

from the teen services department

# hot picks for teens april 2025

check out  
these hot new  
titles for teens!



## SO WITCHES WE BECAME

By Jill Baguchinsky (YA F Bagu)

361 pages 2024 Horror

Nell has been followed by a dark shadow in her sleep for as long as she can remember. But the shadow has recently appeared in her waking hours as well. She hopes to leave the shadow behind when she sets off on her senior year spring break trip to Florida with her friends. However, the private island they are staying on has a tragic past that has cursed everyone from leaving. And Nell isn't the only friend on the island hiding a secret that might be affecting the curse. Will Nell and her friends find a way to cure the curse on the island and reveal to each other the secrets plaguing them? Read this haunting tale to find out. (Grades 8 & up)



## ALL THE BLUES IN THE SKY

By Renée Watson (YA F Wats)

182 pages 2025 Realistic Fiction

Sage's world gets turned upside-down on her 13th birthday when her best friend is killed by a drunk driver. Struggling to process her grief, she joins a support group made up of other teens who have also suffered a loss. But she can't seem to shake the feeling that she was the cause of her friend's death and feels guilty when she starts to find joy in other areas of her life. Written in verse, this is a moving story about the different ways people process grief and how to move past a tragedy. (Grades 6 & up)



## HALFWAY THERE: A GRAPHIC MEMOIR OF SELF-DISCOVERY

By Christine Mari (YA F MARI)

297 pages 2024 Biography

This graphic memoir by Christine Mari depicts her experiences growing up as a biracial Japanese American. Mari retells her experiences of feeling isolated and out of place during her time abroad in Tokyo, Japan as a young adult. The experience forces her to analyze her identity and take a closer look at her cultural background as she struggles to find her place in the world. This heartfelt and emotional story by Christine Mari allows readers to better understand the struggle and experience of growing up biracial. (Grades 7 & up)



## DREAMOVER

By Dani Diaz (YA DREAMOVER)

308 pages 2025 Graphic Novel

Amber and Nico are best friends and now are dating. But beginning high school is tough. They find solace in their relationship, even if they end up neglecting their other friends. Wishing they could just escape it all, Amber and Nico fall asleep in front of the TV one night. Things get weird when they share a wonderful dream. But as the dream progresses, real life bleeds in. Will life be the same when they wake up? (Grades 7 & up)



## FRANKENSTEIN, OR, THE MODERN PROMETHEUS

By Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (F Shel)

273 pages 2007 Classic Fiction

*Frankenstein* is a haunting tale of a man and his own creation. The story is set in the beautiful, snowy landscapes of the Swiss mountains—perfect for anyone seeking a winter escape. *Frankenstein* is ideal for readers who enjoy grappling with the dark psychological complexities of a mastermind and his scientific project. For those who only know "Frankenstein" as the tall, green monster brought to life in a dark laboratory, I encourage them to read the novel and experience what Mary Shelley truly wanted readers to understand. I immensely enjoyed the twists and turns the story had to offer and still find myself contemplating its underlying philosophical themes. *Frankenstein* offers much and can resonate with many readers for a variety of reasons. Whether you find yourself relating more to the nameless Creature or Victor Frankenstein, the book will stay with you for a lifetime. I highly encourage potential readers to do some research on Mary Shelley, as it will deepen your appreciation for her remarkable prose. Reviewed by TAB member Lorelei G. (Grades 9 & up)



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