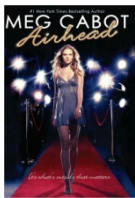


New Books – September 2009



Airhead

Meg Cabot

Em is considerably more interested in playing computer games with her friend Christopher than in befriending the A-list girls who rule her high school. A freak accident mortally injures Em and leaves superstar model Nikki brain dead. After a transplant operation, Em wakes up in Nikki's body and learns that she must keep her identity a secret and live her life as Nikki. Readers who are willing to swallow the brain transplant idea will find that the rest of the story goes down easily enough; there's plenty to entertain readers with stars in their eyes as well as those who disdain the pop-culture glamour of Nikki's life. Besides the juxtaposition of Em's world with Nikki's, there are elements of humor and glimmers of compassion for the rich and famous in this first-person story. Toward the novel's end, "Nikki" enrolls in Em's old school. Can the girl inside that too-perfect body reconnect with the boy she secretly loves? Stay tuned.



Being Nikki

Meg Cabot

Em was sure there couldn't be anything worse than being a brainiac in the body of a teenaged supermodel. But it turned out she was wrong. Because that supermodel could turn out to have a mother who's gone mysteriously missing, a brother who's shown up on her doorstep demanding answers, a former best friend who's intent on destroying Stark Enterprises to avenge the death of his lost love, and a British heartthrob who's written a song about her that's topping the charts. How can Em balance all that with school, runway shows, and weekend jaunts to St. Johns - especially when she's got ex-boyfriends crawling out of the woodwork who want more than just a photo op; a sister who is headed to the high school cheerleading championships; a company she represents that seems to be turning to the dark side?



Eighth Grade Bites

Heather Brewer

Vladimir Tod's is a vampire-or at least sort of; he's not quite sure. His father was a vampire, but his mother was human, and they died three years ago in a mysterious accident. Now Vlad has only his friend Henry and his "Aunt" Nelly, his mother's best friend who is raising him, to confide in. He has a hunger for blood, although he's been trained since babyhood to be "normal" and not to act on it. He gets by because Nelly, who's a nurse, brings home bags of blood from the hospital where she works, and he hides one or two in his backpack for when he gets hungry. But Vlad realizes that his father had a history he didn't know about when his English teacher vanishes mysteriously, to be replaced by a tall, thin substitute teacher in a purple top hat who seems to know a little too much about him.



Ninth Grade Slays

Heather Brewer

Freshman year stinks for Vlad Tod. Bullies still harass him. The photographer from the school newspaper is tailing him. And failing his studies could be deadly. A trip to Siberia gives "study abroad" a whole new meaning as Vlad connects with other vampires and advances his mind-control abilities, but will he return home with the skills to recognize a vampire slayer when he sees one? In this thrilling sequel to Eighth Grade Bites, Vlad must confront the secrets of the past and battle forces that once again threaten his life.



Tenth Grade Bleeds

Heather Brewer

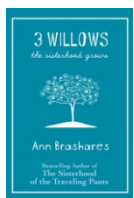
It's another sucky year at Bathory High for Vladimir Tod. The evil vampire D'Ablo is hunting for the ritual that could steal Vlad's powers. His best friend Henry doesn't want to be his drudge anymore. And as if all that weren't enough, it's getting harder for Vlad to resist feeding on the people around him. When months go by with no word from Uncle Otis and D'Ablo shows up demanding Vlad's father's journal, Vlad realizes that having a normal high school year is the least of his concerns. Vlad needs to act fast, and even his status as the Pravus won't save him this time . . .



The Dead and the Gone

Susan Beth Pfeffer

In *Life as We Knew It* (2005), veteran writer Pfeffer painted a terrifying picture of what happened in a rural Pennsylvania town after an asteroid hit the moon and cataclysmic changes on land and sea caused familiar life to grind to a halt. For readers who wondered if things were any better in a bustling city, here is the horrifying answer. On the night the moon tilts, 17-year-old Alex and his younger sisters are alone; their mother is at work, and their father is visiting Puerto Rico. No matter how the kids wish, hope, and pray, their parents don't return. It's up to Alex to do what's best. At first that means bartering for food and batteries and avoiding fighting with the rambunctious Julie—especially after sickly Bri is sent to live at a rural convent. Later it means rescuing Julie from rapists and steering her away from the corpses that litter the street, providing food for rats.



3 Willows

Ann Brashares

Brashares begins a new sisterhood series, with occasional cameos from the Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants gang. Ama, Jo, and Polly originally met in third grade. Now it's the summer before high school, and they're all dealing with disappointments and difficulties. Ghana-born overachiever Ama is horrified with her assignment to a summer wilderness camp instead of the academic program she was hoping for. Jo is dealing with her parents' separation and the wildly attractive boy at work. Free-spirit Polly is struggling to transform herself into a model through radical dieting and modeling camps. There are glimpses of Tibby and Lena from the Pants series, but readers seeking old friends from the wildly popular series will be disappointed.



