

YA Fiction by Black Authors

A sampling of YA novels by Black authors, across a wide variety of genres.

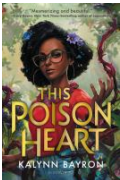


***Ace of Spades* by Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé | [YAABI](#)**

At Niveus Private Academy, Devon and Chiamaka are the only students chosen to be Senior Prefects who are also black, which makes them targets for a series of anonymous texts revealing their secrets to the entire student body. The prank quickly turns into a very dangerous game and it looks like things could turn deadly.

***The Wicker King* by K. Ancrum | [YAANC](#)**

In this chilling and provocative book that combines flash fiction with photos, scanned images, and artwork, best friends August and Jack struggle to cope as one spirals into madness.



***This Poison Heart* by Kalynn Bayron | [YABAY](#)**

Teenaged Briseis, who possesses a supernatural power over plants, even poisonous ones, inherits a dilapidated estate in rural New York and must protect herself and her family from centuries-old secrets that threaten their lives. **Also by this author:** [Cinderella is Dead](#).

***Crossing Ebenezer Creek* by Tonya Bolden | [YABOL](#)**

Freed from slavery, Mariah and her young brother Zeke join Sherman's march through Georgia, where Mariah meets a free black named Caleb and dares to imagine the possibility of true love, but hope can come at a cost.



***Tyrell* by Coe Booth | [YABOO](#)**

Fifteen-year-old Tyrell, who is living in a Bronx homeless shelter with his spaced-out mother and his younger brother, tries to avoid temptation so he does not end up in jail like his father.

Also by this author: [Kendra](#) | [Bronxwood](#).

***A Song of Wraiths and Ruin* by Roseanne A. Brown | [YABRO](#)**

The first part of a duology inspired by West African folklore finds a grieving crown princess and a desperate refugee on a collision course to destroy each other despite their growing attraction.

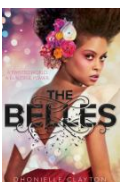


***Happily Ever Afters* by Elise Bryant | [YABRY](#)**

When aspiring romance writer Tessa is accepted into the creative writing program of a prestigious art school, she's excited to finally let her stories shine. But when she goes to her first workshop, the words are just...gone. Fortunately, her best friend has a solution: Tessa just needs to find some inspiration in a real-life love story of her own.

***Kneel* by Candace Buford | [YABUF](#)**

As the team's varsity tight end, Rus has a singular goal: to get a scholarship and play on the national stage. But when his best friend is unfairly arrested and kicked off the team, Rus faces an impossible choice: speak up or live in fear.

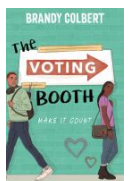


***The Belles* by Dhonielle Clayton | [YACLA](#)**

In a world where Beauty is a commodity only a few control, one Belle will learn the dark secrets behind her powers, and rise up to change the world.

***The Voting Booth* by Brandy Colbert | [YACOL](#)**

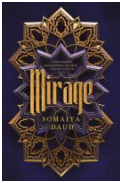
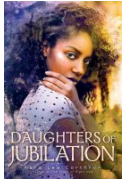
The first year they are eligible to vote, Marva and Duke meet at their polling place and, over the course of one crazy day, fall in love. **Also by this author:** [Little & Lion](#) | [The Revolution of Birdie Randolph](#).



[Children of Blood and Bone](#) by Tomi Adeyemi | [Solo](#) and [Swing](#) by Kwame Alexander | [The Black Flamingo](#) by Dean Atta | [Kingdom of Souls](#) by Rena Barron | [Black Girl Unlimited](#) by Echo Brown | [Chlorine Sky](#) by Mahogany L. Browne | [Felix Ever After](#) by Kacen Callender | [Muted](#) and [Becoming Beatriz](#) by Tami Charles

***Daughters of Jubilation* by Kara Lee Corthron | [YA COR](#)**

In the Jim Crow South, Evvie's magic abilities are growing stronger by the day. Her family calls it jubilation--a gift passed down from generations of black women since the time of slavery. And as Evvie's talents waken, something dark comes loose and threatens to resurface...



***Mirage* by Somaiya Daud | [YA DAU](#)**

After being kidnapped by the Vathek's droids, Amani is forced to work as a body double for the princess who is hated by the people of her conquered planet.

***The Taking of Jake Livingston* by Ryan Douglass | [YA DOU](#)**

When a murderous ghost begins to haunt sixteen-year-old Jake Livingston, high school soon becomes a different kind of survival game.



***Wings of Ebony* by J. Elle | [YA ELL](#)**

Taken away from her Houston neighborhood by the father she never knew in the aftermath of her mother's murder, a Black teen arrives on a hidden island of magic, where she discovers her half-god identity and responsibility in helping protect the mortal and immortal worlds.

***The Upper World* by Femi Fadugba | [YA FAD](#)**

If you had the chance to change your future, would you take it? Perfect for fans of Neal Shusterman and Jason Reynolds, this powerhouse, mind-bending YA debut follows two teens, a generation apart, whose fates collide across time—and outside of it.

