Focus on Nonfiction

Edinger, Monica
Nearer My Freedom: The Interesting Life of Olaudah Equiano by Himself
Real people are so complicated. Olaudah Equiano led a rough life – enslaved on three continents, he survived as he had to in dangerous world. Even in his own telling, he is not always noble or good, but he is interesting.

Mufleh, Luma - From Here
Mufleh is a refugee activist and a gay Muslim woman who grew up in Jordan knowing that if she stayed she would be killed for her sexuality. When she finally found a way to escape to the U.S. her family was powerful enough to send the FBI after her. If memoirs that seem almost too wild to be true are your thing then this one is for you.

Rusch, Elizabeth
The 21: The True Story of the Youth Who Sued the U.S. Government Over Climate Change
Some very brave children – many of them from Oregon – teamed up with some clever attorneys to sue the government, shedding light in a dramatic way on harmful environmental policies.

Slater, Dashka
Accountable: The True Story of a Racist Social Media Account and the Teenagers Whose Lives It Changed
When people say they don’t like nonfiction, they don’t mean nonfiction like this. It is jaw dropping, infuriating, and has a lasting impact.

Other Fiction

Ross, Rebecca
Divine Rivals
Read this one if you want journalist rivals with a healthy dose of star-crossed angst and wartime action. Magic brings them together; will the reawakened gods tear them apart?

Thanh Tran, Trang
She is a Haunting
Do you believe in ghosts? How about that ghosts creep in to your dreams, your walls, your flowerbeds, your very marrow? Jade didn’t even want to come visit her father in Vietnam in the first place. Now, everywhere she looks, there is rot, anger, and unraveling. It’s not pretty to look at, but it’s impossible to look away.

White, Andrew Joseph
The Spirit Bares Its Teeth
Dark academia to the extreme. How do you thrive when the whole world doesn’t believe you are who you are? Do you fight to find allies and a place to belong or do you give up and listen to the anxiety rabbit within you?

Zoboi, Ibi
Nigeria Jones
An amazing book for anyone fascinated by cults and ready to love a deeply frustrating protagonist. Nigeria is stuck in a mess of a Movement, controlled by her father and fighting with all she’s got to break free. Her choices don’t always make sense, but she is brave and she is memorable.
Albertalli, Becky
Imogen, Obviously
Lighthearted and meaningful all at once. What’s the line between friendship and romance? What do you do when you find yourself questioning who you are and who you’re attracted to? Discover Imogen’s answer as she makes new friends, has new crushes, and discovers a new part to her story.

Boulley, Angeline
Warrior Girl Unearthed
The second book by Angeline Boulley hits on so many levels. It’s thrilling, witty, and exciting. It is a primer on the multilayered failures of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. It’s an indictment of the ongoing pattern of harm to indigenous women. And just for the fan, Daunis from Firekeeper’s Daughter reappears in a deeply satisfying supporting role.

Caletti, Deb
Plan A
The characters in this one say it best, this is an “abortion road trip love story. The characters will make you smile while you cry as they make their way from their ultraconservative Texas town to Oregon. Each stop at a small town named for another place, roadside attraction, and visit with family and friends along the way reinforces the importance of choice.

Ernshaw, Shea
A Wilderness of Stars
Moving from a sheltered upbringing to a deeply disturbing dystopian world, Vega has a unique role to play in the future of the world. Her post-apocalyptic journey has a little romance, a touch of mysticism, a will to survive, and a lot of tension.

Gould, Courtney
Where Echoes Die
Eerie and unsettling, an isolated desert town with big cult vibes will draw you in again...and again. Sisters investigating a connection to their mother’s death will have to follow in her footsteps and her obsession.

Hazelwood, Ali
Check & Mate
Mallory Greenleaf hasn’t touched chess in four years but at her best friend’s urging plays in a tournament where she is paired with and then beats the world chess champion...whoops. It is serving slow-burn rivals to romance against the backdrop of competitive chess.

Johnson, Kim
Invisible Son
This is a certified tearjerker that will pull you back to 2020 and the heartbreak that surrounded us all. Get to know and love Andre as he deals with every sad and scary thing about being a Black teen in America. The gloom and joy in this book will surround you until the very last page.

Magoon, Kekla
The Minus-One Club
Found family, self-discovery, and heartbreak. Read this one if you want your heart broken and put back together again, over and over. Will the end leave you shattered into a million pieces or stitched back together with hope?

McCullough, Joy
Enter the Body
This novel-in-verse is Shakespeare, but make it feminist. In the room beneath a stage’s trapdoor, the dead girls of Shakespeare’s plays share and compare their stories, but this time they get to choose how their stories are told.

Ness, Patrick
Different for Boys
This is Heartstopper but with even more of the messy reality of boys coming to terms with sexuality in a small town. The illustrations, strategically censored content, and the story will break your heart, but the cracks will let hope in.

Oshiro, Mark
Into the Light
Three timelines and two narrators tell a story of religious trauma, PTSD, abandonment, and the toll extracted from those whose autonomy is stripped from them. The conclusion to this thriller is revealed piece by piece and by the end, you will be ready to help Manny set the world on fire, for him and all the kids like him who have been mistreated.

King, A.S. (Editor)
The Collectors
In these pages you will find superheroes, frozen moments, pain, heartbreak, a collection of collections, and empty swimming pools. Sometimes dark and moody, sometimes light and surprising, this collection of short stories has it all.