

Life, Love and Death: Emotionally-Charged Reads

(All titles can be found in the YA sections unless otherwise noted)

K

Asher, Jay

THIRTEEN REASONS WHY

Clay Jenkins receives a package of 13 cassette tapes from his classmate Hannah. On the tapes, she recounts the reasons why she decided to take her own life.

K

Downham, Jenny

BEFORE I DIE

Tessa, who has just months to live, compiles a "To Do Before I Die" list.

K

Holt, Kimberly Willis

KEEPER OF THE NIGHT

Isabel's mother died peacefully; at least that's what Isabel likes to think, since no one will talk about the truth. Set on the Island of Guam.

K

Hurwin, Davida

A TIME FOR DANCING : A NOVEL

Seventeen-year-old best friends Samantha and Juliana tell their stories in alternating chapters after Juliana is diagnosed with cancer.

K

Forman, Gayle

If I Stay

While in a coma following an automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen-year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weighs whether to live with her grief or join her family in death.

K

Jocelyn, Marthe

WOULD YOU

Nat's carefree summer hanging out with her friends and her beloved sister comes to a tragic halt when an accident changes her life forever.

KW

McGhee, Alison

ALL RIVERS FLOW TO THE SEA

When a car accident leaves a teenage girl in a coma, her younger sister struggles with grief and guilt as she faces the inevitability of moving on - and letting go.

KW Adult FIC

Packer, Ann

DIVE FROM CLAUSEN'S PIER

23-year-old Carrie Bell, who is engaged to marry her high school sweet-heart, Mike, begins to question her love for him. Then a horrible diving accident leaves Mike a paraplegic. Carrie is torn between her responsibilities to Mike and her future happiness.

KW Adult FIC

Picoult, Jodi

THE PACT : A LOVE STORY

Childhood friends Chris and Emily begin a teen romance that ends in a failed suicide pact and a courtroom drama.

KW

Rabb, M. E.

CURES FOR HEARTBREAK

Nine days after being diagnosed with cancer, Mia's mother is dead. Mia, her older sister, and her father must find a way to continue on.

KW

Reinhardt, Dana

A BRIEF CHAPTER IN MY IMPOSSIBLE LIFE

When Simone's birth mother contacts her after 16 years, Simone questions everything she once took for granted about faith, life, the afterlife, and what it means to be a daughter.

KW Adult FIC

Sebold, Alice

THE LOVELY BONES : A NOVEL

After being brutally raped and murdered, 14-year-old Susie Salmon watches from heaven as her family deals with their grief.

KW

Sparks, Nicholas

A WALK TO REMEMBER

A troubled teenager turns his life around when he falls for a minister's daughter, and then he learns of her heartbreaking secret.

K

Stein, Tammar.

LIGHT YEARS : A NOVEL

After her boyfriend is killed in a suicide bomb, Maya leaves Israel to study astronomy at the University of Virginia, running from the violence, guilt, and memories of her past.

KW

Wittlinger, Ellen.

BLIND FAITH

After Liz's grandma Bunny dies, Liz's mother falls into a deep depression. The only thing that cheers her is going to a special spiritualist church where she thinks she can communicate with Bunny from the grave.

K

Woodson, Jacqueline

IF YOU COME SOFTLY

When Ellie, who's Jewish, meets Jeremiah, who's Black, at an elite boarding school, they know they are meant to be together until a tragedy comes between them.