

## The Kiss A Secret Life

Becoming a Christian is the best and worst thing that has ever happened to Sarah Hollenbeck. Best because, well, that's obvious. Worst because, up to this point, she's made her very comfortable living as a well-known, bestselling author of steamy romance novels that would leave the members of her new church blushing. Now Sarah is trying to reconcile her past with the future she's chosen. She's still under contract with her publisher and on the hook with her enormous fan base for the kind of book she's not sure she can write anymore. She's beginning to think that the church might frown on her tithing on royalties from a "scandalous" book. And the fact that she's falling in love with her pastor doesn't make things any easier. With a powerful voice, penetrating insight, and plenty of wit, Bethany Turner explodes onto the scene with a debut that isn't afraid to deal with the thorny realities of living the Christian life.

In this non-fiction story of struggle and grief, *My Secret Life: A Memoir of Bulimia* details one teenager's battle with Bulimia Nervosa. After years of bullying, Leanne Waters examines the development of her illness and looks closely at the psychological foundations of this ambiguous disease. It is a first-hand account of a secret world that lurks behind closed doors in daily life. A penetrating insight into the mentality of a Bulimic, the story follows Waters' downfall from a high-achiever with tremendous potential to a shadowed breath of her former self. In 1977, pregnant Genevieve Russell disappeared. Twenty years later, her remains are discovered and Timothy Gleason is charged with murder. But there is no sign of the unborn child. CeeCee Wilkes knows how Genevieve Russell died, because she was there. And she knows what happened to her missing infant, because two decades ago she made the devastating choice to raise the baby as her own. Now Timothy Gleason is facing the death penalty, and she has another choice to make. Tell the truth and destroy her family. Or let an innocent man die in order to protect a lifetime of lies.

The secret life of romantic comedy offers a new approach to one of the most popular and resilient genres in the history of Hollywood. Steering away from the rigidity and ideological determinism of traditional accounts of the genre, this book advocates a more flexible theory, which allows the student to explore the presence of the genre in unexpected places, extending the concept to encompass films that are not usually considered romantic comedies. Combining theory with detailed analyses of a selection of films, including *To Be or Not to Be* (1942), *Rear Window* (1954), *Kiss Me Stupid* (1964), *Crimes and Misdemeanors* (1989) and *Before Sunset* (2004), the book aims to provide a practical framework for the exploration of a key area of contemporary experience – intimate matters – through one of its most powerful filmic representations: the genre of romantic comedy. Original and entertaining, *The secret life of romantic comedy* is perfect for students and academics of film and film genre.

Until recently, very little was known about the early life of Hollywood's most

famous movie star. Here, compiled from extensive eyewitness interviews, Darwin Porter delves deep into the star's hot, horny formative years on Broadway and in early Talkie Hollywood. Looking at everything from his affairs with such starlets as Marlene Dietrich and Bette Davis, to his AWOL escapades in the army, to his compulsive brushes with gangsters, prostitutes and blackmailers, this is the untold story of Hollywood's hottest hunk in history.

Rosie Mauer is the high school librarian, lunchroom attendant and after-school detention monitor at Laurel Grove High School. She sings in the church choir and knows that even though her IQ is off the records, she blends into the world with as much flair as the wilting honeysuckle growing along the wall in her mom's garden. She figures her life will always be so bland. That is, until she is hired incognito to be the nanny for a rich man's son who is a suspect in the murder of two girls whose disappearance and deaths may also mirror those of her aunt who vanished forty years earlier. As Rosie Mauer, she's an awkward young woman with a crush on her sister's fireman boyfriend and who can't seem to fit in with the redneck side of her daddy's family or the stuffy, rich side of her mom's. As her alter ego-beautiful and outgoing Violet Popovich, she's getting more guy attention than she can handle and finds herself digging deeper into a crime surpassing the imaginations of those around her and puts her on the trail of possible serial killer. Between her two worlds, she is running out of time as the bodies start to pile up. And it is getting more difficult to hide her secret life.

One of today's best young American writers transforms into a work of art the darkest passage imaginable in a young woman's life: an obsessive love affair between father and daughter.

