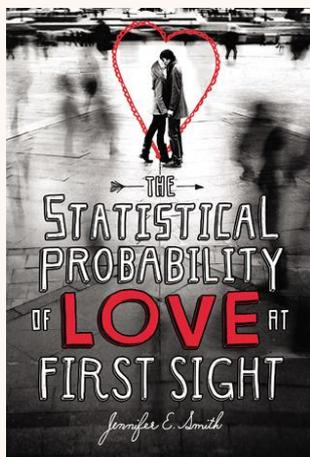


Romantic fiction

by



Whether you love it or loathe it, February is a month unavoidably associated with romance. In this selection of Young Adult novels, relationships come in all forms – from the light-hearted and humorous to the dark and intense. You might find love on a plane, at a job, or maybe even with a boy you’ve known all your life. In David Levithan’s brave novel, *Two Boys Kissing*, a variety of same-sex relationships are explored. There are also a few break-up novels, because “the course of true love never did run smooth”.



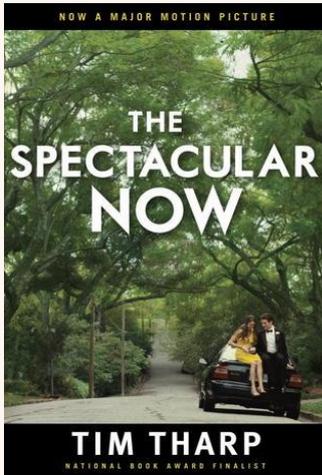
The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight

by Jennifer E. Smith

When Oliver and Hadley meet in the airport, it seems like chance. After all, Hadley has only missed her flight by four minutes. But when it turns out that both Hadley and Oliver are flying to London for important ceremonies, and that they are seated next to each other, it starts to feel more like destiny. Both of them have good reasons to dread arriving in London, and now that includes the possibility of never seeing each other again.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: realistic; romance; London; family; divorce; death



The Spectacular Now

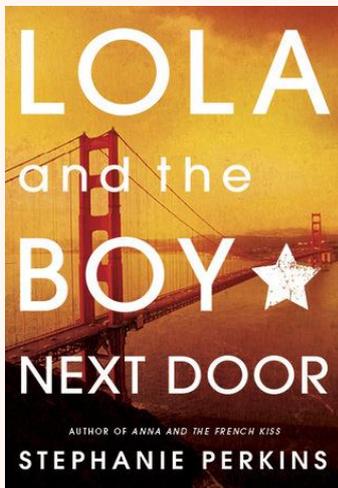
by Tim Tharp

Sutter Keely is the life of the party, but he can never figure out when the party is over. As high school graduation looms, Sutter is the man without a plan – chasing nothing more than the moment, and his next drink. When he befriends Aimee, a seriously geeky girl, it never crosses his mind that he might fall for her. Will Aimee change Sutter for the better, or will he just drag her down?

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: realistic; romance; family; friendship; alcohol abuse

This novel features some strong language and alcohol abuse.



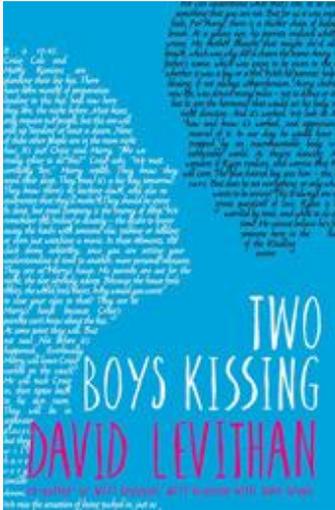
Lola and the Boy Next Door

by Stephanie Perkins

After two years, Lola Nolan has totally moved on from her first heartbreak. Now she has an older rock star boyfriend, not to mention a passion for expressing herself through fashion. But when the Bell twins return, Lola's personal life starts getting really overcrowded. Bad boy rock star, or nerdy but adorable boy next door? Should Lola risk her heart a second time?