The Comet's Curse

Dom Testa

This first entry in the Galahad series has an irresistible hook: the comet Bhaktul passes Earth releasing toxic particles that are slowly killing everyone over 16, leading the world's top minds to create a spaceship, the Galahad, to transport 251 of Earth's finest young adults to the planet most likely to offer the safest environment. It's one part *Lord of the Flies* and one part TV reality show, as the young crew comes to terms with the heavy responsibilities of their mission—as well as their raging hormones. Shortly after blastoff, a chilling mystery begins: sensors reveal that an extra person is aboard, leaving behind ominous messages like “This is a death ship!”



Why Is Snot Green?

Glenn Murphy

“Is the Earth really getting hotter, and is that so bad?” “Why do we walk on two legs (instead of four)?” Conservation, evolution, technology, animal life, space travel, physics, and much more are discussed in this lively science book.

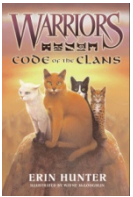


Don't Judge a Girl by her Cover

Ally Carter

When Cammie "The Chameleon" Morgan visits her roommate Macey in Boston, she thinks she's in for an exciting end to her summer break. After all, she's there to watch Macey's father accept the nomination for vice president of the United States. But when you go to the world's best school (for spies), "exciting" and "deadly" are never far apart.

Cammie and Macey soon find themselves trapped in a kidnappers' plot, with only their espionage skills to save them. As her junior year begins, Cammie can't shake the memory of what happened in Boston, and even the Gallagher Academy for Exceptional Young Women doesn't feel like the safe haven it once did. Shocking secrets and old flames seem to lurk around every one of the mansion's corners as Cammie and her friends struggle to answer the questions, Who is after Macey? And how can the Gallagher Girls keep her safe? Soon Cammie is joining Bex and Liz as Macey's private security team on the campaign trail. The girls must use their spy training at every turn as the stakes are raised, and Cammie gets closer and closer to the shocking truth.



Warriors: Code of the Clans

Erin Hunter

The secrets behind the warrior code will finally be revealed.

- An ominous sign from StarClan that signaled the need to patrol borders
- The unexpected help from a warrior ancestor that cemented the importance of elders
- A secret coup that led to a deputy's new role
- A medicine cat's pleas that stopped a spree of interClan bloodshed and many more never-before-told stories!



Princess of the Midnight Ball

Jessica DayGeorge

The Brothers Grimm tale *The Twelve Dancing Princesses* is vibrantly retold and set in a fictionalized nineteenth-century Europe. Galen, a soldier (and knitter) returning home from war, encounters an old woman who gives him an invisibility cloak and yarn possessing magical powers. While working as a gardener at the palace, he encounters the princess, Rose, and her 11 younger sisters. Because of a secret bargain their mother made with the evil King Under Stone, the princesses are cursed to dance each night till their shoes are worn ragged. Aided by the good magic held in his yarn, Galen solves the puzzle that has stumped many a prince and earns Rose's love and hand in marriage.



A Kiss in Time

Alex Flinn

- Talia fell under a spell . . . Jack broke the curse.
- I was told to beware the accursed spindle, but it was so enchanting, so hypnotic. . . .
 - I was looking for a little adventure the day I ditched my tour group. But finding a comatose town, with a hot-looking chick asleep in it, was so not what I had in mind.
- I awakened in the same place but in another time—to a stranger's soft kiss.
- I couldn't help kissing her. Sometimes you just have to kiss someone. I didn't know this would happen.
- Now I am in dire trouble because my father, the king, says I have brought ruin upon our country. I have no choice but to run away with this commoner!
- Now I'm stuck with a bratty princess and a trunk full of her jewels. . . . The good news: My parents will freak!
- Think you have dating issues? Try locking lips with a snoozing stunner who turns out to be 316 years old. Can a kiss transcend all—even time?



Project Sweet Life

Brent Hartinger

Fifteen-year-old Dave and his buddies Victor and Curtis are shocked when their fathers demand they get summer jobs. As the boys glumly contemplate actual work, they decide to deceive their families, avoid employment, and live the sweet life for one last summer. Still, they need to figure out a way to make money, which they can pass off to their parents as hard-earned wages. In a series of ill-fated schemes that range from bank stakeouts to scuba diving, the boys weave a complicated and uncomfortable web of lies and rack up a large debt. At last, they try a desperate plan to locate stolen gold that plunges them into the China Tunnels, a remnant of a black time in the history of Tacoma, Washington.