Bounty hunter Bryan Kelly trades places with his brother, a preacher who is a benefactor to ladies of the evening, to discover who is trying to sabotage his charity organization and finds himself tempted beyond belief by Shay Sommers, a stunning prostitute who is not what she seems. Original. 65,000 first printing. This gorgeous and lyrical picture book follows a year in the life of a red fox named Vixen. Kids will learn about a common backyard neighbor as they read how Vixen finds food, hunts, escapes threats, finds a mate, and raises her kits—all the way to the day that she and her mate watch their kits head off to lead their own secret lives. Stunning, realistic illustrations celebrate the beauty of these mysterious creatures as readers learn important facts through an engaging and fascinating story. The book also includes back matter with more in-depth information, a glossary, and further resources.

“Breathtaking. . .chillingly beautiful, like postcards from Eden. . .Van Booy’s stories are somehow like paintings the characters walk out of, and keep walking.”  
-Los Angeles Times In his critically-acclaimed debut collection of short stories, *The Secret Lives of People in Love*, Simon Van Booy explores the sway of fate and power of memory on the lives of lonely and vulnerable people. With the same spare, economical prose that he brought to his subsequent collection, *Love Begins in Winter*, winner of the 2009 Frank O’Connor Short Story Award, Van

Booy creates a profoundly humane and somber resonance with the assured hand of “a first-rate storyteller” (Newsday). *The Secret Lives of People in Love* announces the arrival of a major new voice in fiction.

When star-crossed lovers reunite under strange circumstances in Regency England, will they be brave enough to take a second chance at love? *The Secret Life of Lady Julia* is Lecia Cornwall’s seductive follow-up to her debut historical romance, *How to Deceive a Duke*. Lady Julia Leighton is engaged to a long-time family friend who doesn’t spark her passion, and at her betrothal ball she meets a seductive stranger who steals hot kisses—and much more—from the beautiful innocent. Thomas Merritt is a thief of women’s hearts, and their expensive jewels. His steamy encounter with Lady Julia unexpectedly has him rethinking his wicked ways, but in the end, Thomas flees temptation. When their paths cross years later, Julia has a secret she’s desperate to bury and Thomas is hiding something dangerous, but he needs her help to set things right. Can two lovers with dark pasts overcome their tangled history and rekindle their former love?

Roxy's about to turn sixteen, but life isn't so sweet. As a band geek, Roxy can barely get the cute guys to notice her, much less go out with her. Then, on her birthday, Roxy is transformed into a siren: seductively beautiful with the power to control all men. She thought sirens were an ancient myth, but suddenly Roxy can get any guy she wants with just a few notes on her flute. There are only two rules: don't tell anyone about being a siren, and don't fall in love. When she starts dating Zach, the guy everybody's crushing on, Roxy realizes she could get used to this siren thing...but how can she keep herself from falling in love?

Learn about a year in the life of a little brown bat named Otis. This gorgeous and lyrical picture book follows a year in the life of a little brown bat named Otis as he learns to be a hunter, escape predators, and find a mate. Stunning, realistic illustrations celebrate the beauty of these mysterious creatures as readers learn important facts through an engaging and fascinating story. The book also includes back matter with more in-depth information, a glossary, and further resources.

Trapped in a loveless marriage, Frenchwoman Isabelle cares for her daughter and dangerously ill son while pursuing a secret friendship with American power broker Bill Robinson, until a car accident tests their growing love. Reprint.

“Far from growing up in the wealthy, fox-hunting circles she had always suggested, her mother had in fact been raised in a foundling hospital for the children of unwed women.” — Editor’s Choice, *The New York Times Book Review* “Extraordinary ... fascinating, moving.” —*The Telegraph* “This emotional and transatlantic journey is a page-turner.” — Editor’s Pick, *Amazon Book Review* “Book groups will find as much to discuss here as they have with *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls, and *Educated* by Tara Westover.” — *BookList* Recommended by *The New York Times*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Amazon Book Review*, *The Atlanta Journal Constitution*, *Publisher’s Weekly*, *Kirkus* and more, Justine Cowan’s remarkable true story of how she uncovered her

