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New Book Reviews for Kids

New Book Reviews

Reading Level:
BabiesPreschoolersKindergarteners1st Grade2nd Grade3rd Grade4th Grade5th Grade6th Grade7th Grade8th GradeHigh SchoolersAdults

Genre:
AdventureAnimals--RealAnimals--TalkingAward WinnersBiographiesBooks for BoysBooks for GirlsChick LitCrime and PunishmentDon't Miss TheseDystopiasFamilyFantasyFolktalesFriends Historical FictionThe HolocaustHorrorHumorIn Other LandsLGBTMisfitsMysteriesMythological Non-FictionNon-ProsePhoneticRead-AlikesRead-AloudsRealistic FictionRebusRelationships SchoolScience FictionSelf ImageShort StoriesSocial IssuesSpiesSportsSupernaturalSurvival Time TravelVampiresWerewolves

Collection:
J FictionJ Graphic NovelsJ Non-FictionJ SeriesJP FictionJP Non-FictionJP SeriesJY Fiction JY Graphic NovelsJY Non-FictionPicture BooksSpanish Picturebook

Reviewer:
CHDJEFHGJLLWPCRRSHSJSThe Gerbils

The Gardener

by S.A. Bodeen

Reading Level: Grades 7-10

High school sophomore Mason has a fairly normal life, if you discount the ugly scar marring half of his hulky face; if you discount the disappearance of his father and his mother's drinking habit and tendency to require Mason to be *her* parent and not vice versa.

When Mason discovers that the Haven of Peace, the rehabilitation center his mom works at is

not just for the elderly, but for brain damaged teens whose parents have given up on them in favor of experimentation on them, his life is turned upside down.

After accidentally reviving one of the teens and rescuing her from the Haven of Peace, Mason finds himself on the run from TroDyn, a bioengineering firm responsible for experimentation on the girl.

Check availability of this book

More books by S.A. Bodeen

Other tales of morally gray experiments on children:

The Wave by Todd Strasser

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation Volume 1: The Pox Party by M.T. Anderson

The Angel Experiment by James Patterson

The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Adventure, Dystopias, Family, Misfits, Read-Alikes, Relationships, Science Fiction, Self Image Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

Gorgeous

by Rachel Vail

Reading Level: Grades 7-9

14-year-old Allison feels like the boring filling in a beauty sandwich. Her blonde, perfect, talented older sister can do no wrong while in their parents eyes and Allison's younger sister is everybody's darling. Allison only gets her parents' attention when she is in trouble (which usually isn't her fault).

One day Allison mutters, "I would give anything to be somebody." That night the devil arrives in her bedroom to seal the bargain but instead of her soul, all he wants is her cell phone. Gorgeous for a cell phone? Who wouldn't take that deal?

Check availability of this book

More books by Rachel Vail

Other tales of Faustian bargains include:

Devilish by Maureen Johnson

On the Devil's Court by Carl Deuker and

The Wager by Donna Jo Napoli

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Books for Girls, Family, Fantasy, Friends, Humor, Self Image, Supernatural Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

iDrakula

by Bekka Black

Reading Level: Grades 8+

IM conversation between **YthDeptRviwr** and **need4books**
4/4/11, 7:59pm-8:05pm

YthDeptRviwr: u kno the story of dracula rite?
need4books: uh, yea? y?
YthDeptRviwr: just read this book that retells it if it happened today
need4books: sounds interesting
YthDeptRviwr: the best part is its like told through the ifone
need4books: what?
YthDeptRviwr: yea its all texts and emails and screenshots of browser pages and stuff
need4books: sounds interesting
YthDeptRviwr: very. wanna borrow it?
need4books: k
YthDeptRviwr: heres a link 2 it

More books by Bekka Black

Reading Level: 8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Fantasy, Horror, Non-Prose, Relationships, Supernatural, Vampires Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

Trapped

by Michael Northrop

Reading Level: Grades 7+

When school closes early because of a snowstorm, Scotty?s first reaction is anger, that his basketball game is canceled. His anger soon abates when his best friends Jason and Pete smooth-talk their way into the shop to work on a go-kart until rides arrive. Soon the only people left in the school are Scotty, Jason, Pete, two freshman girls, a weird kid named Elijah, a thug named Les, and the teacher responsible for waiting until everyone?s ride came. The snow keeps falling, unrelenting, and it dawns on the group that no one is coming. When the lights of a snowplow appear faintly in the distance, Mr Gossell, history teacher / assistant football coach, plunges out into the storm looking for help.

