

YA Novels to Make You Cry

It's cathartic.

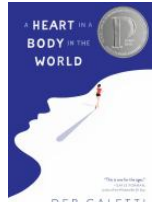


Summer Bird Blue by Akemi Dawn Bowman | [YABOW](#)

After her sister and songwriting partner, Lee, dies in an automobile accident, seventeen-year-old Rumi is sent to Hawaii with an aunt she barely knows while she and her mother grieve separately.

A Heart in a Body in the World by Deb Caletti | [YACAL](#)

Followed by Grandpa Ed in his RV and backed by her brother and friends, Annabelle, eighteen, runs from Seattle to Washington, D.C., becoming a reluctant activist as people connect her journey to her recent trauma.



Tyler Johnson Was Here by Jay Coles | [YACOL](#)

When Marvin Johnson's twin brother, Tyler, is shot and killed by a police officer, Marvin must fight injustice to learn the true meaning of freedom.

Words in Deep Blue by Cath Crowley | [YACRO](#)

Teenagers Rachel and Henry find their way back to each other while working in an old bookstore full of secrets and crushes, love letters and memories, grief and hope.

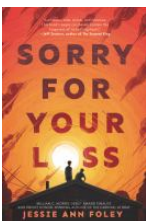
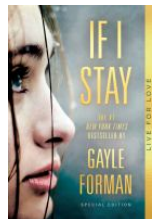


Three Things I Know Are True by Betty Culley | [YACUL](#)

A debut novel in verse explores the experiences of a teen navigating the painful aftermath of a shooting accident that nearly ends her brother's life and triggers painful community divisions.

If I Stay by Gayle Forman | [YAFOR](#)

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. You might also enjoy *I Was Here*, by the same author.

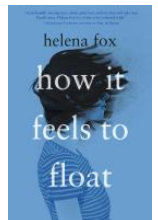


Sorry for Your Loss by Jessie Ann Foley | [YAFOL](#)

An awkward teen, the youngest of eight children, navigates the loss of a sibling throughout a photography assignment that leads him to secrets, opportunities and an unexpected connection.

How it Feels to Float by Helena Fox | [YAFOX](#)

Sixteen-year-old Biz sees her father every day, though he died when she was seven. When he suddenly disappears, she tumbles into a disaster-land of grief and depression from which she must find her way back.



When We Were Infinite by Kelly Loy Gilbert | [YAGIL](#)

Knowing that the friendships she depends on will change when her parents split up, Beth witnesses a private act of violence in her crush's home before forging a pact with her friends to offer support in the face of a life-altering decision. You might also like *Picture Us in the Light*, by the same author.

How to Make Friends with the Dark by Kathleen Glasgow | [YAGLA](#)

Tiger, sixteen, has been pushing away from her overprotective mother, but when her mother dies suddenly Tiger must learn to live when it feels she is surrounded by darkness.



The Lucky Ones by Liz Lawson | [YALAW](#)

In the aftermath of a school tragedy, May and Zach struggle with grief, survivor's guilt, and the complex emotional impact of the event, learning how to heal and hope in the face of it all.

***Just Breathe* by Cammie McGovern | [YA MCG](#)**

Two teens meet in a hospital, and soon realize that they're able to be more themselves with each other than they can be with anyone else. Their unlikely friendship starts to turn into something so much more. But neither can bring themselves to reveal the secrets that weigh most heavily on their hearts--and their time for honesty may be running out.

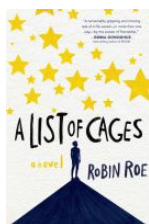


***The Cost of Knowing* by Brittney Morris | [YA MOR](#)**

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.

***I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson | [YA NEL](#)**

A story of first love, family, loss, and betrayal told from different points in time, and in separate voices, by artists Jude and her twin brother Noah. You might also like *The Sky is Everywhere*, by the same author.



***A List of Cages* by Robin Roe | [YA ROE](#)**

Landing a coveted elective to serve as an aide to the school psychologist, Adam, a student struggling with ADHD, is assigned to track down a troubled freshman he discovers is the foster brother he has not seen in five years.

***You'll Miss Me When I'm Gone* by Rachel Lynn Solomon | [YA SOL](#)**

Eighteen-year-old twins Adina, a viola prodigy, and Tovah, a future surgeon, find their relationship tested when they learn that one of them will develop Huntington's, the degenerative disease ravaging their mother.



***The Astonishing Color of After* by Emily X. R. Pan | [YA PAN](#)**

After her mother's suicide, grief-stricken Leigh Sanders travels to Taiwan to stay with grandparents she never met, determined to find her mother who she believes turned into a bird.

***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.



***You've Reached Sam* by Dustin Thao | [YA THA](#)**

Desperate to hear the voice of her boyfriend who recently died one more time, Julie calls his cellphone expecting to hear his voicemail--but then Sam answers, and suddenly their cellphones become a living connection between them, a connection Julie finds impossible to let go.

***The Beauty That Remains* by Ashley Woodfolk | [YA WOO](#)**

Autumn, Shay, and Logan, whose lives intersect in complicated ways, each lose someone close to them and must work through their grief.



***If You Come Softly* by Jacqueline Woodson | [YA WOO](#)**

After meeting at their private school in New York, fifteen-year-old Jeremiah, who is black and whose parents are separated, and Ellie, who is white and whose mother has twice abandoned her, fall in love and then try to cope with people's reactions.

***Goodbye Days* by Jeff Zentner | [YA ZEN](#)**

Looks at a teen's life after the death of his best friend and how he navigates through the guilt and pain by celebrating their lives--and ultimately learning to forgive himself.



Unless otherwise noted, all plot descriptions are from our online catalog.