mother's upbringing as a foundling at London's Hospital for the Maintenance and Education of Exposed and Deserted Young Children has received acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic. In the U.K., it has been featured in The Mail on Sunday, The Daily Mail, The Daily Mirror and The Spectator. The Telegraph calls it "extraordinary and Glamour magazine chose it as the best new book based on real life. The story begins when Justine found her often volatile mother in an unlit room writing a name over and over again, one that she had never heard before and would not hear again for many years – Dorothy Soames. Thirty years later, overcome with grief following her mother's death, Justine found herself drawn back to the past, uncovering a mystery that stretched back to the early years of World War II and beyond, into the dark corridors of the Hospital for the Maintenance and Education of Exposed and Deserted Young Children. Established in the eighteenth century to raise "bastard" children to clean chamber pots for England's ruling class, the institution was tied to some of history's most influential figures and events. From its role in the development of solitary confinement and human medical experimentation to the creation of the British Museum and the Royal Academy of Arts, its impact on Western culture continues to reverberate. It is the reason we read Dickens' Oliver Twist and enjoy Handel's Messiah each Christmas. It was also the environment that shaped a young girl known as Dorothy Soames, who bravely withstood years of physical and emotional abuse at the hands of a sadistic headmistress—a resilient child whose only hope would be a daring escape as German bombers rained death from the skies. Heartbreaking, surprising, and unforgettable, The Secret Life of Dorothy Soames is the true story of one woman's quest to understand the secrets that had poisoned her mother's mind, and her startling discovery that her family's fate had been sealed centuries before.

Dahlia Greene—aka international pop superstar Cherry—is undercover as a normal high school student. She just wants to experience what real life is like, so when she overhears hottie Keegan Matthews nervously talking about liking a girl, she sees the perfect opportunity to live a real life and play a little matchmaker. What was not part of the plan was falling for a guy she can never tell the truth. Keegan Matthews has been secretly crushing on Dahlia ever since she started at his school. Sure, Dahlia thinks he's crushing on some other girl—not realizing his Dream Girl is actually her—but he figures, play along with her tips to woo someone else, let her get to know him, and then make his move. But with so many secrets in the mix, their romance is doomed from the start... Disclaimer: This Entangled Teen Crush book contains adult language, references to drinking and drugs, and a kiss so steamy it'll fog up your ereader. This Dahlia and Keegan story is a standalone book that is part of the larger, multi-authored Creative HeArts Series, which can be read out of order. If you loved Mariely and Cabot's story, you'll love the complete series set at Austin NextGen Academy, including: #1 - Ten Things Sloane Hates About Tru #2 - How Willa Got Her Groove Back #3 - Crazy, Stupid, Fauxmance #4 - The Secret Life of a Dream Girl

#5 - Falling for the Girl Next Door #6 - Weddings, Crushes, and Other Dramas  
Just another dull debutante? From boxing at Jackson's to dancing starry-eyed society belles around London's ballrooms, Beldon Stratten is the perfect English gentleman. And he's looking for a perfectly bland, respectable wife. Appearances can be deceiving... Exotic Lilya Stefanov is anything but bland. Beldon is intrigued to see that the ragamuffin girl he once knew has matured into an elegant lady, poised and polite! But beneath the mysterious beauty's evening gowns and polished etiquette lies a dangerous secret—and a scandalous sensuality...

We all know that kids say the funniest things, but do we know why? The Secret Life of 4, 5 and 6 Year Olds has quickly become must-see television, as each week we are given access to the hidden world of children when adults aren't around. Since the first episode was broadcast, over a hundred children have been featured and their tears, tantrums and laughter have provided the best drama on television. In this official companion to the award-winning Channel 4 show, written by Executive Producer, Teresa Watkins and neuroscientist Paul Howard-Jones, we relive some of its funniest, most touching moments and explore what's going on in the heads of little people when big people aren't around. It turns out that we can learn a huge amount from them. Full of amazing moments, sharp insights and fascinating science and full of beautiful photography, this is a celebration of the extraordinary lives of children and a reminder that we are all closely connected to our four-year-old selves.

