

## Strong Female Characters

With all the great young adult books being published, I have noticed a fantastic trend – strong female characters. These girls must make decisions which can alter the rest of their lives, possibly meaning the difference between life and death. In some books, the females are true action heroes. Others find the strength to deal with demons – those that can be found in reality or the paranormal. Here are just a few of the moving and powerful books available in the teen section at the library:

“What I Saw and How I Lied” by Judy Blundell – Evie is caught in a web of lies when she falls in love with an ex-soldier who served with her stepfather during World War II. As the truth comes out, Evie must make decisions that change her life and how she views the world around her. Grades 9 and up

“Graceling” by Kristin Cashore – Katniss is graced with two different colored eyes – one blue, one green – and with this difference she is also graced with the ability to kill. Raised to be a weapon in her uncle’s kingdom, Katniss fights to retain her humanity and do what is right. (Companion book: “Fire”) Grades 9 and up

“The Devouring” by Simon Holt – Reggie loves horror stories and her job in an occult bookstore. She comes across an old journal that talks about the Vours, demons that feed on fear and take over humans. The story becomes reality when Reggie’s younger brother Henry becomes their next victim. Will Reggie be able to save Henry from the Vours? (Sequel: “Soulstice”) Grades 7 and up

“Wake” by Lisa McMann – Janie Hannagan has a secret: she becomes trapped in other people’s dreams. She cannot control her ability and fears telling anyone because they might think she’s a freak. One night she falls into a nightmare and finds herself not just an observer; she is now a participant. Can Janie learn to control her power before it’s too late? (Sequel: “Fade”) Grades 9 and up

“Wicked Lovely” by Melissa Marr – Aislinn has the ability to see fairies. Unfortunately, the Summer King has chosen her to be his Queen, which could mean the end of her mortality. If she refuses him, the earth will freeze. And that’s not her only problem: she’s in love with her best friend Seth, a mortal. Will she choose immortality or a normal life? (Sequel: “Fragile Eternity”) Grades 8 and up

“Breathe My Name” by R.A. Nelson – Seventeen-year-old Frances lives quietly with her adopted family after her mother smothered her sisters and attempted to kill Frances. As Frances starts falling for the new boy in school she receives a note from her mother: she has been released and wants to see Frances. Is it to finish what she started years ago? Can Frances face her past and her mother? Grade 9 and up.

“Leaving Paradise” by Simone Elkeles – Told in alternating chapters, this fantastic novel tells the story of Caleb and Maggie as they both readjust to school and home life after a terrible accident. Once friends, Maggie must deal with a leg injury from a drunk-driving accident that sent Caleb to prison. Grade 10 and up.

“Map of the Known World” by Lisa Ann Sandell – 14-year-old Cora is isolated from her parents following the death of her older brother, Nate. As she begins high school, his absence looms large. His “bad boy” reputation makes mention of him off-limits. Only his best friend and accident survivor, Damian, knows who Nate really was. As Cora becomes his friend, Damian slowly reveals Nate’s true passion, character, and plans. Cora must deal with her grief and find the strength to make herself happy. Grades 7 & up

So stop by the library, find an adventure, and see where your inner strength can take you!

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