HISTORY VS. WOMEN: THE DEFIANT LIVES THAT THEY DON’T WANT YOU TO KNOW
Authors: Anita Sarkeesian & Ebony Adams
Sarkeesian and Adams have put together the incredible achievements of 25 women throughout the centuries. Each section explores the lives of five women from around the world, from the third century to the 21st. Filled with strength, this collection is incredibly inspiring and will instill in teens a take-charge attitude and powerful mind-set.

WE ARE NOT YET EQUAL: UNDERSTANDING OUR RACIAL DIVIDE
Author: Carol Anderson with Tonya Bolden
"It is time to rethink America.” Adapted from Anderson’s bestselling White Rage (2016), this book summons young people to bear witness to the devastatingly expansive strategies white citizens have taken up to preserve the racialized violence that emerged from the founding of the nation. Anderson writes in an accessible narrative form, showing young people through pivotal historical events the ways in which white rage has been able to effectively undermine black-led social movements for equality and justice.

I HAVE THE RIGHT TO: A HIGH SCHOOL SURVIVOR’S STORY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT, JUSTICE, AND HOPE
Authors: Chessy Prout & Jenn Abelson
For Prout, being accepted into the exclusive St. Paul’s School in New Hampshire was meant to be a source of stability; however, by the end of her freshman year, the 15-year-old was in turmoil. In 2014, a senior by the name of Owen Labrie lured and assaulted her as part of a “Senior Salute” ritual at the school. This is Prout’s account, cowritten with journalist Abelson, about her life before and after the name of Owen Labrie lured and assaulted her as part of a “Senior Salute” ritual at the school. For Prout, being accepted into the exclusive St. Paul’s School in New Hampshire was meant to be a source of stability; however, by the end of her freshman year, the 15-year-old was in turmoil. In 2014, a senior by the name of Owen Labrie lured and assaulted her as part of a “Senior Salute” ritual at the school. Prout’s account, cowritten with journalist Abelson, about her life before and after the. Prout’s account, cowritten with journalist Abelson, about her life before and after the.

THE FAITHFUL SPY: DIETRICH BONHOEFFER AND THE PLOT TO KILL HITLER
Author: John Hendrix
An explosive teen graphic novel about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German pastor, who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the German people from tyranny during World War II. The author does an excellent job explaining Hitler’s rise to power and Dietrich’s journey of faith and working with the resistance as a double agent. Hendrix’s illustrations complement the text, using teal and red to indicate good and evil.

DAMSEL
Author: Elena K. Arnold
Waking up in the arms of Prince Emory, Ama has no memory of him rescuing her from a dragon’s lair, but she soon discovers there is more to the legend of dragons and damsels than anyone knows and she is still in great danger.

SHOUT
Author: Laurie Halse Anderson
In this powerful memoir told in free verse, Anderson delves into her past and that of her parents, sharing experiences at the root of novels such as Speak (her rape at the age of 13) and The Impossible Knife of Memory (her father’s PTSD after World War II). Anderson turns on its head the common refrain “follow your dreams,” recommending that readers “follow your nightmares instead/cuz when you figure out what’s eating you alive/you can slay it.” Her potent words and willingness to shout her message are proof of the soundness of that advice.

PRIDE
Author: Ibi Zoboi
This Bushwick-set, contemporary retelling of Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice tackles gentrification, Blackness, and romance with honesty, humor, and heart. This excellent coming-of-age take on a classic belongs on all YA shelves.

BARRACOON: THE STORY OF THE LAST “BLACK CARGO”
Author: Zora Neale Hurston
In 1927, Zora Neale Hurston traveled to Plateau, Alabama, to visit eighty-six-year-old Cudjo Lewis, a survivor of the Clotilda, the last slaver known to have made the transatlantic journey. Barracoon employs Hurston’s skills as both an anthropologist and a writer, and brings to life Cudjo’s singular voice, in his vernacular, in a poignant, powerful tribute to the disremembered and the unaccounted. This profound work is an invaluable contribution to our history and culture.

