Alex Award Titles, CIS 2017

Sorted by Title / Author.

F DOERR  
"A blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II."--Provided by publisher.

796.815 POL  
Matthew Polly recounts the experiences he had during the two years he spent living and studying in China, performing with the Shaolin monks, who taught Matthew important lessons about life and his place in the universe.

F GAIMA  
Charlie Nancy was leading a comfortable life until his father died and discovered that dear old dad was a human form of Anansi, the African trickster god, and that he had a brother, Spider, who inherited some of his father's godlike abilities.

F RUFF  
Jane Charlotte, arrested for murder, is referred to a psychiatrist who tries to figure out what is really going on after Jane explains that as a member of a secret group devoted to fighting evil, she is responsible for getting rid of irredeemable persons--otherwise known as "Bad Monkeys."

F RACCU  
"A young music prodigy goes missing from a hotel room that was the site of an infamous murder-suicide fifteen years earlier, renewing trauma for a bridesmaid who witnessed the first crime and rallying an eccentric cast of characters during a snowstorm that traps everyone on the grounds"--Provided by publisher.

305.8 COA  
Coates, Ta-Nehisi. Between the world and me. New York : Spiegel & Grau, [2015].  
"For Ta-Nehisi Coates, history has always been personal. At every stage of his life, he's sought in his explorations of history answers to the mysteries that surrounded him--most urgently, why he, and other black people he knew, seemed to live in fear. What were they afraid of? ... Coates takes readers along on his journey through America's history of race and its contemporary resonances through a series of awakenings--moments when he discovered some new truth about our long, tangled history of race, whether through his myth-busting professors at Howard University, a trip to a Civil War battlefield with a rogue historian, a journey to Chicago's South Side to visit aging survivors of 20th century America's 'long war on black people,' or a visit with the mother of a beloved friend who was shot down by the police"--Provided by publisher.

F DEWOS  
Sixteen-year-old Judy Lohden, a girl whose phenomenal singing voice should have made her the star of Darcy Academy, the local performing arts high school, instead finds herself hiding out from the national media in a seedy hotel room due to a controversy sparked in part by the fact that she is only three feet, nine inches tall.

F LEVIN  
Kenyan teenager and drug runner Bingo, having witnessed a murder and been sent to an orphanage by his boss for his protection, finds his life changing and begins to understand the power of art.

F DEANG  
"Maren Yearly doesn't just break hearts, she devours them. Since she was a baby, Maren has had serious trouble accepting affection. Any time someone gets too close to her, she's overcome by the desire to eat them. Abandoned by her mother the day after her sixteenth birthday, Maren goes looking for the father she has never known, but finds much more than she bargained for along the way. Faced with a world of fellow eaters, potential enemies, and the prospect of love, Maren realizes she isn't only looking for her father, she is looking for herself. The real question is, will she like who she finds?"--Provided by publisher.

F PIERS  
Fifteen-year-old Darren, a social misfit who spends his time at school trying not to be noticed while drawing characters for a planned film series and book tie-ins, befriends Eric, another outcast who reveals that he never sleeps.

Liz Murray, who was homeless at the age of fifteen and had drug-addicted parents, reflects on how she overcame obstacles and eventually attended Harvard University.

Seventeen-year-old Lev Beniof, having been arrested for looting the corpse of a German paratrooper, is given the opportunity to be released from jail if he, along with a soldier imprisoned for desertion, can secure twelve eggs to be used in the colonel's daughter's wedding cake by traversing the dangerous streets of Leningrad.


The daughter of a Chinese American family is found dead, turning the family's lives upside down.

Junior Thibodeau comes of age in the 1980s with the knowledge that the world will end upon his thirty-sixth year, a prophecy revealed to him in utero, which forces him to have an existential crisis while dealing with his life and family.

"Nightmarish villains with superhuman enhancements. An all-seeing social network that tracks your every move. Mysterious, smooth-talking power players who lurk behind the scenes. A young woman from the trailer park. And her very smelly cat. Together, they will decide the future of mankind. ... This is the world in which Zoey Ashe finds herself, navigating a futuristic city in which one can find elements of the fantastic, nightmarish and ridiculous on any street corner. Her only trusted advisor is the aforementioned cat, but even in the future, cats cannot give advice. At least not any that you'd want to follow"—Amazon.com.

 "When her happy life in 1991 Croatia is shattered by civil war, ten-year-old Ana Juric is embroiled in a world of guerilla warfare and child soldiers before making a daring escape to America, where years later she struggles to hide her past"—OCLC.

Ah-Kim Chang and her mother immigrate to Brooklyn, where they work for Kim's Aunt Paula in a Chinatown clothing factory earning barely enough to keep them alive; however, Kim's perseverance and hard work earns her a place at an elite private school where she is befriended by Annette, who helps her adjust to American culture.

Summary: A memoir about surviving an impoverished, eccentric and severely misguided family. The child of an alcoholic father and an eccentric artist mother discusses her family's nomadic upbringing, during which she and her siblings fend for themselves while their parents outmanoeuvred bill collectors and the authorities.

Presents the true story of the January 2007 surge into Iraq and President Bush's order to increase the number of American troops in order to provide security to Baghdad and Al Anbar Province.

Sebastian Prendergast, having left the safety of the geodesic dome in which he lived after his grandmother had a stroke, meets sixteen-year-old Jared Whitcomb, and together the boys experience the angst of being teenagers while forming a punk rock band, but when Jared's grandma asks him to return to her home, he is faced with choosing between her dying wish and his newfound life.


F HAMIL  Hamilton, Steve, 1961-. The lock artist. 1st ed. New York : Minotaur Books, 2010, c2009. Eighteen-year-old Michael, who has not spoken since a tragic occurrence ten years before, realizes he has a talent for picking locks, but his skills lead him into a life of crime that he will have to escape in order to confront the secret to his silence and find love.

