

Young Adult Books For Music Lovers

If I Stay and **Where She Went** by Gayle Foreman. Everybody has to make choices. Some might break you. For seventeen-year-old Mia, surrounded by a wonderful family, friends and a gorgeous boyfriend decisions might seem tough, but they're all about a future full of music and love, a future that's brimming with hope. But life can change in an instant. A cold February morning . . . a snowy road . . . and suddenly all of Mia's choices are gone. Except one.

What a Song Can Do: Twelve Riffs on the Power of Music ed by Jennifer Armstrong. This compelling collection of stories explores the powerful impact that music has in our lives—especially in the lives of teens. Each story strikes a new note: Ron Koertge introduces us to the boys in the band—the marching band; Joseph Bruchac contributes a Native American boy with no rhythm whatsoever; Jennifer Armstrong writes about what was perhaps the first battle of the bands—during the American Civil War; and David Levithan offers up a love song that speaks powerfully to an unintended audience. But while each story is different, they combine into harmonic song of praise—for the depths music can reach in us, and the power it has to bind us together.

Chopsticks by Jessica Anthony. After her mother's death, teenage piano prodigy Glory has been raised by her father, who strictly enforces Glory's piano studies and concert schedule. When Frank, a cute guy from Argentina moves in next door, Glory falls for him and gets distracted from the piano. Missing Frank, and feeling like a virtual prisoner while on tour abroad, Glory starts to fall apart and eventually can only play Chopsticks to the exclusion of anything else—

all of this leading up to her disappearance. But, in looking closely at the illustrations, another story is revealed, showing that nothing is as it appears. The reader is left to interpret what's really happened.

Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist by Rachel Cohn and David Levithan. After a hard and messy breakup, heartbroken Nick's only solace is found in New York's indie music scene. Meanwhile Norah, the daughter of a famous music-producer, feels lost and unsatisfied with life and the city. After a chance meeting at a concert, Nick and Norah spend the night hunting down an elusive, underground band rumoured to play a secret gig somewhere that night. Although they've never met before, their mutual taste in music bonds them tighter than they could imagine, and together they embark on a journey of mayhem and self-discovery.

This Song Will Save Your Life by Leila Sales 16-year-old misfit Elise Dembowski has never had much luck making friends. After years of bullying at school, she's now determined to transform herself before college begins...but things doesn't go to plan. Fed-up and alone, Elise believes there's only one solution left - to kill herself. It's only when she meets a group of quirky musicians and DJs that her life changes for the better, and Elise finally discovers both a deep love of the DJ-scene and true friendship. A funny, sharp tale about the unifying power of music, *This Song Will Save Your Life* even includes a list of "recommended listening", so you too can dance along to Elise's favourite tunes.

High Fidelity by Nick Hornby. Life isn't going so well for Rob. His latest girlfriend has just left him, and the record shop he owns, Championship Vinyl, is failing miserably. Alongside his co-workers Dick and Barry, Rob spends his days compiling list after list of songs, until he one day starts to chart his "top

five break-ups” and revisits the failed relationships of his past. What follows is a journey that questions love, life and the ever-strong bond between music and memory.

The Vinyl Princess by Yvonne Prinz. Music-lover Allie is having the best summer of her life - with a cool new job at Bob and Bob records, she spends every day surrounded by her favourite vinyl and favourite people, devoted to the records she loves so dearly. She then decides to take her passion one step further - after creating an online alias, The Vinyl Princess, Allie launches her very own blog to chart anything and everything about her favourite LPs. However, things start to change when Allie’s parents separate. Now, she must learn to cope with a broken home life and an ever-declining business, but with a love of music to see her through, life might not be too bleak after all.

Hidden Voices: The Orphan Musicians of Venice by Pat Lowery Collins. Fancy journeying back to tunes of times gone by? Hidden Voices is the story of three young orphans in the heart of Renaissance Venice. Studying under the renowned musician Vivaldi, Anetta, Luisa and Rosalba come to master the art of the world’s finest music, as well as contend with questions of sexuality and unrequited love. A must-read for those who prefer their Beethoven to their Beyonce.

Being Friends With Boys by Terra Elan McAvoy. Charlotte has always considered herself “one of the guys”. Coming from a female-filled household, it’s refreshing to spend her days with band members Oliver, Abe and Trip, and she finds herself drawn more and more into the heart of their musical world. Not only does she manage the band, but with plenty of lyrical flair, she finds herself writing their songs, and fast becomes the creative brain behind the music. When a new boy enters the scene, however, the musical

bliss is disrupted. Charlotte must learn to rediscover the harmony that once bound these friends together.

I Wanna Be Your Joey Ramone by Stephanie Kuenhert. Punk rock is more than just music to Emily Black - it’s a way of life. With a guitar-playing father and a punk-loving mother, the music world has always been the only world she knows. There’s just one thing missing. When she was only a baby, her mother ran away to follow a life of gigs and guitars, never to return. Now that Emily’s older, she resolves to bring her mother home once and for all - by becoming the next big star of punk. With a band of her own and an unyielding determination, Emily embarks on the most important quest of her life, with her favourite songs by her side every step of the way.

In Bloom by Matthew Crow. This raw, powerful coming-of-age tale follows the story of 15-year-old Francis Wootton, a witty, music-loving boy with a lot to give. The novel begins with his first ever memory - the suicide of Kurt Cobain - and charts his often troubled home life from thereon in, where the music scenes that fascinate him are a far cry from his quiet town of Tyne and Wear. When Francis is diagnosed with leukaemia, he fears his world will never be the same and begins to give up all hopes and dreams. Only when he meets the resilient, feisty Amber does he realise that life is only just beginning.

Partial source: http://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2015/nov/05/books-with-beats-celebrating-the-power-of-music-in-ya?CMP=share_btn_tw

Note to parents: These books are written for teen/young adult readers (13+); this means there may be ‘gritty’ content. Generally by KS4 young people are ready for this, but parents know their children best; if you have queries about suitability, please check online reviews.