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: realistic; romance; friendship; family; San Francisco



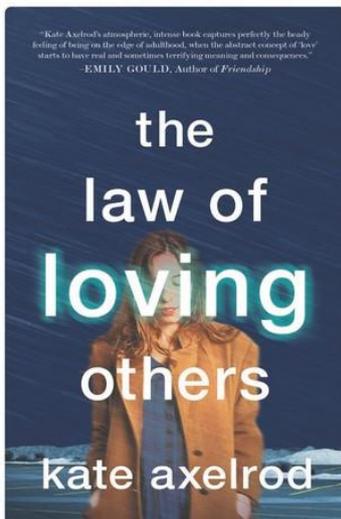
Two Boys Kissing by David Levithan

Craig and Henry are attempting to break the world's record for the longest kiss. As the thirty+ hours elapse, the reader is introduced to other teenage boys in same-sex relationships. Their personal circumstances range from loving acceptance to loneliness to violent disapproval. This brave book will be a voice of solidarity and comfort to those whose love stories do not conform to “boy meets girl” expectations.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: realistic; historical; romance; friendship; family; mental health; LGBT

This book contains some sexual scenes, not overly graphic, between adolescent boys.



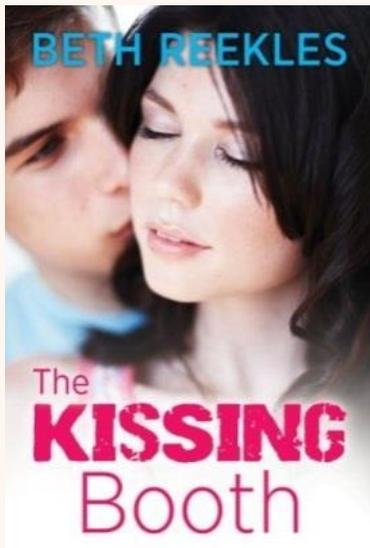
The Law of Loving Others by Kate Axelrod

When Emma returns home from boarding school for the winter break, she discovers that her mother has had a mental breakdown. Fearful and confused, Emma doesn't know what – or who – she can trust. Her boyfriend Daniel just doesn't get it, but then Emma is unexpectedly drawn to someone who does seem to understand. This debut novel deals with complex family and romantic relationships, and its sophisticated voice will appeal to older teenagers.

Reading and interest level: 16+

Genre: realistic; romance; family; mental health; New York City

This novel contains mature scenes of sexuality and drug use and some strong language. It also describes schizophrenia and self-harm.



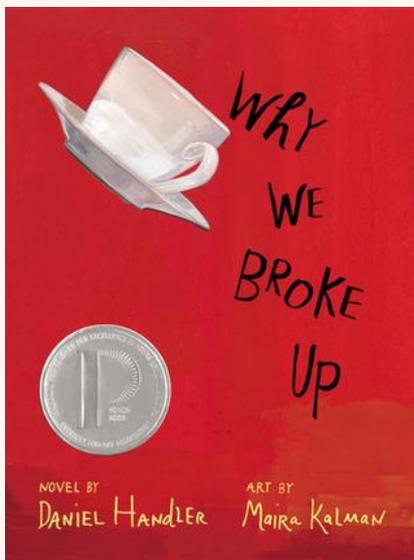
The Kissing Booth

by Beth Reekles

Elle Evans thinks of herself as “one of the guys”; inseparable from her best friend Lee, she is 16 and has never been kissed. But when Lee and Elle organise a kissing booth for the school carnival, Elle gets her first kiss – from the most notorious boy in the school. Noah is a football player with a reputation for being a “player”; he is also Lee’s older brother. The inevitable complications between romance and friendship are more entertaining than surprising, but this teen romance is notable because it was written by a British teenager using the Wattpad platform.

