

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY: STRONG FEMALE CHARACTERS ACROSS THE GENRES

By: Mellissa Forget

Science Fiction:

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

Tally Youngblood is fifteen years old and cannot wait until she turns sixteen, the designated age where all uglies have an operation to make them pretty. Once you're pretty you look like everyone else and live a life of fun and nonstop parties. Tally's future is set until she meets Shay, a fifteen year old girl who doesn't think being a pretty is all that it's cracked up to be. On the eve of her surgery, Shay runs away, leaving Tally with the difficult choice to either find her or bring her back...but when Tally finds out the truth behind the surgery and the way uglies live past sixteen will she want to go back?

Fantasy:

Magic or Madness by Justine Larbalestier

Reason has spent most of her life on the run from her grandmother, Esmeralda. Serafina, Reason's mother has spent the past fifteen years telling reason that her grandmother believes in magic and has done horrible things for the sake of it. Now though, Serafina has gone mad and Reason finds herself on a plane headed to Sydney, Australia and to her grandmother. *Magic or Madness* opens new doors for Reason and makes her confront what she's been running from for all these years. Will she be able to take control of the magic within her, or will she succumb to madness too?

Realistic Fiction:

Seven for a Secret by Mary C. Sheppard

Summer in Cook's Cove, Newfoundland is cause for joy when the boat bringing Melinda and Rebecca's cousin Kate comes in from the city. This year though, the girls are getting older, and soon the wills of an adult life will be pulling them apart. Sheppard's novel focuses on family ties, difficult choices, and a sense of duty the girls feel in their lives as they get closer to adulthood. These three girls, like many others their age are struggling to figure out what to do in their ever-changing world as they make the transition from teen to adulthood.

Comics and Graphic Novels:

Runaways by Marvel Comics

Featuring a whole cast of characters; *Runaways* deals with the lives of six teens that discover their parents are really super villains with super powers running an underground evil group called "the Pride." Suddenly these teens have to take on new responsibilities as they learn to take care of themselves and each other. Each character brings a different personality to the table

Romance:

Before I Die by Jenny Downham

Tessa is a teenager, but only has months to live and feels that she hasn't really been doing much of it. *Before I Die* is a story of the strength it takes to face a disease head on while offering that strength to others around you. It makes no apologies about how she wants to spend her remaining time (trying drugs, having sex) but it throws unexpected love and inner beauty into the mix at a time when Tessa feels there is nothing left. It's a beautifully written love story that will have teen and adult crying long after they've put the book down.

Horror:

Coraline by Neil Gaiman

Eerie and spooky things await Coraline and her family just beyond a mysterious door in her new house, only nobody believes Coraline when she ventures through the door one night and meets her other mother, the mysterious woman who has spun a wonderful world for Coraline that mirrors her own. Things don't feel right to Coraline though, and she soon sees the grotesque lying just beneath the surface. Before she can escape however, the Other Mother steals her parents and now Coraline must race through her eerie world to find them. Classic creepy horror with a strong little girl in the lead.

Action/Adventure:

Airborn by Kenneth Oppal

While the story is told from the point of view of Matt Cruise, a 15 year old cabin boy aboard the Aurora, he is soon joined by Kate DiVeres, a young passenger with a mind of her own, a journal, and a fearlessness that leads them on an amazing adventure dealing with pirates, crashes, and a new species of animal that might be a little bit dangerous. Together, they must come up with a plan to help save the airship and get the passengers home safely.

Hi/Lo Fiction:

Sticks and Stones by Beth Goobie

When Jujube gets asked to the upcoming dance by Brent she's on top of the world, and is having a great time at the dance until he takes her to his car. After some fooling around, she stops him before it can go any further. At the time he seems like the perfect gentleman as they both go back to enjoy the dance, but come Monday morning the rumors are flying and soon Jujube is labeled a slut, a walking joke to the whole school. She notices mean comments and people looking at her differently and suddenly she just wants to disappear. Is there any way she can take back her life and get people to believe her when she says nothing happened? How many girls has Brent done this to over the years? She's about to find out.

Historical Fiction:

The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak

Set in 1939 war ravished Germany, *The Book Thief* centers around Liesel, a foster child sent to live with new parents. While everything she has known has changed, Liesel begins to pick up the pieces of her life and make a new one for her in this ever changing world. With the help of her foster father Hans, Liesel learns to read and soon finds her strength within the pages of books, even as her world starts to fall apart around her.