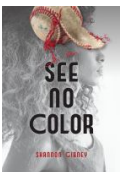


***Now That I've Found You* by Kristina Forest | [YA FOR](#)**

Blacklisted from Hollywood for badmouthing a famous director, a disgraced teen star enlists the help of a cute delivery boy when her eccentric, once-famous grandmother goes missing in New York City on the eve of receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award.

***Off the Record* by Camryn Garrett | [YA GAR](#)**

A teen journalist uncovers the #metoo scandal of the decade: a bigshot Hollywood director is taking advantage of cast members. **Also by this author:** [Full Disclosure](#).



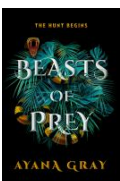
***See No Color* by Shannon Gibney | [YA GIB](#)**

Alex has always identified herself as a baseball player, the daughter of a winning coach, but when she realizes that is not enough she begins to come to terms with her adoption and her race.

Also by this author: [Dream Country](#).

***Not So Pure and Simple* by Lamar Giles | [YA GIL](#)**

High school junior Del Rainey unwittingly joins a Purity Pledge class at church, hoping to get closer to his long-term crush, Kiera. **Also by this author:** [Spin](#).

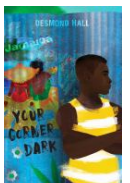


***Beasts of Prey* by Ayana Gray | [YA GRA](#)**

Sixteen-year-old indentured beastkeeper Koffi and seventeen-year-old warrior candidate Ekon forge an unusual alliance and venture into the Greater Jungle to hunt down a monster that has been menacing their city for a century.

***Your Corner Dark* by Desmond Hall | [YA HAL](#)**

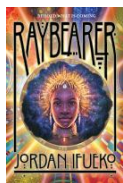
Seventeen-year-old Frankie Green yearns to leave Jamaica and study in the United States, but when his father is shot he is forced to give up his scholarship and join his uncle Joe's gang.



[Tyler Johnson Was Here](#) by Jay Coles | [Roman + Jewel](#) and [Tiffany Sly Lives Here Now](#) by Dana Davis | [The Battle of Jericho](#), [Tears of a Tiger](#), and [Just Another Hero](#) by Sharon M. Draper | [Pet](#) by Akwaeke Emezi | [Playground](#) by 50 Cent | [The Skin I'm In](#) by Sharon G. Flake | [The Gilded Ones](#) by Namina Forna | [Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry](#) by Joya Goffney | [Right Side of Reckless](#) and [A Love Hate Thing](#) by Whitney D. Grandison | [Between the Lines](#) by Nikki Grimes

***The Black Kids* by Christina Hammonds Reed | [YA HAM](#)**

With the Rodney King riots closing in on high school senior Ashley and her family, the privileged bubble she has enjoyed, protecting her from the difficult realities most black people face, begins to crumble.



***Raybearer* by Jordan Ifueko | [YA IFU](#)**

Raised in isolation, Tarisai yearns for the closeness she could have as one of the Crown Prince's Council of 11, but her mother, The Lady, has magically compelled Tarisai to kill the Crown Prince.

***Dread Nation* by Justina Ireland | [YA IRE](#)**



When families around Baltimore County begin to go missing, Jane is caught in the middle of a conspiracy... and the restless dead are the least of her problems.



***Grown* by Tiffany D. Jackson | [YA JAC](#)**

When legendary R&B artist Korey Fields spots Enchanted Jones at an audition, her dreams of being a famous singer take flight. Until Enchanted wakes up with blood on her hands and zero memory of the previous night.

Also by this author: [Let Me Hear a Rhyme](#) | [Allegedly](#) | [Monday's Not Coming](#) | [White Smoke](#)

***Let's Talk About Love* by Claire Kann | [YA KAN](#)**

Alice, afraid of explaining her asexuality, has given up on finding love until love finds her.

Also by this author: [The Marvelous](#).



***Bad Witch Burning* by Jessica Lewis | [YA LEW](#)**

Sixteen-year-old Katrell uses her witchy powers to talk to the dead and escape her home life, but when she disregards the dead's warnings to stop, dark forces begin to close in forcing Katrell to make some hard decisions.

***How it Went Down* by Kekla Magoon | [YA MAG](#)**

When sixteen-year-old Tariq Johnson is shot to death, his community is thrown into an uproar because Tariq was black and the shooter, Jack Franklin, is white, and in the aftermath everyone has something to say, but no two accounts of the events agree. **Also by this author:** [Light it Up](#).



***A Blade So Black* by L. L. McKinney | [YA MCK](#)**

The first time the Nightmares came, it nearly cost Alice her life. Now she's trained to battle monstrous creatures in the dark dream realm known as Wonderland. Meanwhile, life in real-world Atlanta isn't always so simple, as Alice juggles an overprotective mom, a high-maintenance best friend, and a slipping GPA.

***The Cost of Knowing* by Brittney Morris | [YA MOR](#)**

Sixteen-year-old Alex Rufus's curse of seeing the future distracts him from being and doing his best, but when he sees his little brother Isaiah's imminent death, he races against time, death, and circumstances to save him.

Also by this author: [Slay](#).