"Within a day of receiving this book, I had consumed it... Absorbing, moving, and compulsively readable."—Lydia Davis In this affectionate, heart-warming chronicle, Rosamund Young distills a lifetime of organic farming wisdom, describing the surprising personalities of her cows and other animals At her famous Kite's Nest Farm in Worcestershire, England, the cows (as well as sheep, hens, and pigs) all roam free. They make their own choices about rearing, grazing, and housing. Left to be themselves, the cows exhibit temperaments and interests as diverse as our own. "Fat Hat" prefers men to women; "Chippy Minton" refuses to sleep with muddy legs and always reports to the barn for grooming before bed; "Jake" has a thing for sniffing the carbon monoxide fumes of the Land Rover exhaust pipe; and "Gemima" greets all humans with an angry shake of the head and is fiercely independent. An organic farmer for decades, Young has an unaffected and homely voice. Her prose brims with genuine devotion to the wellbeing of animals. Most of us never apprehend the various inner lives animals possess, least of all those that we might eat. But Young has spent countless hours observing how these creatures love, play games, and form life-long friendships. She imparts hard-won wisdom about the both moral and real-world benefits of organic farming. (If preserving the dignity of animals isn't a good enough reason for you, consider how badly factory farming stunts the growth of animals, producing unhealthy and tasteless food.) This gorgeously-illustrated book, which includes an original introduction by the legendary British playwright Alan Bennett, is the summation of a life's work, and a delightful and moving tribute to the deep richness of animal sentience. Life for Ashley Miles can't get any worse. Her parents are divorced, she can't find a job, has no boyfriend, and is stuck living with her mother in a house by the cemetery. Things suddenly start to change and her life starts going in the right direction. Just when it seems like everything is finally going her way, it all comes crumbling down and she is back right where she started. It seems as if she can never have the life that she's

dreamed of. She feels like giving up... Will she be able to pick up the pieces and get her life back on track? Find out as you unlock The Secret Life of Ashley Miles.

Fans of Vi Keeland and Christina Lauren will love this romance that starts as a marriage of convenience, throws in a bit of a love triangle and then adds a twist of revenge.

A year in the life of a sloth is revealed in this stunningly illustrated nonfiction picture book, the latest in the popular The Secret Life series. Meet Perezoso, a brown-throated three-fingered sloth who lives in a rainforest habitat. Young readers will be fascinated as they learn all about her life -- how she searches for food, keeps herself safe from prey, and gives birth to a baby. Gorgeous realistic illustrations celebrate these intriguing creatures, and the story is filled with important facts and terms. The back matter at the conclusion of the book provides more in-depth information, a glossary, and further resources.

Exquisitely and hypnotically written, like a bold and terrifying dream, *The Kiss* is breathtaking in its honesty and in the power and beauty of its creation. In this extraordinary memoir, one of the best young writers in America today transforms into a work of art the darkest passage imaginable in a young woman's life: an obsessive love affair between father and daughter that began when Kathryn Harrison, twenty years old, was reunited with a parent whose absence had haunted her youth. A story both of taboo and of family complicity in breaking taboo, *The Kiss* is also about love—about the most primal of love triangles, the one that ensnares a child between mother and father. Praise for *The Kiss* “I couldn’t stop reading this. I’ll never stop remembering it.”—Mary Karr, author of *The Liars’ Club* “Only a writer of extraordinary gifts could bring so much light to bear on so dark a matter, redeeming it with the steadiness of her gaze and the uncanny, heartbreaking exactitude of her language.”—Tobias Wolff, author of *This Boy’s Life* “Beautifully written . . . jumping back and forth in time yet drawing you irresistibly toward the heart of a great evil.”—*The New York Times* “Like all good literature, *The Kiss* illuminates something that we knew already, while also teaching us things we had not even suspected.”—*Los Angeles Times* “A darkly beautiful book, fearless and frightening, ironic and compassionate.”—Mary Gordon, author of *Circling My Mother* “Harrison’s story is her own, but it is also a brilliant fiction, densely mythic, sometimes almost liturgical sounding and raw. She is both author and protagonist of a dark pilgrim’s progress.”—*The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*

Lady Gabriella March is the perfect domestic goddess—at least, that's what her editor at *Milady* magazine thinks! In truth she's simply Ellie March, cleaner and aspiring writer, who uses the beautiful mansion she is house-sitting to inspire her. When the owner returns unexpectedly, Ellie's fledgling writing career is threatened. But even more dangerous is the man himself! Gorgeous Dr. Benedict Faulkner is quite the opposite of the aging academic she imagined, and soon it is her heart, and not just her secret, that is exposed....