NOTES ON A NERVOUS PLANET
Author: Matt Haig
Information arrives at our fingers faster than ever before. Between notifications from social media to the 24-hour news cycle, it is easy for all of us to become overwhelmed. In finding his own methods to cope with all of the information, Matt Haig has created a book that attempts to help all of us keep perspective.

THE RADIUM GIRLS: THE DARK STORY OF AMERICA’S SHINING WOMEN
Author: Kate Moore
In the beginning of the 20th century, radium was considered a miracle. Once discovered, it was advertised to cure all sorts of diseases from cancer to hay fever to gout. The girls who worked painting the watch dials became minor celebrities as a result. However, in time, the illnesses that afflicted the girls became unmistakable. Most of the girls met a very unhappy death as a result of radium but their legacy of battling medical fraud and uncooperative corporations lives on today.

Finding Yvonne
Author: Brandy Colbert
Since she was seven years old, Yvonne has had her trusted violin to keep her company, especially in those lonely days after her mother walked out on their family. Full of doubt about her future, and increasingly frustrated by her strained relationship with her successful but emotionally closed-off father, Yvonne meets a street musician and fellow violinist who understands her struggle. But when Yvonne becomes unexpectedly pregnant, she has to make the most difficult decision yet about her future.

UNBROKEN
Editor: Marieke Nijkamp
This is a collection of thirteen short stories by #ownvoices writers that include disability without making it the center. Contributors include #ownvoices hashtag creator Corinne DuVivix, Fox Benwell, Heidi Heilig, Karuna Riazi, Dioneille Clayton (hi!), Kody Keplinger, Katherine Locke, and more. New-to-you voices like Keah Brown and Kayla Whaley. Important, intersectional and also just a fun, delicious read—which is probably the best part.

Damsel
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**SISTERS OF THE WINTER WOOD**
Author: Rena Rossner

Sisters Liba and Layla have always stuck close to their home, nestled in a small village surrounded by woods. And there they would stay, if a sinister secret hadn’t begun to wedge its way into the bond between them. Because Liba knows now that the old fairytales were true—that those who came before them could transform—and it’s a truth she must hide even from Layla.

So when strangers infiltrate their small world, the cracks they make might just be the thing that leads it to shatter. Love, magic, Jewish folklore, and sisterly bonds come together in a darkly forested fairytale.

**500 WORDS OR LESS**
Author: Juleah Del Rosario

Alright, so she made a mistake. But Nic Chen refuses to let herself become that girl who cheated on her boyfriend. Nope. She’s got to claim a new identity, fast. So she starts writing college essays for her friends. And what she learns in the process changes the way she looks at everyone and everything—especially herself. A messy, flawed protagonist in a fun, searing novel-in-verse that tackles identity, questioning, and finding your footing as things shift in those critical last few moments of high school.

**HOME AND AWAY**
Author: Candice Montgomery

It’s senior year, and Tasia Quirk—young, Black and fabulous—is a rising star as the only girl on her private high school’s football team. She knows she has it good, so of course it’s about time for everything to unravel. Right? Taze thinks she’s got it all figured out, but an unexpected discovery sends her spinning. Montgomery beautifully explores identity, race, friendship, and first love in this charming and important debut.

**THE RESOLUTIONS**
Author: Mia Garcia

Four friends decide to shake things up on New Year’s Day by making resolutions—for each other. As they head into the new year, they push each other to embrace a brave new world, to remake themselves and reimagine what their lives could look like. Nora, Ryan, Jess, and Lee are all Latinx, and they embody the different ways kids today embrace (and reject) their culture while trying to figure out who they really are. The book explores issues of language, cultural expectations, sexuality, and friendship gracefully.

**ON THE COME UP**
Author: Angie Thomas

Raised by a widowed mother, a recovering drug addict, Bri attends an arts school while dreaming of becoming a famous rapper, as her father was before gang violence ended his life. Her struggles within the music industry and in school highlight the humiliations and injustices that remain an inelible part of the African-American story while also showcasing rap’s undeniable lyrical power as a language through which to find strength.

