



Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award Annotations for 2021-2022 Nominees

#murdertrending by Gretchen McNeil - In the somewhat near future, infamous convicted felons are placed in a suburbanized prison island called Alcatraz 2.0 to be executed on a live streaming app called The Postman for anyone to view for entertainment. Dee Guerrero, 17, is sent to Alcatraz 2.0 for a heinous crime she did not commit. Together with her newly formed group of friends, The Death Row Breakfast Club, she seeks to prove her innocence before she ends up wrongfully murdered for all the world to witness.

After the Fire by Will Hill - A young teen is finally free of a religious cult where she lived inside a fence with her family ever since she was a baby. She was never allowed to leave the property, talk to Outsiders, or speak up while there, per Father John's strictly enforced rules. There was a fire, and now she is in a federal facility answering questions about what really happened, and all the while attempting to figure out whether she is really safe and who she really is.

Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card by Sara Saedi - Thirteen-year-old straight-A student Sara Saedi is Iranian-American and was only two when her parents fled from Iran. After her sister is unable to apply for a job because she doesn't have a SSN, Sara finds out that she is undocumented and breaking the law simply by living in the US. As fear of deportation keeps her up at night, she seeks to get a green card, all the while worrying about the typical teen problems of clear skin, having a car, and having a boyfriend.

Brave Face by Shaun David Hutchinson - The author takes readers on a journey of his attempted suicide in his teens and how he made it through and found self-acceptance over time. At 19, Shaun, who is gay, was confused and depressed, struggling to fit in to a community in which he couldn't see himself. A deeply honest memoir of courage and self-acceptance.

Cracking the Bell by Geoff Herbach - Isaiah loves to play football, and football is what saved him after his sister's death wrecked his family. But when a concussion sidelines him from the game, and a scholarship offer comes from Cornell, he must decide just how much he is willing to sacrifice for the future he wants and the sport that gave him everything.

Heroine by Mindy McGinnis - College bound softball star Mickey Catalan is injured in a car crash just before the season starts, and she hopes to keep her spot as catcher as the team makes a tournament run. Her prescription pain pills make her feel good and soon she becomes dependent upon them and in the company of a new circle of friends who encourage her to use more and more. As the pressure to perform grows and her need increases, she starts spiraling dangerously out of control.

How to Make Friends With the Dark by Kathleen Glasgow - It's always been Tiger and her mother as long as she can remember. Then her mother dies and now Tiger is alone. The darkness invades her house, her room, and her heart, and she feels like she is splitting apart. This is the story of how she learns to make friends with the dark.

I Am Still Alive by Kate Alice Marshall - Jess is on her own in the wilderness after her cabin has been burned to the ground. She has recently moved to live with her survivalist dad in a very remote cabin in the Canadian wilderness, after a car crash killed her mom and left her injured. Now her father has been killed and with only his dog for company, Jess must hunt for food, build shelter, try to stay warm, and try to stay alive, because whoever killed her father will be back. Jess wants revenge.

I Know You Remember by Jennifer Donaldson - Ruthie Hayden goes back to her hometown of Anchorage, Alaska after being away for 3 years because her best friend, Zahra Gaines is missing. As Ruthie investigates Zahra's disappearance, she uncovers dangerous revelations about what Zahra experienced days before she went missing, and something that changed her forever.

Killing November by Adriana Mather - November Adley is enrolled at an elite, off-the-grid school hidden by dense forest and surrounded by booby traps. No electricity, no internet, an eye-for-an-eye punishment system, and training classes for things like knife-throwing, poisons, and deception make this a place like no other. She soon realizes that friendships are discouraged and competition reigns. When a student is murdered, November must figure out how she fits in the bizarre game before she is found guilty of the crime or the next victim.

Michigan Vs. The Boys by Carrie S. Allen - Michigan Manning, a hockey star, has to find a way to play after budget cuts shut the girls hockey team down. In order for colleges to notice her, she joins the unwelcoming boys team, dealing with pranks and trashy talk from the boys. When "harmless" hazing crosses the line over to assault, she must speak up for what is right, even if it means putting her future in jeopardy.

On the Come Up by Angie Thomas - Bri, 16, is the daughter of an underground rap legend who died before he became famous. She dreams of being one of the greatest rappers of all time, but she has big shoes to fill. Her mom loses her job and now bills are piling up and homelessness is near for Bri's family. Now she no longer just wants to make it, she has to make it.

Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay - Jay Reguero, a Filipino-American high school senior travels to the Philippines after his cousin Jun is murdered as part of President Duterte's war on drugs to find out what really happened. He planned to spend his last semester playing video games before starting college at the University of Michigan, but now he has uncovered events that led to Jun's death, as well as the part he may have played in it.

