

Almost Perfect Brian Katcher

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TAYLOR MCCONNELL

Empress of the World Little Brown & Company
Inspiring and honest, this unique memoir of gender transition and coming-of-age proves it's never too late to find your true identity. Since he was a small child, Lorimer Shenher knew something for certain: he was a boy. The problem was, he was growing up in a girl's body. In this candid and thoughtful memoir, Shenher shares the story of his gender journey, from childhood gender dysphoria to teenage sexual experimentation to early-adult denial of his identity—and finally the acceptance that he is trans, culminating in gender reassignment surgery in his fifties. Along the way, he details his childhood in booming Calgary, his struggles with alcohol, and his eventual move to Vancouver, where he became the first detective assigned to the case of serial killer Robert Pickton (the subject of his critically acclaimed book *That Lonely Section of Hell*). With warmth and openness, *This One Looks Like A Boy* takes us through one of the most important decisions Shenher will ever make, as he comes into his own and finally discovers acceptance and relief.

This One Looks Like a Boy HarperCollins

Kaial can't date a player. Not my own choice, but one my overprotective, overbearing, NHL playing brothers decided for me. It wasn't worth the stress, so I stayed away. Except for one night. In my defense, I had no idea that the guy I kissed in the dark was a Lion--a player for my schools' rival ice hockey team. After that, I vowed to stay away. Only, fate had other ideas and had us going to the same college where Maddoc Dass made it his mission to irritate the life out of me. But, I wouldn't stand for it, or his obnoxious, cheating ass. When our best friends demanded we get along, I slowly realized that not everything was as I'd thought. There was a lot more to Maddoc Dass than I'd ever known. Was discovering who he was off the ice worth the risk? Maddoc irritating the hell out of Kaia Levine was my mission. Seeing her cheeks flush with anger, and her temper making her eyes blaze was a job well done. I knew messing with her was a risk. Her brothers were weirdly overprotective and sent out warnings to all us players that in no uncertain circumstances were we to go near their baby sister. Yeah, that didn't work for me. Was I crazy? Yeah. But was she worth it? Definitely. I had to prove that night we met in person wasn't a mistake. I just had to find a way to do it. When that opportunity presented itself, I played it like the sharpest blade on the ice. And hell was it fantastic. I only hoped that when Kaia found out why, she didn't hate me all over again. *Almost Perfect* is a 112k word standalone, hot, sweet, heartwarming sports romance novel, and is strictly for mature readers. There are scenes that include fighting, swearing, and immature personalities. No cheating, and guaranteed HEA. *Sloppy Firsts* HarperCollins

In the aftermath of a small-town school shooting, lawyer Jordan McAfee finds himself defending a youth who desperately needs someone on his side, while detective Patrick Ducharme works with the primary witness--the daughter of the judge assigned to the case.

Nineteen Minutes Yearling Books

Devastated when her best friend moves away, sixteen-year-old Jessica Darling feels isolated at school and at home, as she struggles to deal with her father's obsession with her track meets, her boy-crazy peers, and her own nonexistent love life.

Everyone Dies in the End Greystone Books Ltd

Lockdown is the powerful tale of fourteen-year-old Reese Anderson, who has spent 22 months in a tiny cell at a "progress center." Living in fear and isolation, Reese begins looking within himself to find a way out of the prison system. Acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers offers an honest story about finding a way to make it without getting lost in the shuffle. Told with compassion and truth, *Lockdown* is also a compelling first-person read that "could resonate with teens on a dangerous path."* When I first got to Progress, it freaked me out to be locked in a room and unable to get out. But after a while, when you got to thinking about it, you knew nobody could get in, either. It seems as if the only progress that's going on at Progress juvenile facility is moving from juvy jail to real jail. Reese wants out early, but is he supposed to just sit back and let his friend Toon get jumped? Then Reese gets a second chance when he's picked for the work program at a senior citizens' home. He doesn't mean to keep messing up, but it's not so easy, at Progress or in life. One of the residents, Mr. Hooft, gives him a particularly hard time. If he can convince Mr. Hooft that he's a decent person, not a criminal, maybe he'll be able to convince himself. Walter Dean Myers was a New York Times bestselling author, Printz Award winner, five-time

winner of the Coretta Scott King Award, two-time Newbery Honor recipient, and the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. Maria Russo, writing in the *New York Times*, called Myers "one of the greats and a champion of diversity in children's books well before the cause got mainstream attention." **Kirkus Playing with Matches* Almost Perfect

Gordon Korman's acclaimed and timely YA novel explores the dangerous side of high school contact sports. Marcus is new in town and is hoping to make the championship high school football team, but it seems like a closed club, run by current star quarterback Troy. One day, while tossing the ball around in a park one day, Marcus meets Charlie, a man in his fifties who can play football like an old pro, which is exactly what he happens to be — a former NFL player and local celebrity. Charlie has boundless energy and coaches Marcus on his fear of being tackled, but as Marcus becomes more involved in this friendship with Charlie, it becomes painfully obvious to him, through the simplicity of Charlie's thoughts, that the long-term effects of the violent plays he suffered during his football glory days have taken their toll on Charlie. With wit and sensitivity, Gordon Korman tackles truths about high school sports, while delivering a poignant story about an unlikely friendship.

