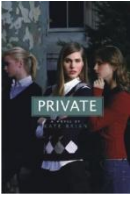
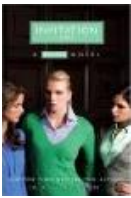


New Books March 2010



Private (Kate Brian)

Reed Brennan is nervous as she begins her sophomore year as a transfer student at prestigious Easton Academy. All of the other students are richer than she could ever believe, and she immediately finds that she's in way over her head academically. She determines that she'll do anything to keep from flunking out and going back to her dreary home. Reed aspires to be just like the beautiful and brilliant girls who live in the luxurious Billings dorm, but she has little hope of ever being accepted into that elite crowd. Somehow, though, she edges in and barely notices their cruelty because she's so grateful to be tossed the crumbs of their kindness.



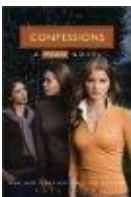
Invitation Only: A Private Novel (Kate Brian)

Reed Brennan is a blue-collar girl looking to upgrade to a new life, starting with her scholarship to Easton, an exclusive boarding school. She is invited to join the "Billings Girls," a clique with money, connections, and power-if she can pass her initiation. She is being blackmailed by a classmate for dirt on the Girls, even while her hazing involves waiting on them hand and foot. Meanwhile, the police are investigating the disappearance of her former boyfriend, Thomas. Finally there is The Legacy, a party that she feels she must attend because he might be there. Competition for an invitation is fierce, because the only way in is as the date of someone whose family has had children at the school for generations.



Untouchable: A Private Novel (Kate Brian)

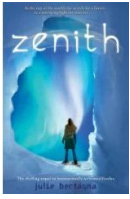
Reed's boyfriend, Thomas Pearson -- the popular, easygoing, irresistibly handsome and charismatic boy she fell in love with -- is dead. No one knows how it happened, and everyone is after the truth. Or are they?



Confessions: A Private Novel (Kate Brian)

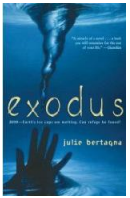
This fourth entry in the series jumps right into action as one of the "Billings Girls" watches her current boyfriend being hauled away for the murder of her former one. Though Reed Brenner lives in the prestigious Billings Hall and is best friends with the top group, she is not like the other girls. For one thing, she's a scholarship student and for another, she believes Josh is innocent. While the rest of the school tries to figure out ways to party off campus, Reed becomes obsessed with finding the real killer. She discovers an ill-advised affair, a jealous debutante, and more secrets than money at Easton Academy. The novel is a quick read, complete with plenty of pop-culture references. The suspense grows along with Reed's paranoia.

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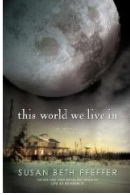
Zenith (Julie Bertagna)

A well-written and well-paced sequel to *Exodus* (Walker, 2008). Mara has sailed away with a group of people to find a land that may or may not exist at the top of the world. Fox, her true love and co-revolutionary, has chosen to stay behind to fight the corrupt government. Mara communicates with him using their stolen cyberwizz technology. Tuck is a sticky-fingered, misunderstood boy from a floating atoll of scavengers whose existence is said to have brought bad luck to his family and his town. After the ship that Mara is on destroys part of his town, he sees his chance of escape and stows away on it. Their quest to build a future while trying to survive will keep teens involved from the first chapter.



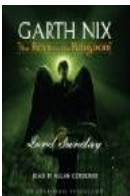
Exodus (Julie Bertagna)

In this epic tale of global warming and environmental disaster set at the dawn of the next century, 15-year-old Mara has lived with the realization that the world is drowning. Growing up on Wing, she has watched her North Atlantic island become smaller each year, and people have long ago abandoned technology in their struggles to subsist. After a particularly bad ocean surge, another part of the village is lost. This spurs Mara to convince the villagers that they will have a chance at a new life in the Sky Cities, which she has located on the now-defunct version of the Internet. After a grueling journey, the refugees find themselves locked out of the city by a giant wall. As sickness and disease claim some of her people, Mara decides to find a way into the city to save them.



The World We Live In (Susan Beth Pfeffer)

In *Life as We Knew It* (2006), readers met 16-year-old Miranda, living in rural Pennsylvania when a meteor hits the moon, causing chaos and carnage throughout the world. In *The Dead and the Gone* (2008), the same event in New York City is chronicled through the eyes of Alex Morales. Now, through rather improbable circumstances, the two teens meet when Alex and sister Julie, tagging along with Miranda's father, wife, and infant, show up in Pennsylvania. It's been a year since the meteor hit, and though there's a new normalcy, it involves hunger, a lack of sunlight, and "redistributing" goods from the homes of the dead.



Lord Sunday (Garth Nix)

In this thrilling conclusion to Garth Nix's *Keys to the Kingdom* series, Arthur Penhaligon must complete his quest to save the Kingdom he is heir to...and Arthur's world.