

# 29th Annual Garden State Teen Book Awards Grades 9-12 Fiction Nominees Annotations



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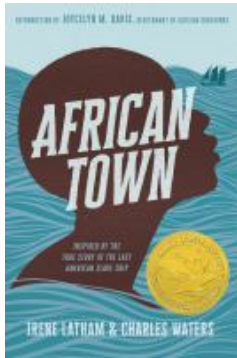


**Title:** Ain't Burned All the Bright

**Author:** Jason Reynolds

**ISBN:** 9781534439467

**Summary:** "A smash up of art and text that viscerally captures what it means to not be able to breathe, and how the people and things you love most are actually the oxygen you most need"

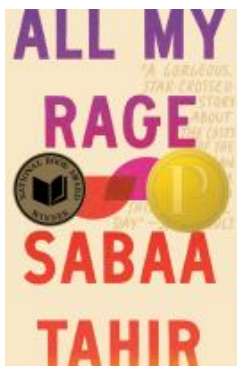


**Title:** African Town

**Authors:** Irene Latham & Charles Waters

**ISBN:** 9780593322888

**Summary:** Chronicles the story of the last Africans brought illegally to the United States on the Clotilda in 1860.



**Title:** All My Rage

**Author:** Sabaa Tahir

**ISBN:** 9780593202340

**Summary:** A family extending from Pakistan to California deals with generations of young love, old regrets, and forgiveness.

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**Title:** An Arrow to the Moon

**Author:** Emily X.R. Pan

**ISBN:** 9780316464055

**Summary:** "A lyrical and magical novel about two teens who fall in love despite their families being caught in a bitter rivalry."



**Title:** As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow

**Author:** Zoulfa Katouh

**ISBN:** 9780316351379

**Summary:** Eighteen-year-old Salama Kassab, a pharmacy student volunteering at the hospital in Homs, is desperate to find passage on a refugee boat for herself and her pregnant best friend, but first she must learn to see the events around her for what they are--not a war, but a revolution.



**Title:** Bluebird

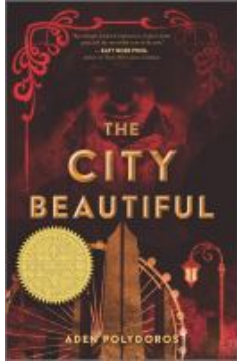
**Author:** Sharon Cameron

**ISBN:** 9781338355963

**Summary:** In 1946 Eva arrives in New York City, from the rubble of Berlin, supposedly looking for a new life, but actually seeking justice against the Nazis that "escaped" with the help of the CIA; one in particular, the doctor who knows who Eva really is, because her identity is the product Project Bluebird, an experiment of the concentration camps involving brainwashing and mind control, which both the

Americans and the Soviets would like access to--and Eva does not know if she can trust anyone she meets, least of all Jake Katz, the young man she is attracted to.

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**Title:** The City Beautiful

**Author:** Aden Polydoros

**ISBN:** 9781335402509

**Summary:** In 1893 Chicago, after his best friend becomes the latest victim in a long line of murdered Jewish boys, Alter Rosen is plunged into a nightmare where he is thrown back into the arms of a dangerous boy from his past.

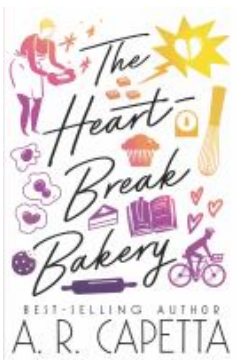


**Title:** The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea

**Author:** Axie Oh

**ISBN:** 9781250780867

**Summary:** In this retelling of the Korean legend The tale of Shim Cheong, sixteen-year-old Mina is swept away to the Spirit Realm, where, assisted by a motley crew of demons, gods, and lesser spirits, she sets out to awaken the sleeping Sea God and save her homeland and family from deadly storms.