**WE WERE BEAUTIFUL**
Author: Heather Hepler

It’s been a year since fifteen-year-old Mia Hopkins was in a car crash that killed her older sister, Rachél, and left her own face terribly scarred. The doctors tell her she was lucky to survive. Her therapist says it will take time to heal. The police reports claim there were trace amounts of alcohol in her bloodstream. But no matter how much she tries to reconstruct the events of that fateful night, Mia’s memory is spotty at best. She’s left with accusations, rumors, and guilt so powerful it is quickly consuming her.

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**OUR STORIES, OUR VOICES: 21 YA AUTHORS GET REAL ABOUT INJUSTICE, EMPOWERMENT, AND GROWING UP FEMALE IN AMERICA**
Editor: Amy Reed

Edited by Amy Reed, this stunning collection of thirty-one YA voices—including Nina LaCour, Brandy Colbert, Maureen Goo, Julie Murphy, Somaiya Daud, Aisha Saeed, Anna-Marie McLemore, and others—it takes a real, hard look at the experiences of female-identifying people and the ideas and experiences that shaped them, tackling topics from religion and racism to sexism, sexuality, and sexual assault. These voices are loud and proud, and refuse to be silenced.

**DARIA’S THE GREAT IS NOT OKAY**
Author: Adir Khorram

All he wants to be is all-American. But geeky, depressed Darius Kellner is about to take his first trip to his mother’s native Iran, and it’s a lot. His grandfather is dying, he’s meeting much of his mom’s Persian family for the first time ever, and it is intense (and entertaining—for us, at least).

Then he meets boy next door Sohrab, and everything changes. A touching, funny, and insightful look at a clash of cultures, the spaces between, and the way friendship can profoundly change our understanding of ourselves.

**MIRAGE**
Author: Somaiya Daud

A space opera with a decidedly brown bent—sumptuous world-building with Moroccan-inspired details. Amani lives on an isolated moon, but she dreams of a world much bigger than the one she’s known, one filled with adventures. But then she’s kidnapped by the regime and dragged to the royal palace, where she learns she’s a clone to the cruel Princess Maram, and that she’ll serve as a public stand-in for the princess in case of an assassination attempt. Fun. Still, Amani is drawn into her spawning new world. Will she reject the mitter for gold?

**A SPARK OF WHITE FIRE**
Author: Sangu Madanna

The potential heir to the throne of Kal, Esmee was sent away (abandoned) by her mom, the Queen, as a baby because of a curse. Now she has returned to a kingdom ravaged by the new king, and has only one chance to save it. She enters the tournament held by the King of Wycthar, planning to reveal herself for who she really is—and must join forces with her twin brother, Alexi, a stranger, to reclaim the throne. Confounding connections, stunning worldbuilding, and manipulative gods mark this epic, whirling space opera.

**HERE TO STAY**
Author: Sara Farizan

Bijan Majidi is an everykid—kind of a dork, JV on the basketball team, happy with his friends, and smitten with popular girl Elle. But when he scores the winning shot in a playoff game, his whole world shifts, and he becomes one of the cool kids. Except, of course, that he’s brown. So when the cyberbullying starts, it takes a dark (maybe deadly) turn as Bijan—half Persian, half Arab—is photoshopped into an image that makes him look like a terrorist. People start to take sides, and Bijan is caught in the fallout. Temporarily and moving, but infused with Farizan’s signature humor and emotion.

**A BLADE SO BLACK**
Author: L.L. McKinney

This hotly anticipated debut fantasy melds Buffy and Alice (yes, that Alice!) in a fierce protagonist who wields her blade to tackle the Nightmares. But in the world of Mirage, it is intense (and entertaining—for us, at least). The book explores issues of language, cultural expectations, sexuality, and friendship gracefully.

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