



Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award

2020-2021 NOMINEES ANNOTATIONS

***A Very Large Expanse of Sea* by Tahereh Mafi**

A year after 9/11, sixteen year old Muslim teen, Shirin, is tired of the stereotyping, degrading comments and physical violence as a result of her race, religion, and hijab she wears daily. She refuses to let anyone close to her in order to protect her heart and spends her time listening to music and breakdancing with her brother. Things change when she meets Ocean James, someone who finally understands her, and this terrifies her. She's kept others away for so long; how will she be able to break down the walls and let Ocean in?

***Attucks!* by Phillip Hoose** The story of the Crispus Attucks Tigers, an all-black basketball team from Indianapolis who won the 1955 high school basketball championship. Ten players, including the famous Oscar Robertson who went on to be a college and NBA star, who were born in the South and raised in poverty went against the odds to become the first all-black team in US history to win a racially open championship tournament.

***Autoboyography* by Christina Lauren**

Bisexual teen, Tanner Scott, recently moved from California and is coasting through his last year of high school before he plans to clear out of Utah to attend an out of state college. On a dare from his best friend, he signs up for a writing seminar for four months. There he meets Sebastian, a Mormon prodigy who is mentoring the seminar, and he falls instantly in love with him.

***Batman: Nightwalker* by Marie Lu**

Teenage Bruce Wayne is set to inherit his family's fortune when he turns 18. A bad choice on the way home from his birthday party lands him in Arkham Asylum for community service. Arkham houses Gotham City's most nefarious criminals, including brilliant killer, Madeleine Wallace. She has ties to the Nightwalkers and will only speak with Bruce. As Bruce tries to solve the mystery of Madeleine, the Nightwalkers are taking out Gotham's elite one by one. Is Bruce getting Madeleine to give up her own secrets or providing her with information so she can turn it against the city.

***Berserker* by Emmy Laybourne**

In order to escape an ancestral Viking curse upon her family, a Norse teen is forced to flee to the American West on a search for her uncle, who may be able to help her control her powers. Hanne is a Berserker - an elegant, graceful and yet shameless killer. Hanne and her siblings are assisted by a young cowboy as they attempt to survive many perils, including blizzards, wild animals, and bounty hunters.

***Broken Beautiful Hearts* by Kami Garcia**

Senior Peyton Rios, a star soccer player, receives an offer from her first choice college. After uncovering a shocking secret about her boyfriend and confronting him, she "falls" down a flight of stairs, shattering her knee and dream of going pro. Everyone has a different theory of what happened, and only Peyton knows the truth, despite no one believing her. She seeks refuge in a small Tennessee town living with her uncle while focusing on recovery. Though dating is the last thing on her mind, sexy MMA fighter, Owen Law, comes along and he seems to be hiding something too. When secrets are revealed, Peyton has to decide if love is worth the fight.

***The Cruel Prince* by Holly Black**

At the age of seven, her parents were murdered and Jude and her two sisters were stolen away to live in the High Court of Faerie. Now 17, Jude wants to belong there despite being human and despised by many of the immortal fey, especially the young, wicked son of the High King, Prince Cardan. In order to win a place at the Court she must face the consequences and defy Cardan. When civil war threatens Faerie, Jude must risk her own life, forming a dangerous alliance in an attempt to save her sisters and Faerie itself.

***Dread Nation* by Justina Ireland**

Jane McKeene, the daughter of a wealthy white Southern woman, was born days before the dead began walking the battlefields of Gettysburg, right after the Civil War ends. She is studying to become an Attendant, as a chance for a better life for Negro girls like her. She will be trained in weaponry and etiquette in order to protect the well-to-do in the new America. After finishing training, she plans to return to her home in Kentucky, but is instead caught up in a conspiracy and a desperate fight for her life. The zombies prove to be the least of her problems, stacked up to the powerful enemies she is facing.



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***Dreamland Burning* by Jennifer Latham**

Unfolding in parallel narratives between present day and 100 years earlier, this is the story of segregation and racial prejudice in Tulsa. Rowan Chase, 17, finds a skeleton under the shed on her family's property. She begins investigating the century-old murder, which leads to painful discoveries of the present and the past. Meanwhile, 100 years in the past, 17 year old Will Tillman is dealing with violence in a segregated Tulsa where Jim Crow laws separate him and other black people. Readers will find out whose body is lying under Rowan's shed as the mystery is solved at the end.

***Dry* by Neal & Jarrod Shusterman**

The Tap-Out has begun and now everyone is on the hunt for water. Alyssa's usually quiet street in the California suburbs has become a warzone of desperate neighbors and families turning against each other. When her parents do not return home and Alyssa and her brother's lives are threatened, she must make impossible choices if she wants to survive.

***Eliza and Her Monsters* by Francesca Zappia**

Eliza Mirk, 18, prefers to live in the online world, where she is Lady Constellation, anonymous creator of a wildly popular webcomic named Monstrous Sea with two best friends in the online world. In the real world, she is shy, weird and lacking any friends. Then Wallace Warland transfers to Eliza's school, urging her to wonder about living a life offline after-all. Then the identity of Monstrous Sea's creator is accidentally shared with the world and Eliza's comic, relationship with Wallace, and sanity all begin to crumble.

***Far From the Tree* by Robin Benway**

Adopted at birth, Grace discovers that she is actually a middle child, finding out she has both a biological younger sister, Maya and a bio older brother, Joaquin. Grace recently put her own child up for adoption and is now getting to know Maya, who feels out of place in her adopted family, and Joaquin, who has spent 17 years in the foster care system.

