide to the North American Teenager by Ben Philippe YA FIC PHILIPPE

Norris Kaplan is clever, cynical, and quite possibly too smart for his own good. Making a ton of friends has never been a priority for him, yet against all odds, cliché labels at his new school in Austin, Texas, soon become actual people to Norris. Be it loner Liam, who makes it his mission to befriend Norris, or Madison the beta cheerleader, who is so nice that it has to be a trap. Not to mention Aarti the Manic Pixie Dream Girl, who might, in fact, be a real love interest in the making. But the night of the prom, Norris screws everything up royally. As he tries to pick up the pieces, he realizes it might be time to stop hiding behind his snarky opinions and start living his life.









# **The Princess Diaries** by Meg Cabo YT FIC CABOT

Mia Thermopolis is pretty sure there's nothing worse than being a five-foot-nine, flat-chested freshman, who also happens to be flunking Algebra. Is she ever in for a surprise. First mom announces that she's dating Mia's Algebra teacher. Then Dad has to go and reveal that he is the crown prince of Genovia. And guess who still doesn't have a date for the Cultural Diversity Dance?







# Hold Me Closer, Necromancer by Lish McBride YA FIC MCBRIDE

Sam leads a pretty normal life, and he's doing all right—until a fast food prank brings him to the attention of Douglas, a creepy guy with an intense violent streak. Turns out, Douglas is a necromancer who raises the dead for cash and sees potential in Sam. Then Sam discovers he's a necromancer too. And his worst nightmare wants to join forces . . . or else. With only a week to figure things out, Sam needs all the help he can get.







### Ronan Boyle and the Bridge of Riddles by Thomas Lennon YT FIC LENNON

Fourteen-year-old Ronan Boyle is the youngest and lowliest recruit to the secret Garda, an Irish police force that handles the misdeeds of numerous magical creatures. Ronan's parents are in jail, but Ronan is convinced that they were framed by the wee people. So, despite his small size, poor eyesight, and social awkwardness, he's determined to learn all he can in the Garda in order to prove his parents' innocence. To show he's got what it takes, he'll have to confront a fiery leprechaun, a sinister harpy, and a whole world of monsters hidden in plain sight next to real-life Ireland.







### **Strange Planet** by Nathan Pyle YA GRAPHIC NOVEL PYLE

An adorable and profound universe in pink, blue, green, and purple. Based on the phenomenally popular Instagram of the same name, Strange Planet covers a full life cycle of the planet's inhabitants, including milestones such as: The Emergence Day, Being Gains a Sibling, The Being Family Attains a Beast, The Formal Education of a Being, Celebration of Special Days, Being Begins a Vocation, The Beings at Home, Health Status of a Being, The Hobbies of a Being, The Extended Family of the Being, and The Being Reflects on Life While Watching the Planet Rotate







#### The New Guy (and Other Senior Year Distractions) by Amy Spalding YA FIC SPALDING

What's the only thing that could derail overachiever Jules's perfect senior year? Alex Powell—former member of a boy-band, and newest transfer to Eagle Vista Academy. Alex seems cool enough when he starts spending time with Jules. In fact, he turns out to be quite the romantic. And after getting over the initial shock that someone like Alex might actually like like her, Jules accepts that having a boyfriend could be a nice addition to her packed schedule. That is, until Alex commits the ultimate betrayal, which threatens to ruin her high school career, and possibly her entire future.