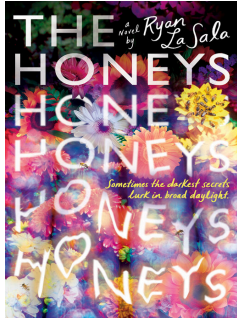
**Title:** The Heartbreak Bakery

**Author:** A.R. Capetta

**ISBN:** 9781536216530

**Summary:** Syd, a baker at the Proud Muffin, is perplexed after couples who eat Syd's brownies immediately split up, but when the owners of the bakery eat the brownies, Syd is afraid the bakery may close and it is only Harley, a delivery person, who convinces Syd that baking can actually fix things.

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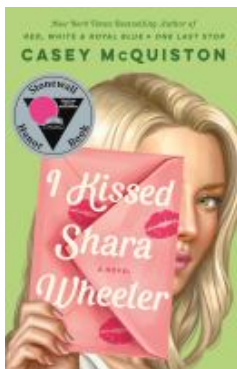


**Title:** The Honeys

**Author:** Ryan LaSala

**ISBN:** 9781338745313

**Summary:** "Mars has always been the lesser twin, the shadow to his sister Caroline's radiance. But when Caroline dies under horrific circumstances, Mars is propelled to learn all he can about his once-inseparable sister who'd grown tragically distant. Mars's genderfluidity means he's often excluded from the traditions--and expectations--of his politically-connected family. This includes attendance at the prestigious Aspen Conservancy Summer Academy where his sister poured so much of her time. But with his grief still fresh, he insists on attending in her place. What Mars finds is a bucolic fairytale not meant for him. Folksy charm and sun-drenched festivities camouflage old-fashioned gender roles and a toxic preparatory rigor. Mars seeks out his sister's old friends: a group of girls dubbed the Honeys, named for the beehives they maintain behind their cabin. They are beautiful and terrifying--and Mars is certain they're connected to Caroline's death. But the longer he stays at Aspen, the more the sweet mountain breezes give way to hints of decay. Mars's memories begin to falter, bleached beneath the relentless summer sun. Something is hunting him in broad daylight, toying with his mind. If Mars can't find it soon, it will eat him alive."



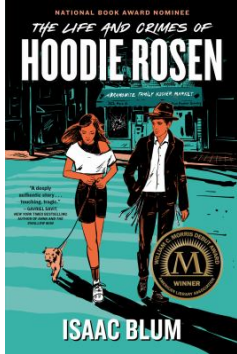
**Title:** I Kissed Shara Wheeler

**Author:** Casey McQuiston

**ISBN:** 9781250244451

**Summary:** After seventeen-year-olds Chole and Shara, Chole's rival for valedictorian, kiss, Shara vanishes leaving Chole and two boys, who are also enamored with Shara, to follow the trail of clues she left behind, but during the search, Chole starts to suspect there might be more to Shara and her small Alabama town than she thought.

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**Title:** The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen

**Author:** Isaac Blum

**ISBN:** 9780593525821

**Summary:** "Hoodie Rosen's life isn't that bad. Sure, his entire Orthodox Jewish community has just picked up and moved to the quiet, mostly non-Jewish town of Tregaron, but Hoodie's world hasn't changed that much. He's got basketball to play, studies to avoid, and a supermarket full of delicious kosher snacks to eat. The people of Tregaron aren't happy that so many Orthodox Jews are moving in at once, but that's not Hoodie's problem. That is, until he meets and falls for Anna-Marie Diaz-O'Leary - who happens to be the daughter of the obstinate mayor trying to keep Hoodie's community out of the town. And things only get more complicated when Tregaron is struck by a series of antisemitic crimes that quickly escalate to deadly violence. As his community turns on him for siding with the enemy, Hoodie finds himself caught between his first love and the only world he's ever known."

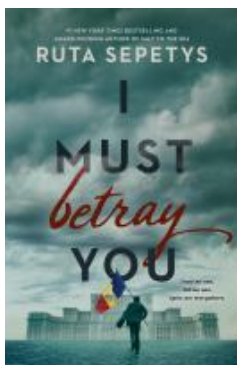


**Title:** Little Thieves

**Author:** Margaret Owen

**ISBN:** 9781250191908

**Summary:** Posing as a royal to rob the nobles blind, seventeen-year-old Vanja Schmidt is thrilled by her luck until she crosses the wrong god and is cursed to turn into the jewels she covets unless she can pay back her debts--quickly.



