



2022 BCALA Best of the Best Booklist

9th through 12th Grade

The Chosen One

by Echo Brown

In mesmerizing personal narrative and magical realism, Echo Brown confronts mental illness, grief, racism, love, friendship, ambition, self-worth, and belonging as they steer the fates of first-generation college students on Dartmouth's campus. *The Chosen One* is an unforgettable coming-of-age story that bravely unpacks the double-edged college transition—as both catalyst for old wounds and a fresh start.

Vinyl Moon

by Mahogany L. Browne

A teen girl hiding the scars of a past relationship finds home and healing in the words of strong Black writers. A beautiful sophomore novel from a critically acclaimed author and poet that explores how words have the power to shape and uplift our world even in the midst of pain.

Love Times Infinity

by Lane Clark

Lane Clark explores trauma from a very real perspective as her debut writing of *Love Times Infinity* tackles hard truths through mirthful language.

The Movement Made Us

by David Dennis Jr.

The Movement Made Us is a unique work of oral history and memoir, chronicling the extraordinary story of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. David J. Dennis Sr., a core architect of the Movement, speaks out for the first time, swapping recollections both harrowing and joyful with his son, David Jr., a journalist.

Bloodmarked

by Tracy Deonn

In the sequel to *Legendborn*, the ancient war between demons and the Order is rising to a deadly peak, and Nick, the Legendborn boy Bree fell in love with, has been kidnapped. Bree wants to fight, but the Regents who rule the Order won't let her. To them, she is an unknown girl with unheard-of power, and as the living anchor for the spell that preserves the Legendborn cycle, she must be protected. With little other choice, Bree and her friends decide they must go on the run to rescue Nick themselves. But enemies are everywhere, Bree's powers are unpredictable, and she can't escape her growing attraction to Selwyn, the mage sworn to protect Nick. If Bree has any hope of saving herself and the people she loves, she must learn to control her ancestral powers—without losing herself in the process.

Ashes of Gold

by J. Elle

In the conclusion to *Wings of Ebony*, Rue has no memory of how she ended up locked in a basement prison without her magic or her allies. But she's a girl from East Row. And girls from East Row don't give up. But getting free and finding her friends is only half the battle. Rue vows that when she reunites with them, she will find a way to return the magic that the Chancellor has stolen from her father's people. Yet even on Yiyo Peak, Rue is a misfit; with half a foot back in Houston and a heart that is half human, half god, she's not sure she's the right person to lead the fight to reclaim a glorious past.



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Confessions of an Alleged Good Girl

by Joya Goffney

Monique lives a perfect life—a preacher's daughter and the girlfriend of the town's golden boy. But it's not that simple. She's torn between her parents who want the pure virginal daughter, and her boyfriend, Dom, who wants to explore the more intimate side of their relationship. Tired of waiting, her boyfriend breaks up with her, spurring Monique to discover she has a medical condition that makes her far from perfect and she concocts a plan to fix her body and win him back.

The Black Girls Left Standing

by Juliana Goodman

With dreams of becoming an artist and leaving Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beau Willett has some unfinished business: solving the murder of her sister, Katia, by an off-duty cop. Katia's boyfriend, a witness to the murder, has gone missing. Beau sets up a plan to find the boyfriend, and clear her sister's name. The more Beau learns, the more Beau is in danger. What is Beau willing to risk to clear her sister's name?

We Deserve Monuments

by Jas Hammonds

Seventeen-year-old Avery Anderson is convinced her senior year is ruined when she's uprooted from her life in DC and forced into the hostile home of her terminally ill grandmother, Mama Letty. The tension between Avery's mom and Mama Letty makes for a frosty arrival and unearths past drama they refuse to talk about. Every time Avery tries to look deeper, she's turned away, leaving her desperate to learn the secrets that split her family in two.

Break This House

by Candice Iloh

Sixteen-year-old Yaminah Okar manages to leave behind the identity of a traumatized young girl after she moves to Brooklyn with her father. Cutting off ties with her mother's family back home in Obsidian, Michigan, she has crafted a new life with solid friendships and a caring boyfriend. However, that safe existence is knocked off kilter when she learns about the death of her mother from a Facebook message. A series of panic attacks and memories of their traumatic relationship prompt a return to her hometown for a family reunion and memorial.

The Weight of Blood

by Tiffany Jackson

Jackson's latest retells Stephen King's *Carrie* with electric social commentary. Springville, inspired by real towns in the United States that still have segregated proms, has a lot of learning to do. No one knows this better than Madison Washington, a light-skinned biracial girl raised by her White father and passing for White. At least, until a surprise rainy day during gym class exposes her hair's natural texture and her Black ancestry and she's outed against her will. Her White classmates react to her hair, and a video of the incident goes viral. What follows next is the beginning of revenge.



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Whiteout

by Tiffany D. Jackson, Dhonielle Clayton, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, & Nicola Yoon

Several award winning authors join forces to write a love story set against the backdrop of an unimaginable snow storm in Atlanta, GA.

