

New Books  
January 2012

The Future of Us

by Jay Asher and Carolyn Mackler

It's 1996, and Josh and Emma have been neighbors their whole lives. They've been best friends almost as long - at least, up until last November, when Josh did something that changed everything. Things have been weird between them ever since, but when Josh's family gets a free AOL CD in the mail, his mom makes him bring it over so that Emma can install it on her new computer. When they sign on, they're automatically logged onto their Facebook pages. But Facebook hasn't been invented yet. And they're looking at themselves fifteen years in the future.

By refreshing their pages, they learn that making different decisions now will affect the outcome of their lives later. And as they grapple with the ups and downs of what their futures hold, they're forced to confront what they're doing right - and wrong - in the present.

Heist Society (Heist Society Series #1)

by Ally Carter

For as long as she can remember, Katarina has been a part of the family business—thieving. When Kat tries to leave “the life” for a normal life, her old friend Hale conspires to bring her back into the fold. Why? A mobster's art collection has been stolen, and Kat's father is the only suspect. Caught between Interpol and a far more deadly enemy, Kat's dad needs her help.

The only solution is to find the paintings and steal them back. Kat's got two weeks, a teenage crew, and hopefully enough talent to pull off the biggest heist in her family's history—and, with any luck, steal her life back along the way.

Uncommon Criminals (Heist Society Series #2) by Ally Carter

After robbing the most secure museum in the world, Katrina Bishop, 15, has a reputation as a top thief. Unsure of what she wants to do with her talent, she has been avoiding family heists and striking out on her own to return priceless art to its rightful owners. When she is approached, however, about stealing the infamous Cleopatra Emerald, she finds herself tricked and her uncle's reasons for forbidding anyone to steal the precious gem coming to light. This is an exciting, entertaining read with a fast-moving plot, a spot of romance, and a strong and smart female protagonist. Readers will hope for another heist from Kat.—Clare A. Dombrowski, Amesbury Public Library, MA (School Library Journal)

The Death Catchers

by Jennifer Anne Kogler

On her fourteenth Halloween, Lizzy Mortimer sees her first death-specter.

Confused at first, Lizzy soon learns from her grandmother Bizzy that as Death Catchers, they must prevent fate from taking its course when an unjust death is planned—a mission that has been passed down from their ancestor, Morgan le Fay. Only, Lizzy doesn't expect one of her first cases to land her in the middle of a feud older than time between Morgan le Fay and her sister Vivienne le Mort. Vivienne hopes to hasten the end of the world by preventing Lizzy from saving King Arthur's last descendant—humanity's greatest hope for survival. It's up to Lizzy, as Morgan's earthly advocate, to outwit fate before it's too late.

The Dark Deeps (Hunchback Assignments Series #2) by Arthur Slade

Transforming his appearance and stealing secret documents from the French is all in a day's work for fourteen-year-old MODO, a British secret agent. But his latest mission—to uncover the underwater mystery of something called the Ictíneo—seems impossible. There are rumors of a sea monster and a fish as big as a ship. French spies are after it, and Mr. Socrates, MODO's master, wants to find it first. MODO and his fellow secret agent, Octavia, begin their mission in

New York City, then take a steamship across the North Atlantic. During the voyage, Modo uncovers an astounding secret.