***The Final Six* by Alexandra Monir**

Leo and Naomi are among the coveted 24 brightest teenagers drafted into the International Space Training Camp, becoming celebrity contenders for one of the six spots to travel to Europa and establish a new colony there. They are the Final Six and the future of the human race rests on their shoulders. Their relationship is strengthened as they must lean on each other while surrounded by international strangers in a cutthroat atmosphere. When the finalists dwindle and their destinies grow nearer, the full picture of what is at stake is revealed to Leo and Naomi.

***Hey, Kiddo* by Jarrett Krosoczka**

A graphic novel memoir of Jarrett Krosoczka's troubled childhood. Jarrett lives with his grandparents who, while loving to him, are also loud, opinionated individuals who really don't want to be raising any more children. His mother is an addict who is in and out of rehab, and he has no idea what his father's name is, let alone where to find him. He takes up drawing as a way to express his feelings during a non-normal upbringing. As a teenager he begins to piece together the truth, tracking down his father and reconciling with his mother.

***How Dare the Sun Rise* by Sandra Uwiringiyimana & Abigail Pesta**

The story of Sandra Uwiringiyimana, who survived a massacre in her homeland, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and then immigrated to America. Through both art and activism, Sandra overcame her traumatic past.

***In Her Skin* by Kim Savage**

Jolene Chastain, a 16 year old con artist, takes on her largest scam yet - impersonating a missing girl. She sees the wealthy Boston family, the Lovecrafts, as a chance for safety and security. Believing she is Vivi Weir, who vanished when she was 9, the Lovecrafts take Jo in and give her everything her heart desires. As hidden secrets surface and lines of deception blur, Jo has to choose whether to hold on to the safety she feels or escape the impending danger before it's too late.



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***Internment* by Samira Ahmed**

In the near future US, 17 year old Muslim American Layla and her family are forced into an internment camp because of their nationality. With the help of new friends and an unexpected ally inside the camp, Layla organizes and leads a slow-building revolution against the Director and guards at the camp.

***Lies You Never Told Me* by Jennifer Donaldson**

Elyse, a Portland teen, is surprised and excited to be cast as the star in her high school production of Romeo and Juliet, a role which is usually given to her best friend Brynn. During rehearsals, she soon catches the eye of someone she knows that she shouldn't be with. Austin teen, Gabe, is thinking about breaking up with his girlfriend Sasha, who is popular and headstrong. But when rumors start circulating around school, he realizes that Sasha has the power to change his future forever.

***Monday's Not Coming* by Tiffany D. Jackson**

Monday Charles is missing and her best friend Claudia is the only one who seems to notice and worry. She knows something is not right, because Monday's grades are in peril and she wouldn't willingly leave, because of the bullying she endures. Claudia gets no help from Monday's mother or sister, April, as she investigates deeper into Monday's disappearance.

***The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo**

Xiomara Batista lives in a Harlem neighborhood with her Mami who is religious and strict. She uses her fists and fierce demeanor to combat the feelings of being unheard and unable to hide from those around her. She writes poetry to help with the frustration, but keeps it from her mami who would not approve. Then she falls for a boy named Aman in her bio class and she has to keep that from Mami as well. She joins the school's slam poetry club and finds a place to belong.

***Sky in the Deep* by Adrienne Young**

Eelyn, a 17 year old warrior and part of the Aska clan, fights the Riki clan in an ancient rivalry. Her brother was killed in a previous battle with the Riki, but during a recent fight, she sees him and then her life is spared by a rival Riki clansman named Fiske who has befriended her brother. Trying to come to terms with the betrayal by her brother and her feelings for Fiske, Eelyn attempts to unite the two rival clans for the future.

***Speak: The Graphic Novel* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

Melinda, a freshman at Merryweather High, is a friendless outcast, after calling the cops during an end-of-summer party. Now no one will listen to her or talk to her. That same night, she was raped by an upperclassman who still attends her school. She is finally able to come to terms with what happened that night during her time spent working on a school art project.

***Surface Tension* by Mike Mullin**

Teenage cyclist, Jake, inadvertently witnesses a domestic terrorism act while out biking. When he wakes up in the hospital, he can't remember anything about his serious head injury or the aftermath of a plane crash. Soon, he is the target of the terrorist group and running for his life. His mother doesn't believe him, so he relies on Laurissa, his girlfriend, to help him avoid both the killers hunting him and the officers who believe that Jake had a role in the plane crash.

***The Upside of Unrequited* by Becky Albertalli**

Seventeen year old Molly Peskin-Suso is scared of rejection and knows she has to be careful because she's a fat girl. Her cynical twin sister, Cassie, is a lovesick mess over a cute new girl. Thankfully for Molly, the new girl has a cute hipster-boy sidekick and she is determined to win him over. The only problem is Molly's coworker, Reid, a chubby, Tolkien superfan who goes to Ren Faires for fun. There is no way Molly could fall for him...or is there?

***X-Files: Agents of Chaos* by Kami Garcia**

Seventeen year old Fox Mulder is uprooted from his home on Martha's Vineyard and moved to Washington, DC where his father works on top secret things for the State Department. Fox's younger sister Samantha disappeared 5 years ago, for which Mulder blames himself and his mother blames his father. After a local boy turns up dead and another child is abducted, Mulder begins investigating, thinking there could be a link to his sister's case. He winds up on the trail of a serial killer.