It's 1907 Los Angeles. Mischievous socialite Anna Blanc is the kind of young woman who devours purloined crime novels—but must disguise them behind covers of more domestically-appropriate reading. She could match wits with Sherlock Holmes, but in her world women are not allowed to hunt criminals. Determined to break free of the era's rigid social roles, Anna buys off the chaperone assigned by her domineering father and, using an alias, takes a job as

a police matron with the Los Angeles Police Department. There she discovers a string of brothel murders, which the cops are unwilling to investigate. Seizing her one chance to solve a crime, she takes on the investigation herself. If the police find out, she'll get fired; if her father finds out, he'll disown her; and if her fiancé finds out, he'll cancel the wedding and stop pouring money into her father's collapsing bank. Midway into her investigation, the police chief's son, Joe Singer, learns her true identity. And shortly thereafter she learns about blackmail. Anna must choose—either hunt the villain and risk losing her father, fiancé, and wealth, or abandon her dream and leave the killer on the loose. From the Trade Paperback edition.

The multi-million bestselling novel about a young girl's journey towards healing and the transforming power of love, from the award-winning author of *The Invention of Wings* and *The Book of Longings* Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina--a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sister, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey, and the Black Madonna. This is a remarkable novel about divine female power, a story that women will share and pass on to their daughters for years to come.

*The Secret Life of a Schoolgirl* is an extraordinary memoir—a jewel. Rosemary Kingsland was born in India during the dying days of the British Raj. While there, she and her family lived a life of privilege. But with the fall of the Raj, they were forced to return to England, where their fortunes took a decided turn for the worse. In London, then in Cornwall, then back in London, the simmering tension between Rosemary's parents erupted into outright warfare fueled by alcohol and her father's persistent, unrepentant womanizing. It was a lonely, dangerous childhood. But one day Rosemary's life changed forever. At a café where she had gone to escape from a party her father had insisted she attend with him, she met Richard Burton, the dashing handsome Welsh actor who was then the toast of the London stage. She had seen him in *Under Milkwood* some months before. She was an adolescent schoolgirl. He was twenty-nine. *The Secret Life of a Schoolgirl* is a deeply felt evocation of first love, and of family bonds forged in intense isolation. It is made all the more remarkable by the luminous quality and riveting narrative voice of Rosemary Kingsland.

Seeing the woman who'd left him without a backward glance was painful enough for Steve Lindstrom—but Lily Mayfield hadn't returned to their hometown alone. Just the sight of the heartbreakingly lovely single mother and her son awoke bittersweet yearning for what might have been. Walking away from the only man she'd ever loved had left Lily with enough regrets for two lifetimes. Now, after years of harboring her unhappy secret, the time had come to tell the truth. If

Steve could give her a second chance, she'd have every intention of showing him where her heart had always been...with him.

Bryan Kelly has a few rules. Rule #1: Women are for fun, not commitment. Rule #2: He'll do anything for his twin brother, even switch places with him to find out who's sabotaging his charity. But playing a really good guy isn't easy around Shay Sommers. Which brings him to . . . Rule #3: If you can't avoid temptation, succumb with abandon. Shay Sommers has always been a rule breaker. She may be a society page icon, but she'll go to any length to help the street girls served by her favorite charity. Even if it means impersonating one of them herself. The only problem is the gorgeous man who runs the safe house. "Preacher," as he insists she call him, seems less like a shepherd and much more like a wolf . . . one with a hungry look that's making Shay feel she might be his next dinner . . .

For almost a century, Americans have been losing their hearts and losing their minds in an insatiable love affair with the American musical. It often begins in childhood in a darkened theater, grows into something more serious for high school actors, and reaches its passionate zenith when it comes time for love, marriage, and children, who will start the cycle all over again. Americans love musicals. Americans invented musicals. Americans perfected musicals. But what, exactly, is a musical? In *The Secret Life of the American Musical*, Jack Viertel takes them apart, puts them back together, sings their praises, marvels at their unflagging inventiveness, and occasionally despairs over their more embarrassing shortcomings. In the process, he invites us to fall in love all over again by showing us how musicals happen, what makes them work, how they captivate audiences, and how one landmark show leads to the next—by design or by accident, by emulation or by rebellion—from *Oklahoma!* to *Hamilton* and onward. Structured like a musical, *The Secret Life of the American Musical* begins with an overture and concludes with a curtain call, with stops in between for "I Want" songs, "conditional" love songs, production numbers, star turns, and finales. The ultimate insider, Viertel has spent three decades on Broadway, working on dozens of shows old and new as a conceiver, producer, dramaturg, and general creative force; he has his own unique way of looking at the process and at the people who collaborate to make musicals a reality. He shows us patterns in the architecture of classic shows and charts the inevitable evolution that has taken place in musical theater as America itself has evolved socially and politically. *The Secret Life of the American Musical* makes you feel as though you've been there in the rehearsal room, in the front row of the theater, and in the working offices of theater owners and producers as they pursue their own love affair with that rare and elusive beast—the Broadway hit.