He never makes it back.

Soon, the power is out and the seven students realize they?re going to be stuck at school for a while; but no one knows they?re there.

Trapped is a literally chilling survival story of friendship in dire straits.

Check availability of this book

More books by Michael Northrop

Some read-alikes:

The Killing Sea by Richard Lewis
Snow Bound by Harry Mazer
Blizzard! the Storm that Changed America by Jim Murphy
Life as We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer
The Dead and The Gone by Susan Beth Pfeffer
Revolver by Marcus Sedgwick
The Trap by John Smelcer

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Adventure, Books for Boys, Don't Miss These, Friends, Misfits, Read-Alikes, Realistic Fiction, Relationships, School, Social Issues Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

Black Radishes

by Susan Lynn Meyer Location: J Fiction

Reviewer:
SJS

The Twin's Daughter

by Lauren Baratz-Logsted

Reading Level: Grades 7+

When the doorbell rings one day at the Sexton household, thirteen year old Lucy answers it herself, grumbling that her household servants never do much around the house. Standing on the doorstep is her mother, dirty, disheveled, and looking wholly not herself. But the woman is **not** her mother.

It seems that Lucy?s mother has a twin sister who, after being separated from both her parents and her sibling at birth, was sent to an orphanage and then a workhouse. Her whole life, Helen Smythe never knew she was meant to be a society woman, living in rich luxury and with an identical twin sister.

Aunt Helen is quickly adopted into the Sexton household, and lessons begin to change her into the woman she was meant to be. Despite her lack of any formal education, Helen learns very quickly and soon is deemed ready to be presented to Society by Lucy?s parents.

After Aunt Helen?s arrival into Society, life begins to change very much for young Lucy. With her aunt an official member of the household, Lucy is no longer allowed to think of her as a younger sister who needs to be shown the simplest things, or a schoolmate. Still, their relationship is much more open than Lucy?s with her mother, and Lucy is pleased for her aunt?s presence in the Sexton household.

A rousing New Year?s Eve party brings Lucy further into adulthood as she receives her first kiss from the boy next door, Kit, and on New Year?s Day the budding couple goes for a cold stroll in the park. When Lucy arrives home, her house is uncharacteristically silent and she immediately knows something is wrong. Making her way from room to room calling for her parents and aunt, Lucy becomes more and more worried about the silence in the house. When she opens the door to the back parlor, all she sees at first is red.

Mother and Aunt Helen sit in straight-backed chairs, tightly bound to each other. One of their throats is cut.

Lucy?s mother raises her head and looks, terrified and confused, into her daughter?s eyes, and nothing is ever the same again.

Check availability of this book

More books by Lauren Baratz-Logsted

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers,Adults Subjects: Don't Miss These, Family , Friends, Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Realistic Fiction, Relationships

Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

The Running Dream

by Wendlin Van Draanen

Reading Level: Grades 7-9

16-year-old Jessica was a gifted runner on course to win a track scholarship to a prestigious university. That was before the truck hit the team bus. One girl is killed and Jessica loses her lower right leg. Jessica sometimes wishes she had been killed in the accident since it seems she has very little left to live for.