Rules for Vanishing by Kate Alice Marshall - Legend says that once a year a path appears in the woods and the ghost of Lucy Gallows lures anyone brave enough to find her in. Sara's sister, Becca, disappeared into those woods exactly one year ago. Sara receives a text message asking her and her friends to play the game and find Lucy Gallows, and Sara is sure this is the only way she'll find Becca before she is gone forever. Sara and a group of friends find themselves deep in the forest on an unforgiving road where not all will make it out on the other side.

Seafire by Natalie C. Parker - Caledonia Styx's family is killed by Aric Athair, a corrupt warlord, leaving her charting her own course alone on dangerous, deadly seas. She is the captain of *Mors Navis*, a ship with an all female crew, who have also lost their families because of Aric's ruthlessness. When one of the men from Aric's Bullet army helps Caledonia's best friend survive an attack, Caledonia questions whether to let him join the crew or not.

Skyward #1 by Joe Henderson - Gravity on Earth has become a fraction of what it once was. Twenty years later, Willa Fowler, who was born just after G-Day, thinks it's pretty awesome to be able to fly through the air. But if you jump too high, you could die. And stumbling into a dangerous plan to bring gravity back could also get her killed. An adventurous tale of a world turned upside down and a teen girl trying to find her place in it.

Teen Titans Raven by Kami Garcia - After losing both her foster mom and her memory in a tragic accident, 17 year old Raven Roth moves to New Orleans to live with her foster mom's family while finishing high school. She is unable to remember who she was before the accident, but thinks that may be good when strange things start happening. She grows close to Max, her foster sister, and Tommy Torres, a guy who accepts her as she is while she decides whether to face both her buried past and the darkness building inside of her.

The Art of Breaking Things by Laura Sibson - Skye, a 17 year old, has been accepted to her first choice college and she's looking forward to surviving her senior year and watching over her younger sister, Emma. Then her mother's ex-boyfriend returns, and Skye's world crumbles. She's always had a dark secret about her past, and him, and her family doesn't know. Skye is torn between escaping the man who hurt her many years ago and protecting her little sister from the monster in their own home. In order to save her sister, she must break all the rules.

The Grace Year by Kim Liggett - In Garner County, girls are banished during their sixteenth year in order to release their magic into the wild so they can return as purified women ready for marriage. Tierney James dreams of a time when women and friends are not pitted against each other, and she soon realizes that not everyone makes it home alive from the grace year. The greatest threat may not be the poachers in the woods or the brutal elements, but the girls against each other.

The Opposite of Innocent by Sonja Sones - When Lily was 12, Luke, a friend of her parents that she had a major crush on, left. Now, two years later, Luke is back and Lily is 14 and feels transformed. Luke moves in with them for a while, in the bedroom right next to hers. Lily's friends think that Luke is dangerous and could hurt her, but when he kisses her, she knows he would never hurt her, would he?

The Rest of the Story by Sarah Dessen - Emma Saylor was 10 when her mother died and now it's just Emma and her Dad. She is unexpectedly sent to spend the summer at North Lake with her mother's family who she hasn't seen since she was a little girl. She finds two very different communities in North Lake, the working class and the wealthier ones who spend summers at the North Lake resort. And there's also Roo, her very best friend when she was young, and she finds herself falling under his spell and the magic of North Lake, and wondering if she'll ever be ready to go back home.

The Silence Between Us by Alison Gervais - Maya, a deaf teen, moves across the country and has to attend a hearing school for the first time. Beau Watson, one of her classmates, surprises her by learning ASL. As Maya tries to focus on her future, in the midst of an unexpected romance, people start to question her deaf identity. But she proudly stands firm that her deafness is not a disadvantage.

They Called Us Enemy by George Takei, Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott - A graphic memoir depicting George Takei's childhood years imprisoned behind barbed wire in an American concentration camp during World War II. At the age of 4, George, his family, and every person of Japanese descent on the west coast were shipped to relocation centers and held for years under armed guard. A firsthand account of legalized racism in America which shaped the now actor, author, and activist, George Takei.

Two Can Keep a Secret by Karen M. McManus - Ellery moves to Echo Ridge to live with a grandmother she barely knows. She's heard about the small town, because her aunt went missing at age 17 from there and 5 years ago the local homecoming queen was killed. Now another girl is missing and the town is hiding secrets, which Ellery knows all about because her mother and grandmother have secrets too. In Echo Ridge, it is best to keep your secrets to yourself.

With the Fire on High by Elizabeth Acevedo - Emoni Santiago, a high school senior with her own daughter and her abuela to care for and support, has to make tough decisions. She allows herself to let go in the kitchen, adding something magical to everything she cooks. She doesn't have time for the new culinary arts class at school, or money for the class's trip to Spain, but she dreams of working in a real kitchen someday.

Indiana Library Federation leads, educates, and advocates to advance library services for the benefit of Indiana residents.
941 E. 86th St., Suite 260 / Indianapolis, IN 46240 / 317-257-2040 / www.ilfonline.org