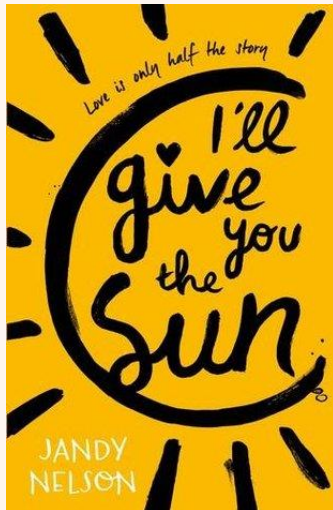


Hot for Summer

By



Summer tends to be uncomfortably warm . . . unless you live in England. This reading list, the first of the summer, opens with two 2015 [Printz winners](#): *I'll Give You the Sun* and *Grasshopper Jungle*. Intense, emotional, vivid and completely original: these books are strong “flavours” that won’t be to everyone’s taste. The rest of the novels on our list are all new for 2015 and many deal with “hot-button” topics – everything from terrorism and FGM, to bipolar disorder and having a gay father. Whether it concerns love, art, death or the possible destruction of the world, summer reading is **hot**.



I'll Give You the Sun

by Jandy Nelson

Jude and Noah are twins: intensely close, but fiercely competitive about everything from their artistic talent to their mother’s attention. At the beginning of their 14th year, a series of secrets and betrayals – and one huge tragedy – drives them apart. Art becomes a wedge between them, but also offers redemption and transformation. This beautifully written novel won the 2015 Printz award.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: realistic; family; romance; art; LGBT; California

This novel contains some sexual scenes and references to drugs/alcohol.



Grasshopper Jungle

by Andrew Smith

It all starts when Austin and his best friend Robby are beaten up by four local thugs. Ealing, Iowa may look like a dead-end town, but all kinds of dangerous secrets are buried there. When a scientific experiment gets spilled, havoc is unleashed. Part science fiction, part social satire, this original novel will appeal to readers with a strong stomach for gross-out humour.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: fantasy; science fiction; dystopia; friendship; family; war; USA; Iowa; LGBT

This novel contains lots of strong language, sexuality, violence and references to drugs/alcohol.



If You Were Me

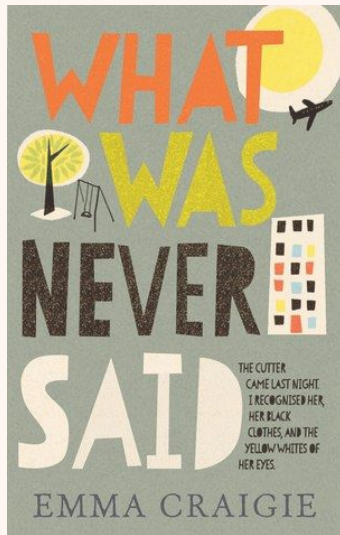
by Sam Hepburn

After their narrow escape from the Taliban, Aliya and her family hope to rebuild their lives in London. Instead, their situation worsens. Aliya's brother is badly injured by a bomb, and then accused of terrorism. Aliya is determined to prove her brother's innocence, even when everyone else turns against them and the dead bodies start piling up. Help comes from an unexpected source – but can Aliya trust Dan, the plumber's son? This tense thriller will grip readers from the first chapter.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: realistic; action; thriller; war; Taliban; drugs; Afghanistan; London

This novel contains violence and references to drugs/alcohol.



What Was Never Said

by Emma Craigie

When 15 year-old Zahra sees the woman in black, memories of her Somalian childhood come flooding back. Zahra has been told nothing, but what she suspects will motivate her to do anything to protect her younger sister – even if it means running away from home. Author Emma Craigie draws attention to the important human rights issues of FGM with this contemporary novel set in London. The disturbing topic is sensitively handled.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: realistic; thriller; family; culture; human rights; gender issues, Somalia; London; FGM

This novel contains violence, some strong language and references to drugs/alcohol.



This Is Not a Love Story

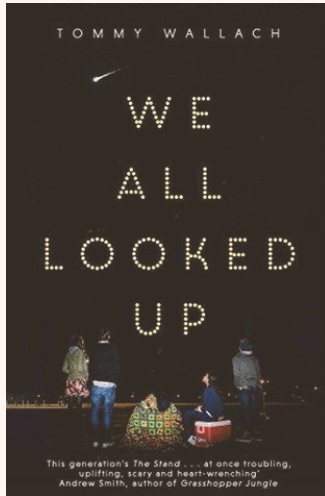
by Keren David

Kitty has heart problems, and not just the physical kind. When her mum's job takes them to Amsterdam, Kitty embraces her new Instagrammed life. There are also new friendships with not one, but two intriguing boys: Theo and Ethan. Will friendship develop into romance – or just more complications?