Check availability of this book

More books by Wendelin Van Draanen

Other tales of young amputees include:

Stranded by Ben Mikaelsen

One-Handed Catch by Mary Jane Auch and

Izzy Willy-Nilly by Cynthia Voigt

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Books for Girls, Family, Friends , Realistic Fiction, Sports Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

Hold Me Closer, Necromancer

by Lish McBride

Reading Level: Grades 8 and up

It all started when Sam broke a taillight during a game of parking lot potato hockey. Sam and Brooke did what most teenagers would do..they ran. When Douglas Montgomery stormed into Plumpy's, his only thoughts were of his broken taillight and retribution. When he noticed Sam his fury raged. How dare a young necromancer infringe on his territory?

Sam doesn't know what the scary dude is talking about. He's just relieved when the guy finally leaves. It isn't over. When Sam is viciously attacked after work by an even bigger scary guy, he

knows he's in trouble. Sam begins to realize how much trouble after he receives a warning from Montgomery...a severed head.

Check availability of this book

More books by Lish McBride

Other tales of dangerous powers include:

The Awakening by Kelley Armstrong

Gifts by Ursula Le Guin and

Assassin's Apprentice by Susan Vaught

Reading Level: 8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Adventure, Books for Boys, Fantasy, Horror, Humor, Supernatural, Werewolves Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

A Small Free Kiss in the Dark

by Glenda Millard

Reading Level: Grades 7+

When you?re a homeless eleven year-old named Skip, there isn?t anywhere for you to go, because all the shelters are either for women with children, or for men, which you aren?t. When you?re homeless, a runaway, you never sleep in the same place twice, otherwise someone might be able to figure out where you are and take you back to where you ran away from.

Skip is asleep in a Dumpster when the bombs begin to fall. He wakes up violently, ears ringing, dust and garbage in his mouth, chunks of concrete raining down on top of his exhausted body, Dumpster rolling from the concussion of the blast. Skip doesn?t know which way is up, but he crawls out of the Dumpster and runs. Skip runs and runs, looking for someone or something familiar, and then he sees the grizzled face of his friend Billy.

In the days after the war begins, Billy and Skip rattle around the broken city, searching for food, for shelter. One day, they find a six year-old boy named Max who has lost his mother. Another day, they follow the train tracks out of the city to Dreamland, an abandoned amusement park that becomes their home. As soldiers begin to move in, Skip, Billy and Max find it harder to hide themselves, especially with the addition of the dancing teenage mother Tia and her infant daughter Sixpence to their ragtag gang.

It is Billy?s knowledge, Max?s unfettered optimism and hope, Skip?s determination, Tia?s beauty, and Sixpence?s innocence that brings them together. In A Small Free Kiss in the Dark,

Glenda Millard has created a fragile world with delicate characters; a world that, as you read into it more, unconsciously pulls your blanket tighter around you and curls your legs up close to your body. This book is not one to read lightly, nor is it one to miss.

Check availability of this book

More books by Glenda Millard

A few read-alikes:
Smack by Melvin Burgess
Tomorrow, When the War Began by John Marsden
The Girl Who Owned a City by O.T. Nelson
Z for Zachariah by Robert C. O'Brien
No and Me by Delphine de Vigan

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers,Adults Subjects: Adventure, Don't Miss These, Dystopias, Friends, Misfits, Read-Alikes, Realistic Fiction, Social Issues Location:
JY Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

Four Seasons (A Novel In Four Movements)

by Jane Breskin Zalben

Reading Level: Grades 6-8

Allegra Katz is going to be a concert pianist. Her family of musicians has know that since she was four. Ally has been attending the Julliard School's Saturday Pre-College Division music program for years. Now Ally is almost thirteen and she longs for a life with more choices. Allegra doesn't know what she wants or even how to tell her parents she is having doubts about her future. If you are born with a tremendous gift MUST you choose it as your life's path?

Check availability of this book

More books by Jane Breskin Zalben

Other stories of young musicians include:

Shattered by Kathi Baron The Mozart Season by Virginia Euwer Wolff and Guitar Boy by Mary Jane Auch

Reading Level: 6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade Subjects: Books for Girls, Family, Friends, Realistic Fiction Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

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