A Novel Based on an Untrue Story Pan Macmillan

Almost Perfect Delacorte Books for Young Readers

I Am J Bloomsbury Publishing USA

J, who feels like a boy mistakenly born as a girl, runs away from his best friend who has rejected him and the parents he thinks do not understand him when he finally decides that it is time to be who he really is.

Shadowplay Penguin

Perfect for fans of Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist and *The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight*, *The Improbable Theory of Ana and Zak* is Stonewall Award-winning author Brian Katcher's hilarious he said/she said romance about two teens discovering themselves on an out-of-this-world accidental first date at a sci-fi convention. When Ana Watson's brother ditches a high school trip to run wild at Washington, type-A Ana knows that she must find him or risk her last shot at freedom from her extra-controlling parents. In her desperation, she's forced to enlist the last person she'd ever want to spend time with—slacker Zak Duquette—to help find her brother before morning comes. But over the course of the night, while being chased by hordes of costumed Vikings and zombies, Ana and Zak begin to open up to each other. Soon, what starts as the most insane nerdfighter manhunt transforms into so much more. . . .

Almost Perfect Penguin

Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past.

Look Past HarperCollins

With his mother working long hours and in pain from a romantic break-up, eighteen-year-old Logan feels alone and unloved until a zany new student arrives at his small-town Missouri high school, keeping a big secret.

Yes, Boyfriends, plural. If my life weren't complicated, I wouldn't be Ruby Oliver Bonnier Publishing Fiction Ltd.

It's Dade's last summer at home, and things are pretty hopeless. He has a crappy job, a "boyfriend" who treats him like dirt, and his parents' marriage is falling apart. So when he meets and falls in love with the mysterious Alex Kincaid, Dade feels like he's finally experiencing true happiness. But when a tragedy shatters the final days of summer, he realizes he must face his future and learn how to move forward from his past.

Moon Over Manifest Delacorte Press

Caring for her two younger siblings after their unreliable mother abandons them, fifteen-year-old Anna discovers the difficulties of trying to be a parent.

Ruby Oliver 4: Real Live Boyfriends Penguin

Oskar Schell, the nine-year-old son of a man killed in the World Trade Center attacks, searches the five boroughs of New York City for a lock that fits a black key his father left behind.

Stories Running Press

At seventeen, Sherman Andrews has been accepted in the Missouri Scholars' Academy. Sherman has had a ten-year plan since he was eight, and he is determined to become an award-winning investigative journalist. He is going places, unlike his low-brow plumber father or his absent mother. While researching his first project, a chance discovery of a mysterious photograph of four men, dated 1935, leads to Sherman uncovering records of deaths, disappearances, and cover-ups on an almost unbelievable scale. Too late, Sherman realizes the organization responsible is

still around, and they're prepared to take drastic measures to keep him quiet. Sherman must decide if he wants to flee for his life, or risk everything to become the reporter he's always wanted to be. There are only two people he can trust to help him. One is Charlie, the cute, chubby student librarian at the historical society. The other is Denton, who claims that the organization is led by a shadowy man who died in 1966...and 1935...and 1864. The fact that Denton has been forcibly committed to a mental hospital is just an unfortunate misunderstanding. Something evil is about to reappear. And Sherman, with his Dictaphone, his ironed socks, and his ten-page resume, may be the only one who can prevent a tragedy. Interspersed with flashbacks to the original 1935 adventures, *Everyone Dies* is a lighthearted coming of age story about love, growing up, and what it's like to be buried alive.

Wilde Stories 2018 City Lights Books

Can honesty lead to heartbreak if the truth is subjective? A compelling novel in verse from Sonya Sones. Fifteen-year-old Colette is addicted to lying. Her shrink says this is because she's got a very bad case of *Daughter-of-a-famous-movie-star Disorder*—so she lies to escape out from under her mother's massive shadow. But Colette doesn't see it that way. She says she lies because it's the most fun she can have with her clothes on. Not that she's had that much fun with her clothes off. At least not yet, anyway... When her mother drags her away from Hollywood to spend the entire summer on location in a boring little town in the middle of nowhere, Colette is less than thrilled. But then she meets a sexy biker named Connor. He's older, gorgeous, funny, and totally into her. So what if she lies to him about her age, and about who her mother is? I mean, she has to keep her mother's identity a secret from him. If he finds out who she really is, he'll forget all about Colette, and start panting and drooling and asking her for her mother's autograph. Just like everyone always does. But what Colette doesn't know is that Connor is keeping a secret of his own...

