

from the teen services department

# hot picks

check out these hot new titles for teens!

## for teens

### april 2024



Centerville Library  
111 W. Spring Valley Road  
Centerville, OH 45458  
(937) 433-8091  
Woodbourne Library  
6060 Far Hills Avenue  
Centerville, OH 45459  
(937) 435-3700  
<https://teens.wclibrary.info>



## A QUANTUM LIFE: MY UNLIKELY JOURNEY FROM THE STREET TO THE STARS

By Hakeem M. Oluseyi (YA B OLUSEYI)

333 pages 2023 Nonfiction

This young adult adaptation of the adult book by the same name tells the story of James Plummer, who grew up in poverty but eventually finds his place among the stars in physics. Although he was poor and moved from place to place, he managed to carve out time to foster his love of learning, especially science. His life could have turned out much differently; what starts out as him dealing weed grows into a crack cocaine habit, but support from a teacher helps him discover his true calling. When he changes his name to Hakeem Oluseyi in honor of his African heritage, he finally feels like he's in the place he belongs. A good read about overcoming obstacles and persevering, no matter what is thrown at you. (Grades 10 & up)

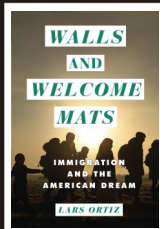


## WRATH BECOMES HER

By Aden Polydoros (YA F POLY)

331 pages 2023 Horror Fiction

Chaya was murdered by Nazi soldiers at 17. Her father seeks vengeance for this injustice and creates a golem in her image (using some of her body parts). Vera is given life with the goal of destruction. Vera has Chaya's memories, but her own emotions. Does she feel for others, or are those emotions only for humans? (Grades 9 & up)



## WALLS AND WELCOME MATS: IMMIGRATION AND THE AMERICAN DREAM

By Lars Ortiz (YA 304.8 Orti)

120 pages 2023 Nonfiction

Lars Ortiz does an excellent job explaining the modern American immigration system as well as how immigration has shaped this nation's history. Many young readers will be able to identify with one of the migration waves profiled and see what drove their ancestors to America. This informative text is a timely work for any teen curious about this topic. (Grades 7 & up)



## HEROES

By Alan Gratz (YA F GRAT)

219 pages 2024 Historical Fiction

It's 1941 and the Second World War is raging across Europe and Asia. But with the U.S. having steered clear of entering the war, two 13-year-old friends, Frank and Stanley, are peacefully reading comic books and dreaming up the next great superhero on Ford Island, a naval base at Pearl Harbor where their pilot dads are stationed. On December 7, the boys get the chance to take a tour of the decommissioned battleship the USS Utah, but the calm day that they thought they were going to have quickly turned into mayhem when the Japanese military unexpectedly attacked Pearl Harbor. Will the boys be able to escape the horrific assault and make it back home safely? Read this harrowing story to find out! (Grades 6 & up)



## STARS AND SMOKE

By Marie Lu (YA F LU)

328 pages 2023 Adventure Fiction

Stars and Smoke is a captivating novel that plunges readers into a world of political intrigue and revolution. Lu's intricate world-building draws readers into the heart of the story, where every twist and turn keeps readers at the edge of the seat. This spy fiction thriller is a must read for fans of spy stories. Reviewed by TAB member Naveen G. (Grades 9 & up)