Having spent ten years as Jayne Mansfield's press secretary, Raymond Strait knows intimately both the public image and the private person that were Jayne Mansfield. Sitting through hundreds of hours of interviews and private conversations -- not only with Jayne but also with her husbands, her lovers, and



her children -- gave Ray the opportunity to present a revealing portrait of the woman. He records her drive for fame and success and her overpowering need to be loved and to love, needs that led her into numerous affairs with rich and powerful men -- including President John F Kennedy -- and with younger men from all walks of life. And he discusses frankly Jayne's ultimately successful plan to become pregnant by Nelson Sardelli because she wanted to have an Italian child. Known to millions as the consummate sex symbol who rivaled Marilyn Monroe, Jayne Mansfield received more press coverage than anyone else in Hollywood. The headlines were often sensational, causing society matrons and Baptist ministers to shake their heads and point their fingers. But under those sensational headlines there was a woman of greater complexity that any reporter could hope to understand. Strait goes below the surface to examine Jayne's emotions and motivations, revealing the truth about her many lovers, her three unsuccessful marriages, her love affair with Mickey Hargitay that lasted to the end and her battle against and her surrender to alcohol and drugs.

Allan has always tried to do the sensible thing. So when his sister Elsie became pregnant eight years ago and was ditched by her boyfriend, he stepped up to the plate. Since then, he's been his sister's support system and father figure to his niece. Allan's world is turned upside down when Elsie becomes engaged and he meets her fiancé's older brother, Davinder -- a beautiful, brooding artist with a thousand secrets in his eyes. But Davinder is a married man and father of two young boys. From the moment they meet, Allan and Davinder walk along the edge of their secret lives, never allowed to push open the gates. Though their love is a head-on collision, a meeting of the minds, a fusing of two lost souls, both men know that it is also -- and above all -- impossible.

The final mystery starring Sammy Keyes: "the most winning junior detective ever in teen lit. (Take that, Nancy Drew!)" —Midwest Children's Book Review Sammy doesn't go looking for trouble, but she seems to find it everywhere. She's forever sniffing out clues and chasing down bad guys—and driving her friends a little nuts. She's gone up against thieves and counterfeiters and gangsters and blackmailers and murderers, and always stayed one step ahead. Until now. Last night, one of the bad guys caught up. Last night, someone followed Sammy up the fire escape and pushed her from the third story. Now she's in the hospital, out cold. And her friends are left with the questions Sammy's always been so good at answering: Why? How? But most of all . . . WHO? In this emotional conclusion to her beloved long-running series, Wendelin Van Draanen shows just how many lives one nosy girl can touch and pays tribute to a life well sleuthed. Praise for Sammy Keyes: "If Kinsey Millhone ever hires a junior partner, Sammy Keyes will be the first candidate on the list. She's feisty, fearless, and funny. A top-notch investigator!" —Sue Grafton "Sammy's brave, resourceful, observant and a loyal friend, but this girl sleuth is no well-mannered Nancy Drew. She's endearingly hot-tempered, nosy, and not always obedient—in short, she's someone I want to read about again." —Margaret Maron