Jessica's Guide to Dating on the Dark Side

Beth Fantaskey

A romance involving a high school girl and a handsome vampire may sound a little too familiar, yet this first novel quickly bursts ahead of the pack of Twilight-wannabes. Down-to-earth mathlete Jessica Packwood is completely horrified when, a few months shy of her 18th birthday, a Romanian named Lucius Vladescu shows up on her doorstep, claiming that he and she are vampire royalty betrothed to each other since infancy—what's worse, her adoptive parents verify the betrothal story and explain that her birth parents identified themselves as vampires, too. Fantaskey makes this premise work by playing up its absurdities without laughing at them, endowing Jessica with a coolly ironic sensibility and Lucius with old-world snobberies that Jessica's girlfriends find irresistible.



The Last Thing I Remember

Andrew Klavan

Charlie is a squeaky-clean high-schooler who gets good grades, dreams about joining the Air Force, and loves practicing his karate—and it's this last skill that comes in especially handy when he wakes up tied to a chair next to a tableau of torture instruments. In an attempt to understand how he landed in such dire straits, he flashes back to the last thing he remembers: a seemingly typical day at school. So begins the fantastic first half of this post-9/11 thriller in which each bit of recovered memory directly informs how Charlie deals with his mysterious captors.



Surface Tension

Brent Runyon

Runyon (*The Burn Journals*, 2004) tracks the changes in an adolescent boy over four summers, from ages 13 to 16. Each section covers the family's two-week vacation at their lakeside cottage. The repetitive structure allows readers to see the drastic changes in Luke as he veers from an exuberant middle-schooler whose primary concerns are making sure to fit in enough fishing, rock-skipping, exploring, and star-gazing, through early puberty in which the bikini-clad neighbors and sexual fantasies dominate his thoughts, to an alternately glowering and love-struck teenager finding expression in bad poetry and sullenness.



Suck It Up

Brain Meehl

Meehl creates an original and light variation on the current trend in brooding teen vampire protagonists with Morning McCobb, a geeky, 16-year-old, New York orphan doomed to immortality. Morning's "turning" from mortal to vampire was an accident; usually, only the young and beautiful are selected to join the vampiric community. The leader of the International Vampire League selects Morning to be the first vampire to out himself to humans, or Lifers. Thus begins a mutually manipulative relationship involving Morning, ace publicist Penny Dredful, and her 16-year-old daughter, Portia, a beautiful would-be filmmaker.



Thirteen Reasons Why

Jay Asher

When Clay Jensen plays the cassette tapes he received in a mysterious package, he's surprised to hear the voice of dead classmate Hannah Baker. He's one of 13 people who receive Hannah's story, which details the circumstances that led to her suicide. Clay spends the rest of the day and long into the night listening to Hannah's voice and going to the locations she wants him to visit. The text alternates, sometimes quickly, between Hannah's voice (italicized) and Clay's thoughts as he listens to her words, which illuminate betrayals and secrets that demonstrate the consequences of even small actions. Hannah, herself, is not free from guilt, her own inaction having played a part in an accidental auto death and a rape. The message about how we treat one another, although sometimes heavy, makes for compelling reading.



The Lab

Jack Heath

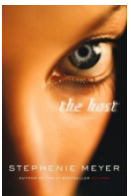
Even though it was written when the author was in high school, this action-packed page-turner features steady pacing, taut prose, and even a little character development. In a polluted world reduced to a single walled island of nine billion people, teenage Agent Six of Hearts belongs to a secret organization called The Deck that battles the excesses of ChaoSonic, the corporation that controls everything. The product of a mysterious laboratory where bird, shark, and even plant genes were added to his DNA, Agent Six has superhuman abilities and considers himself a machine—until, that is, he meets a laughing, reckless fellow experiment with similar powers who prods him into accepting his humanity.



Pendragon: The Soldiers of Halla

D.J. MacHale

It has all been leading to this. Every victory. Every loss. All the thrills and sadness; the hope and despair. Bobby Pendragon's heart-pounding journey through time and space has brought him to this epic moment. He and his fellow Travelers must join forces for one last desperate battle against Saint Dane. At stake is not only the tenth and final territory, but all that ever was or will be. Everywhere. This is the war for Halla. Every question is answered. Every truth is revealed. The final battle has begun.



The Host

Stephenie Meyer

A race of parasitic aliens has nearly completed its benevolent conquest of the aggressive, violent human race. By implanting themselves into humans, the souls have access to all of the hosts' memories and emotions and are indistinguishable from them. The humans do not realize they're being taken over until it is nearly too late. Some resist the invasion, including Melanie Stryder, her brother, and her lover. When Melanie is killed on a mission, her body is taken over by a soul named "Wanderer." Melanie's memories prove overwhelming for Wanderer, who eventually succumbs to her need to search out her family.



The Sorceress

Michael Scott

This third volume of The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel series continues the adventures of Josh and Sophie amid a sea of immortal mythical and historical figures. As the twins continue to dodge the evil machinations of John Dee and Niccolò Machiavelli, newcomers Billy the Kid, William Shakespeare, and a rather insane Gilgamesh all make appearances.