Reading and interest level: 12+

Genre: realistic; romance; friendship; family



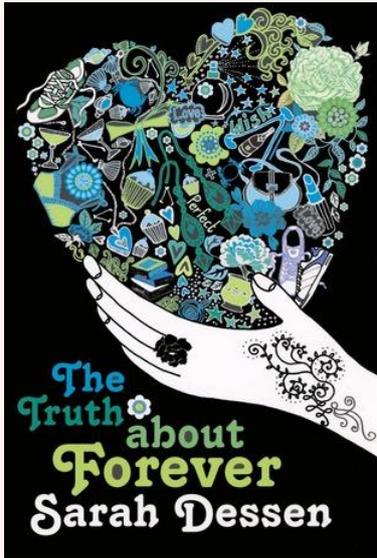
Why We Broke Up

by Daniel Handler

Ed Slaterton is the popular athlete who’s had loads of girlfriends; Min is the “don’t call me arty” girl who is obsessed with old movies. They are an odd couple; everybody says so, and no one expects it to last. This is a quirky love story (of sorts) which starts with the break-up. Maira Kalman’s colourful illustrations personalise a bad romance for which the outcome is a given.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: realistic; romance; friendship; family



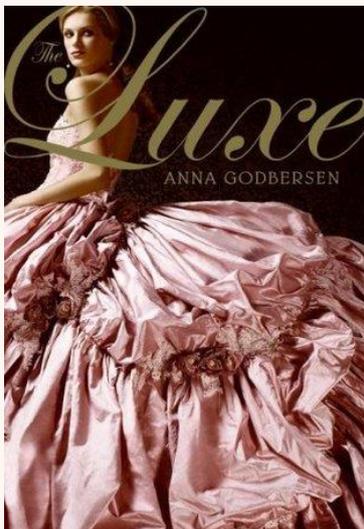
The Truth about Forever

by Sarah Dessen

After her father dies unexpectedly, Macy does her best to be the perfect daughter, student and girlfriend. She looks fine on the outside, but on the inside she's barely holding it together. Just when she feels most isolated, Macy's accidental summer job leads to a new set of friends – including Wes, the enigmatic artist who gradually becomes Meg's confidante. Could Wes, with his messy and complicated life, actually be the best person for Meg? Author Sarah Dessen is widely admired for her realistic YA romances, and this book is a popular favourite.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: realistic; romance; friendship; family; death



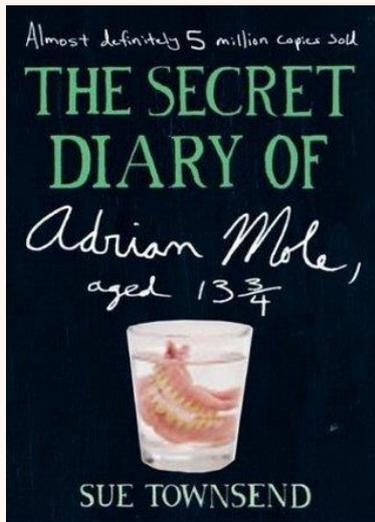
Luxe

by Anna Godbersen

In this Gilded Age drama, set in New York City in 1899, love and money are the two most important things – but rarely go together. Marriage is all about money and family status, and everyone seems to be in love with the wrong person. The novel opens with the funeral of Elizabeth Holland, on the day that was meant to be her wedding to handsome cad Henry Schoonmaker. Elizabeth may have seemed like the perfect debutante, but as the last month of her life unfolds, secrets and surprising alliances come to light.

Reading and interest level: 14+

Genre: historical; romance; melodrama; mystery; New York City



The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, aged 13 $\frac{3}{4}$
by Sue Townsend

This classic book may be 30 years old, but it has hardly dated. Contemporary teens will still identify with the title character's main occupations and concerns, and laugh at his irreverent observations and self-mockery. Whether he is worrying about his on/off relationship with Pandora, his mother or his acne, Adrian Mole is guaranteed to make you laugh.

Reading and interest level: 12+

Genre: realistic; romance; friendship; family; humour; London

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