**Title:** I Must Betray You

**Author:** Ruta Sepetys

**ISBN:** 9781984836038

**Summary:** In a country governed by isolation, fear, and a tyrannical dictator, seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer, but he decides to use his position to try to outwit his handler, undermine the regime, give voice to fellow Romanians, and expose to the world what is happening in his country.

# 29th Annual Garden State Teen Book Awards Grades 9-12 Fiction Nominees Annotations



**Title:** One for All

**Author:** Lillie Lainoff

**ISBN:** 9780374314613

**Summary:** In 1655 sixteen-year-old Tania is the daughter of a retired musketeer, but she is afflicted with extreme vertigo and subject to frequent falls; when her father is murdered she finds that he has arranged for her to attend Madame de Treville's newly formed Académie des Mariées in Paris, which, it turns out, is less a school for would-be wives, than a fencing academy for girls--and so Tania begins her training to be a new kind of musketeer, and to get revenge for her father.



**Title:** Ophelia After All

**Author:** Racquel Marie

**ISBN:** 9781250797308

**Summary:** Seventeen-year-old Ophelia Rojas, well known for her rose garden and her dramatic crushes on every boy in sight, begins to question her sexuality and sense of self when she starts to fall for cute, quiet Talia Sanchez in the weeks leading up to their high school prom and graduation.



**Title:** The Red Palace

**Author:** Jane Hur

**ISBN:** 9781250800558

**Summary:** While investigating a series of grisly murders, eighteen-year-old palace nurse Hyeon navigates royal and political intrigue and becomes entangled with a young police inspector.

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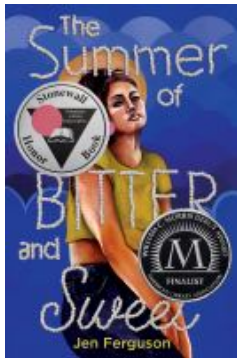
**Title:** A Snake Falls to Earth

**Author:** Darcie Little Badger

**ISBN:** 9781646140923

**Summary:** "Nina is a Lipan girl in our world. She's always felt there was something more out there. She still believes in the old stories. Oli is a cottonmouth kid, from the land of spirits and monsters. Like all cottonmouths, he's been cast from home. He's found a new one on the banks of the bottomless lake. Nina and Oli have no idea the other exists. But a catastrophic event on Earth, and a strange sickness

that befalls Oli's best friend, will drive their worlds together in ways they haven't been in centuries. And there are some who will kill to keep them apart"



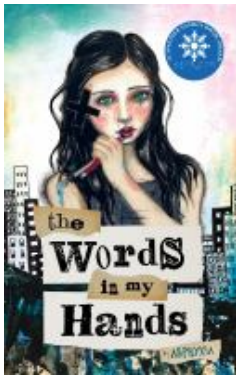
**Title:** The Summer of Bitter and Sweet

**Author:** Jen Ferguson

**ISBN:** 9780063086166

**Summary:** "Lou has enough confusion in front of her this summer. She'll be working in her family's ice-cream shack with...her former best friend, King, who is back in their Canadian prairie town after disappearing three years ago...But when she gets a letter from her biological father...Lou immediately knows that she cannot meet him...While King's friendship makes Lou feel safer...when her family's

business comes under threat, she soon realizes that she can't ignore her father forever"



**Title:** The Words in My Hands

**Author:** Asphyxia

**ISBN:** 9781773215280

**Summary:** Near-future Australia is controlled by Organicore, a company that produces the "perfectly balanced" synthetic meals that have all but replaced wild food, but Piper McBride, sixteen, deaf, and cued white, begins to wonder if wild food is as dangerous as Organicore's propaganda says.