We Are Totally Normal Milkweed Editions

Nicola Lancaster is spending her summer at the Siegel Institute, a hothouse of smart, intense teenagers. She soon falls in with Katrina (Manic Computer Chick), Isaac (Nice-Guy-Despite-Himself), Kevin (Inarticulate Composer) . . . and Battle, a beautiful blond dancer. The two become friends--and then, startlingly, more than friends. What do you do when you think you're attracted to guys, and then you meet a girl who steals your heart? A trailblazing debut, reissued with an introduction by acclaimed author David Levithan, and copious back matter, including three graphic novel stories by Sara Ryan (and artists Steve Leiber, Dylan Meconis, and Natalie Nourigat) about the characters.

The Bermudez Triangle Simon and Schuster

Grade 9 Up-Johnson begins this exceptional novel in a lightweight fashion but quickly segues into more serious issues that affect the three young women who make up the Bermudez Triangle. It is the summer before their senior year in Saratoga Springs, NY. At first, organized, serious Nina has trouble adjusting to her leadership workshop at Stanford University. Although she desperately misses Avery and Mel, who are waitresses at a restaurant back home, she quickly falls head over heels for eco-warrior Steve, who has grown up in a commune on the West Coast--so different from Nina's secure middle-class experience. When she returns to New York, she immediately senses that Mel and Avery are keeping secrets and soon discovers that they have become lovers. Rocked to the core, Nina wishes them happiness, but feels excluded and lonely, especially as her long-distance relationship begins to deteriorate. As is typical for teens, the girls obsess ad nauseam over their romantic relationships. Yet this narrow focus lends authenticity to the narrative, and readers become drawn into the characters' lives as they stumble toward adulthood, fall in and out of love, enlarge their circle of friends, and rethink their values.

Real Live Boyfriends Month9Books, LLC.

The battle of the sexes is on. Most high school sports teams have rivalries with other schools. At Hamilton High, it's a civil war: the football team versus the soccer team. And for her part, Lissa is sick of it. Her quarterback boyfriend, Randy, is always ditching her to go pick a fight with the soccer team or to prank their locker room. And on three separate occasions Randy's car has been egged while he and Lissa were inside, making out. She is done competing with a bunch of sweaty boys for her own boyfriend's attention. Lissa decides to end the rivalry once and for all: She and the other players' girlfriends go on a hookup strike. The boys won't get any action from them until the football and soccer teams make peace. What they don't count on is a new sort of rivalry: an impossible girls-against-boys showdown that hinges on who will cave to their libidos first. And Lissa never sees her own

sexual tension with the leader of the boys, Cash Sterling, coming. [Tricks](#) Random House

For readers of Miranda July, Rebecca Lee, and Mary Gaitskill, a debut short-story collection that is a mesmerizing blend of wit, transgression, and heart. **LONGLISTED FOR THE PEN/ROBERT W. BINGHAM PRIZE FOR DEBUT FICTION** A passive-aggressive couple in the midst of a divorce compete over whose new fling is more exotic. A Russian migrant in Tokyo agonizes over the money her lover accepts from a yakuza. A dead body on a drug dealer's floor leads to the strangest first date ever. In this razor-sharp debut collection, Jen Silverman delivers eleven interconnected stories that take place in expat bars, artist colonies, train stations, and matchbox apartments in the United States and Japan.

Unforgettable characters crisscross through these transient spaces, loving, hurting, and leaving each other as they experience the loneliness and dangerous freedom that comes with being an outsider. In "Maria of the Grapes," a pair of damaged runaways get lost in the seductive underworld beneath Tokyo's clean streets; in "Pretoria," a South African expatriate longs for the chaos of her homeland as she contemplates a marriage proposal; in "Girl Canadian Shipwreck," a young woman in Brooklyn seeks permission to flee from her boyfriend and his terrible performance art; in "Maureen," an aspiring writer realizes that her beautiful, neurotic boss is lonelier than she lets on. *The Island Dwellers* ranges near and far in its exploration of solitude and reinvention, identity and sexuality, family and home. Jen

Silverman is the rare talent who can evoke the landscape of a whole life in a single subtle phrase—vital, human truths that you may find yourself using as a map to your own heart. Praise for *The Island Dwellers* "These stories, in any case, are irresistible, delivering a portrait of contemporary relationships that . . . is shot through with veins of real connection."—*The New York Times Book Review* "The eleven stories that make up this collection are raw, intense in their longing, and tender in the most unexpected ways."—*Lambda Literary* "Silverman's disarming and unconventional characters are all searching for a connection with others. Some are battling loneliness or the fear of being alone but they're all blessed with quick wits and warmth. This is an outstanding short story debut."—*Shelf Awareness*