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: realistic; romance; family; friends; Amsterdam; London; Judaism; LGBT; social media

This novel contains sexual scenes, some strong language and references to drugs/alcohol.



We All Looked Up

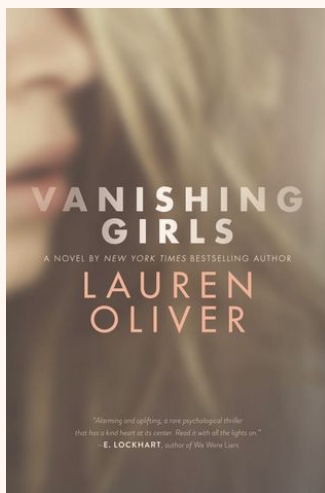
by Tommy Wallach

An asteroid is on course to crash into the Earth in two months and suddenly everyone is making new plans. As disaster approaches, four high school seniors become unlikely friends. With chaos and anarchy breaking out all around them, these four have to decide if their lives mean something – or nothing. This sharp debut novel combines a realistic Seattle setting with the threat of post-apocalyptic destruction.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: realistic; science fiction; post-apocalyptic; friendship; family; romance; music; death; Seattle

This novel contains violence, sexuality, some strong language and references to drugs/alcohol.



Vanishing Girls

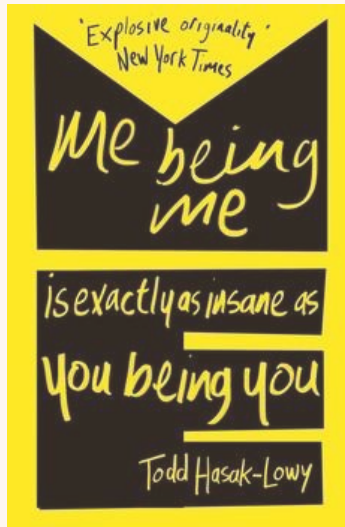
by Lauren Oliver

Before the accident, Nick and Dara were the closest of sisters. But now Dara is hiding secrets and Nick cannot seem to remember what really happened. When a local girl goes missing, Nick has a hunch that the mystery is somehow connected to her little sister. This psychological thriller will appeal to readers who enjoy the unsettling and unpredictable.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: realistic; family; mystery; thriller; romance; death

This novel contains a few instances of strong language, sexuality and references to drugs/alcohol.



Me Being Me is Exactly as Insane as You Being You

by Todd Hasak-Lowy

Darren Jacobs is having a really bad year. His parents have got divorced, his dad has come out as gay and he has a hopeless crush on the mysterious and troubled Zoey. This humorous coming-of-age novel has a unique narrative style. Through a series of lists, Darren's "tragic" life is described to great comic effect.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: realistic; friends; family; romance; LGBT; humour

This novel contains sexuality, strong language and references to drugs/alcohol.



All the Bright Places

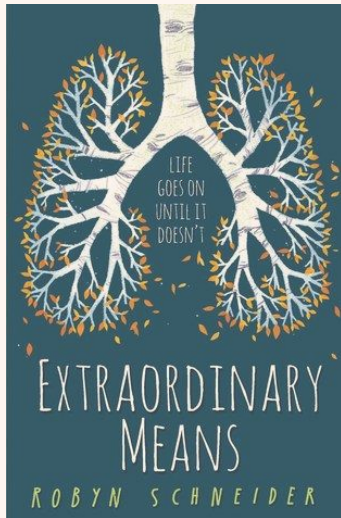
by Jennifer Niven

When Fitch and Violet meet on the ledge of the bell tower, it is debatable as to who is saving whom. Violet hasn't recovered from her sister's death, while Fitch – the class "freak" – struggles with highs and lows that he cannot control. Tentative friendship turns into romance, but can there be a happy ending for this unlikely pair?

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: realistic; family; friendship; romance; mental health; death; social media; Indiana

This novel contains some strong language and sexual scenes.



Extraordinary Means

by Robyn Schneider

Lane is a classic overachiever, always living for tomorrow's goals. When he is diagnosed with tuberculosis, he must trade dreams of Stanford for a sanatorium. Exiled at Latham House, Lane meets Sadie and her group of friends. Although they are living with the constant threat of death, Lane is having fun – for maybe the first time in his life.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: realistic; romance; friendship; medical; death

This novel contains a few instances of strong language and mild references to drugs and alcohol.

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