***Dear Haiti, Love Alaine* by Maika and Maritza Moulite | [YA MOU](#)**

After an incident at school, seventeen year-old Alaine is spending spring break in a "volunteer immersion project", toiling away under the ever-watchful eyes of Tati Estelle and her eagle-eyed mother at a new nonprofit in Haiti. **Also by these authors:** [One of the Good Ones](#).

***Buried Beneath the Baobab Tree* by Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani | [YA NWA](#)**

Based on interviews with young women who were kidnapped by Boko Haram, this poignant novel tells the timely story of one girl who was taken from her home in Nigeria and her harrowing fight for survival.



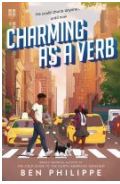
[When You Look Like Us](#) by Pamela N. Harris | [Every Body Looking](#) by Candice Iloh | [The First Part Last](#) by Angela Johnson | [This is My America](#) by Kim Johnson | [You Should See Me in a Crown](#) by Leah Johnson | [A Queen of Gilded Horns](#) by Amanda Joy | [A Song Below Water](#) and [So Many Beginnings](#) by Bethany C. Morrow | So many books by [Walter Dean Myers](#)!

Who Put This Song On? by Morgan Parker | [YA PAR](#)



17-year-old Morgan is a black teen triumphantly figuring out her identity when her conservative town deems depression as a lack of faith, and blackness as something to be politely ignored.

Charming as a Verb by Ben Philippe | [YA PHI](#)



There is only one person who seems immune to Henri's charms: his "intense" classmate and neighbor Corinne Troy, who blackmails him into helping her change her image at school. Soon what started as a mutual hustle turns into something more surprising than either of them ever bargained for... **Also by this author:** [The Field Guide to the North American Teenager](#).

Early Departures by Justin A. Reynolds | [YA REY](#)



Jamal's best friend, Q, doesn't know that he died, and that he's about to die again. He doesn't know that Jamal tried to save him. And that the reason they haven't been friends for two years is because Jamal blames Q for the accident that killed his parents. **Also by this author:** [The Opposite of Always](#).

Simone Breaks All the Rules by Debbie Rigaud | [YA RIG](#)



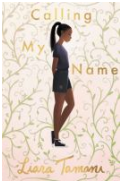
At seventeen, Simone Thibodeaux is fed up with her over-protective mother's insistence on micro-managing her life, so together with her fellow late-bloomer friends Simone comes up with a bucket list of rule-breaking--but soon things get complicated, and Simone has to decide which rules are worth breaking, and which should just be left alone.

Blood Like Magic by Liselle Sambury | [YA SAM](#)



After failing to come into her powers, sixteen-year-old Voya--a Black witch living in near-future Toronto--is forced to choose between losing her family's magic forever, or murdering her first love.

Calling My Name by Liara Tamani | [YA TAM](#)



Taja Brown, growing up in a conservative and tightly knit African American family, battles family expectations to discover a sense of self and find her unique voice. **Also by this author:** [All the Things We Never Knew](#).

Given by Nandi Taylor | [YA TAY](#)



Yenni is alone in a land filled with strange magics and even stranger people, looking for the cure for her father's wasting illness. But no one warned her about the dragons. Especially not about him.

This Side of Home by Renée Watson | [YA WAT](#)



Twins Nikki and Maya Younger always agreed on most things, but as they head into their senior year they react differently to the gentrification of their Portland, Oregon, neighborhood and the new--white--family that moves in after their best friend and her mother are evicted.

Also by this author: [Love is a Revolution](#) | [Piecing Me Together](#).

A Sitting in St. James by Rita Williams-Garcia | [YA WIL](#)



In 1860 Louisiana, eighty-year-old Madame Sylvie decides to sit for a portrait, as horrific stories that span generations from the big house and the fields are revealed.

When You Were Everything by Ashley Woodfolk | [YA WOO](#)



In this story set in New York City and told in alternate timelines, teenage best friends Cleo and Layla fall apart. **Also by this author:** [The Beauty That Remains](#).

[Akata Witch](#) by Nnedi Okorafor | [Beasts Made of Night](#) and [War Girls](#) by Tochi Onyebuchi | [Angel of Greenwood](#) and [Girls Like Us](#) by Randi Pink | [Long Way Down](#), [The Boy in the Black Suit](#), [Miles Morales](#), and [When I Was the Greatest](#) by Jason Reynolds | [The Meet-Cute Project](#) by Rhiannon Richardson | [Smash It!](#) by Francina Simone | [Jackpot](#), [Dear Martin](#), and [Odd One Out](#) by Nic Stone | [All the Days Past, All the Days to Come](#) by Mildred D. Taylor | [On the Come Up](#), [The Hate U Give](#), and [Concrete Rose](#) by Angie Thomas | [Genesis Begins Again](#) by Alicia Williams | [If You Come Softly](#), [Hush](#), and [After Tupac & D Foster](#) by Jacqueline Woodson | [The Sun is Also a Star](#) and [Everything, Everything](#) by Nicola Yoon | [American Street](#), [Pride](#), and [Punching the Air](#) by Ibi Zoboi