from the teen services department

# hot picks

check out for teens these hot new titles for teens!







By Alan Gratz (YA F Grat)

59 pages 2025 Historical Fiction

On the eve of D-Day, Samira is in France, desperately trying to make her way to the city of Bayeux. She and her mother are part of the French Resistance during World War II, but Samira's mother was captured by the Nazis and taken to Bayeux, where she will be shot with other prisoners at dawn. Samira's only hope is for the promised invasion by the Allies to come through and help her rescue her mother before it's too late. But it seems like all the soldiers she comes across have their own orders, and they don't include traveling to Bayeux. Will Samira reach her mother in time to save her? A companion story to Alan Gratz's novel Allies. (Grades 6 & up)



### ON GUARD!: A MARSHALL MIDDLE SCHOOL GRAPHIC NOVEL

By Cassidy Wasserman (YA GN F MARSHALL MIDDLE SCHOOL)

249 pages 2025 Graphic Novel

Struggling through seventh grade after a best friend breakup and her parents' messy divorce, Grace feels completely alone. She finds herself drawn to her middle school's fencing club, which offers an escape from her complicated home life and social troubles. As she learns to fence, she also navigates new friendships and deals with her tricky relationship with her self-absorbed mom. The story follows Grace's journey to find her footing, discovering that fencing helps her gain confidence and find where she truly belongs. (Grades 6 & up)



#### WHAT THE WOODS TOOK

By Courtney Gould (YA F Goul) 323 pages 2024 Horror

Devin awakens in the middle of the night while being pulled from her bed. At first, she is alarmed, but soon learns that her foster parents have shipped her off to a wilderness therapy camp. Devin tries to escape, but their nature trek soon turns into a struggle for survival when the counselors disappear and strange things start to occur. The teens must work together to get out of the woods quickly, before whatever sinister thing in the woods gets them. (Grades 7 & up)



## **UKRAINE: REMEMBER ALSO ME, TESTIMONIES FROM THE WAR**

By George Butler (YA 947.708609 Butl)

163 pages 2024 Nonfiction

British journalist and artist George Butler traveled to Ukraine after the Russian invasion to capture the real stories of ordinary people—from a 7-year-old boy to a 99-year-old woman. Through stunning illustrations and their own words, he reveals the raw humanity behind the headlines: heartbreak, hope, and moments of joy that persist even in darkness. These intimate portraits remind us that war affects real people with real dreams and that we're all connected by our shared need for peace and belonging. (Grades 6 & up)



## OF MICE AND MEN

By John Steinbeck (F Stei)

105 pages 1937 Classic

In the book *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck addresses a devastating but compelling story of two men striving to achieve the American Dream. Throughout this time, thousands of migrant workers and farmers were driven by dust storms and drought, so they journeyed to California to find suitable working conditions. The themes of male fraternity, companionship, loneliness, prejudice, and the impossibility of the American Dream are all portrayed in this short but intriguing novella. Reviewed by TAB member Chisom N. (Grades 9 & up)