Rising Trouble Maker: A Fear-Fighter Manual for Teens

by Luvvie Ajayi Jones

In this young readers edition of her New York Times bestseller Professional Troublemaker, Luvvie Ajayi Jones uses her honesty and humor to inspire teens to be their bravest, boldest, truest selves, in order to create a world they would be proud to live in.

We Weren't Looking to be Found

by Stephanie Kuehn

Two girls on different paths all leading to destruction meet in a rehabilitation facility and reckon with their personal and family demons to forge better path.

Love Radio

by Ebony LaDelle

Love Radio centers on Black Detroit native Dani who is not interested in dating, charming Prince, also known as DJ LoveJones on the local Michigan radio station, and a heart-stopping challenge: to fall in love in three dates. It's the stuff of classic rom-coms, which LaDelle keenly references throughout the book, while crafting her own modern-day romance.

Required Reading for the Disenfranchised Freshman

by Kristen Lee

As freshman at the prestigious Wooddale University, Savannah Howard comes face-to-face with microaggressions and outright racism. But if she stands up for justice, will she endanger her future?

Augusta Savage: The Shape of a Sculptor's Life

by Marilyn Nelson

Augusta Savage was a gifted sculptor who flourished during the Harlem Renaissance, and became a teacher to an entire generation of African American artists. After being denied an artists' fellowship abroad on the basis of race, Savage worked to advance equal rights in the arts, yet popular history has forgotten her name. Deftly written and brimming with photographs, this is a stunning portrait of an artist who, despite the limitations she faced, was compelled to forge a life through art and creativity.

Briarcliff Prep

by Brianna Peppins

A historically black boarding school tense with conflicts of sibling rivalry, race, and gender, becomes the backdrop to Avielle Lebau's opportunity to find herself. Avielle joins Briarcliff, filled with anticipation of building the family legacy while growing into the young woman she hopes will take the world by storm. Paralyzed by a secret, Avielle must decide whether to preserve her family legacy or reveal a heartwrenching truth that could shake the foundation of her sister relationship.



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We are the Scribes

by Randi Pink

The present begins to blend with the past when daughter of an activist begins receiving letters from enslaved Harriet Jacobs.

Almost There (A Twisted Tale)

by Farrah Rochon

In the 13th installment in the New York Times best-selling series, Tiana accepts an offer that will alter the course of her life in an instant. Soon Tiana finds herself in a new reality where all her deepest desires are realized—she finally gets her restaurant, her friends are safe and sound, and most miraculous of all, her beloved father is still alive. She's got everything she's ever wanted. . . But after a while, her hometown grows increasingly eerie, with new threats cropping up from unlikely places. Navigating through this strange New Orleans, Tiana must work alongside Naveen and Charlotte to set things right—or risk losing everything she holds dear.

You Truly Assumed

by Laila Sabreen

Sabriya has her whole summer planned out in color-coded glory, but those plans go out the window after a terrorist attack near her home. When the terrorist is assumed to be Muslim and Islamophobia grows, Sabriya turns to her online journal for comfort. *You Truly Assumed* was never meant to be anything more than an outlet, but the blog goes viral as fellow Muslim teens around the country flock to it and find solace and a sense of community. Soon two more teens, Zakat and Farah, join Bri to run *You Truly Assumed* and the three quickly form a strong friendship. But as the blog's popularity grows, so do the pushback and hateful comments. When one of them is threatened, the search to find out who is behind it all begins, and their friendship is put to the test when all three must decide whether to shut down the blog and lose what they've worked for...or take a stand and risk everything to make their voices heard.

Turning

by Joy L. Smith

Genie used to fouetté across the stage. Now the only thing she's turning are the wheels to her wheelchair. Genie was the star pupil at her exclusive New York dance school, with a bright future and endless possibilities before her. Now that the future she's spent years building toward has been snatched away, she can't stand to be reminded of it—even if it means isolating herself from her best friends and her mother.

Victory Stand! Raising My Fist for Justice

by Tommie Smith, Dawud Anyabwile, and Derrick Barnes

Tommie Smith's journey from sharecropping in Texas to being involved in human rights and winning an Olympic gold medal in Mexico City in 1968 and the aftermath of that win is captured in this graphic novel.



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Overground Railroad: The Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel in America (Young Adult Adaptation)

by Candace Taylor

Deep and captivating research is explored in this story of how Black had to travel during four decades of the Jim Crow era.

Okoye to the People: A Black Panther Novel

by Ibi Zoboi

Before she became a multifaceted warrior and the confident leader of the Dora Milaje, Okoye was adjusting to her new life and attempting to find her place in Wakanda's royal guard. Initially excited to learn that she will be travelling outside of Wakanda for her very first mission, Okoye is disappointed to discover that her status as a Dora Milaje means nothing to New Yorkers. When she meets teenagers not much younger than herself struggling with the gentrification of their beloved Brooklyn neighborhood, her expectations for the world outside her own quickly fall apart. As she gets to know the young people of Brownsville, Okoye uncovers the plans of a manipulative real-estate mogul pulling all the strings—and how far-reaching those secret plans really are.