F SCALZ  Scalzi, John, 1969-. Lock in. 1st ed.: August 2014. New York : Tor, a Tom Doherty Associates Book, 2014. "Fifteen years from now, a new virus sweeps the globe. 95% of those afflicted experience nothing worse than fever and headaches. Four percent suffer acute meningitis, creating the largest medical crisis in history. And one percent find themselves "locked in"--fully awake and aware, but unable to move or respond to stimulus"--Provided by publisher.

966.404 BEA  Beah, Ishmael. A long way gone: memoirs of a boy soldier. 1st pbk. ed. New York : Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2008. Ishmael Beah, now 25 years old, tells how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered recognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts.


F GROSS  Grossman, Lev. The magicians: a novel. New York : Plume, [2010], c2009. High school senior Quentin Coldwater's real world never quite measures up to Fillory, the enchanted land in his favorite fantasy novels, and even an education at the mysterious Brakebills College for Magical Pedagogy leaves him without purpose, but when he discovers a way into Fillory, his life becomes a dangerous adventure.


F SLOAN  Sloan, Robin, 1979-. Mr. Penumbra's 24-hour bookstore. 1st Picador ed. New York : Picador/Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013. Clay Jannon, the new night clerk at Mr. Penumbra's 24-hour Bookstore, notices the strange behavior of the customers and is determined to find out what is really going on.

F ROCK  Rock, Peter, 1967-. My abandonment. 1st Mariner Books ed. Boston : Mariner Books/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010, c2009. Thirteen-year-old Caroline, living with her veteran father in a cave in the Forest Park nature preserve in Portland, is confronted by the realities of her unconventional life when she attracts the attention of government officials who relocate them to a farm, where her father works and she begins to question her past.


Heights in Brooklyn, N.Y., providing their personal histories as well as their day-to-day experiences.

F MOR
A circus known as Le Cirque des Rêves features two illusionists, Celia and Marco, who are unknowingly competing in a game to which they have been irrevocably bound by their mercurial masters, and as the two fall deeply and passionately in love with each other, their masters intervene with dangerous consequences.

F MORGE
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F BENDE
Rose Edelstein, on the eve of her ninth birthday, bites into her mother's lemon-chocolate cake and is immediately aware of the hidden secrets the members of her family hold.

974.4 JUN
Uses interviews, memoirs, radio conversations, and technical research to recreate the last days of the crew of the "Andrea Gail," a fishing boat that was lost in a storm off the coast of Nova Scotia in October 1991.

F HAIG
The Radleys, an eccentric family of vampires living in the suburbs, struggle but try to deny their natural instincts to avoid eating the neighbors and fit in with their peers.

F CLINE
In the year 2044, Wade Watts, like the rest of humanity, chooses to escape reality and spends his waking hours in the limitless, utopian virtual world of the OASIS, but when Wade stumbles upon the first of the fiendish puzzles set up by OASIS creator James Halliday he finds he must compete with thousands of others--including those willing to commit murder--in order to claim a prize of massive fortune.

GF KNISL
Presents a graphic novel memoir of cartoonist Lucy Knisley and her obsession with cooking and food.

F WILSO
Archos, a powerful artificial intelligence, takes on the persona of a shy human boy and begins to take over the world's technology and turn it against humanity, launching a robot war that no one seems to be able to contain or stop.

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F ERDRI

GF SUB
"The children of Alexandria are just trying to live like normal teens, and Ben Schiller is no exception. But her relationship with her best friend is changing, her sister is hiding a dark secret, and tragedy looms. Also: where are all the parents?"--Back cover.

F WARD
Pregnant fifteen-year-old Esch and her family live in Bois Sauvage, Mississippi, which puts them in
the path of Hurricane Katrina, and as they try to stock the small amount of food they have in preparation for the disaster, the family's love for each other will be their only hope for survival.

| **F GRUEN** | Gruen, Sara. *Water for elephants : a novel.* 1st pbk. ed. Chapel Hill, N.C. : Algonquin, 2007. Summary: When Jacob Jankowski, recently orphaned, jumps onto a passing train, he enters the world of a second-rate circus struggling to survive during the Great Depression, making one-night stands in town after town. A veterinary student, Jacob is put in charge of caring for the circus animals. It is there that he meets Marlena, the beautiful young star of the equestrian act, who is married to August, the charismatic but twisted animal trainer. And he meets Rosie, an elephant who seems untrainable until he discovers a way to reach her. |
A novel in which the members of a Japanese American family present their unique perspectives on the experience of being forced into an internment camp during World War II.

F SEMPL


When Bee aces her report card she claims her reward, which is a trip to Antarctica, but her mother, Bernadette, disappears due to her intensifying allergy to Seattle and people in general, which has made her so agoraphobic that a virtual assistant in India now runs her most basic errands and Bee uses emails, invoices, school memos, private correspondence, and other evidence to try and understand why her mother has left.

F DARNI


"Isolated by a disfiguring injury since the age of seventeen, Sean Phillips crafts imaginary worlds for strangers to play in. From his small apartment in southern California, he orchestrates fantastic adventures where possibilities, both dark and bright, open in the boundaries between the real and the imagined. As the creator of "Trace Italian"--a text-based, role-playing game played through the mail--Sean guides players from around the world through his intricately imagined terrain, which they navigate and explore, turn by turn, seeking sanctuary in a ravaged, savage future America. Lance and Carrie are high school students from Florida, and are explorers of the Trace. But when they take their play into the real world, disaster strikes, and Sean is called onto account for it. In the process, he is pulled back through time, tracing back toward the moment of his own self-inflicted departure from the world in which most people live."--Provided by publisher.

F BRO