My dying sister vanished in the middle of the night. Usually, Megan called to me before dawn, but sunshine pooled on the bare wood floor beneath the window when I woke. My heart leapt into my throat. She's dead. After months of fighting, Megan finally...I hadn't felt it though. Wouldn't I know if the only person I ever loved— I stumbled out of bed, tangling in my blankets, then raced to her room. Empty. The sheets were folded aside. She must be close. I moved down the hall toward our shared bathroom. The door stood open, but Megan wasn't there. Backtracking, I checked the living room with its slouchy couches, and the kitchen with its worn countertops. No Megan. I pushed through the French doors out onto our balcony. The music district of Crescent City, a night owl's paradise, lay still in the soft morning light. Megan's flowers overflowed their boxes, spilling riotous colors down the wrought iron rail. I stood alone, a gentle breeze lifted a lock of my hair, and tears stung my eyes. Megan was gone. The police assumed she left of her own free will—there was no evidence of a break-in or struggle. "Maybe she was done fighting and couldn't tell you," the detective said, his brown eyes sympathetic. "You didn't know her, she would never give up." "Often when people go missing, the loved ones they leave behind come to realize," he paused and took a breath, "that they didn't know them as well as they thought. Everyone has secrets, Darling," his voice drawled over my name. "Megan could barely walk," I ground out. "Somebody must have taken her." "But who would kidnap a dying young woman? How did they leave no evidence? Why didn't you hear them?" He asked. I didn't have any answers. It didn't make sense. Nothing did anymore. Strange, exhilarating dreams began haunting my nights. A new hunger, an unquenchable thirst that felt almost...dangerous...ruled my days. Scared and alone, I couldn't imagine the dark secrets my hunger hid. They'd been lost for so long—locked away, buried by time, and twisted by whispered lies—but when Megan was stolen everything began to unravel... Before it did, before I saw the dead rise, witnessed vampires feed, or visited the warlocks' library, before I held a life at the edge of my lips, I was just Darling Price—a musician like so many others in this vibrant city. I struggled to pay bills, practiced with my band, and grieved for my missing sister. I was innocent and naive. I'd barely even been kissed. \*\*Beware: This series is for adults who enjoy steamy paranormal romance with strong urban fantasy vibes and who don't mind a few f-bombs.\*\*

Seventeen-year-old Arin Andrews shares all the hilarious, painful, and poignant details of undergoing gender reassignment as a high school student in this winning memoir. We've all felt uncomfortable in our own skin at some point, and we've all been told that "it's just a part of growing up." But for Arin Andrews, it wasn't a phase that would pass. He had been born in the body of a girl and there seemed to be no relief in sight... In this revolutionary memoir, Arin details the journey that led him to make the life-transforming decision to undergo gender reassignment as a high school junior. In his captivatingly witty, honest voice, Arin reveals the challenges he faced as a girl, the humiliation and anger he felt after getting kicked out of his private school, and all the changes—both mental and

physical—he experienced once his transition began. Arin also writes about the thrill of meeting and dating a young transgender woman named Katie Hill...and the heartache that followed after they broke up. *Some Assembly Required* is a true coming-of-age story about knocking down obstacles and embracing family, friendship, and first love. But more than that, it is a reminder that self-acceptance does not come ready-made with a manual and spare parts. Rather, some assembly is always required.

Ambition and lust, remorse and redemption are the drivers of this bewitching story of a married business woman who meets the wrong man at a vulnerable time in her life. This novel is operatic in its peaks of love and adventure; its valleys of betrayal, death and pain.

In *The Secret Life of Oscar Wilde*, Neil McKenna provides stunning new insight into the tumultuous sexual and psychological worlds of this brilliant and tormented figure. McKenna charts Wilde's astonishing odyssey through London's sexual underworld, and provides explosive new evidence of the political machinations behind Wilde's trials for sodomy. Dazzlingly written and meticulously researched, *The Secret Life of Oscar Wilde* offers a vividly original portrait of a troubled genius who chose to martyr himself for the cause of love between men.

The Kiss A Secret Life HarperCollins UK

Katie Winfield is pretty, privileged...and a complete disaster when it comes to the male species. Recently she accidentally-on-purpose had sex with her sister's soon-to-be ex-boyfriend, Liam. In a closet. At a Ladies' League function, no less! Determined to take charge of her romantic life, Katie accepts an invitation to join M&B—and draws a very naughty dare. Choosing Liam as her willing, if unwitting, accomplice is easy, since she's still totally hot for him and the feeling is mutual. So why share her motives for their steamy sexcapades? Problem is, Katie's not the only one with a shocking secret life....

Lily has grown up believing she accidentally killed her mother when she was four. She not only has her own memory of holding the gun, but her father's account of the event. Now fourteen, she yearns for her mother, and for forgiveness. Living on a peach farm in South Carolina with her father, she has only one friend: Rosaleen, a black servant whose sharp exterior hides a tender heart. South Carolina in the sixties is a place where segregation is still considered a cause worth fighting for. When racial tension explodes one summer afternoon, and Rosaleen is arrested and beaten, Lily is compelled to act. Fugitives from justice and from Lily's harsh and unyielding father, they follow a trail left by the woman who died ten years before. Finding sanctuary in the home of three beekeeping sisters, Lily starts a journey as much about her understanding of the world, as about the mystery surrounding her mother.

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