

**Death Coming Up the Hill by Chris Crowe** It's 1968, and war is not foreign to seventeen-year-old Ashe. His dogmatic, racist father married his passionate peace-activist mother when she became pregnant with him, and ever since, the couple, like the situation in Vietnam, has been engaged in a "senseless war that could have been prevented."

**Denton Little's Deathdate by Lance Rubin** Ever since he was a kid, Denton Little knew he would die when he was 17. For the most part, Denton has tried to keep his life fairly normal, but his last day is anything but. The morning of his deathdate, Denton notices a purple splotch on his thigh that slowly grows to cover his whole body, and all day long he experiences near-misses with death. As he gets closer to midnight, he learns beguiling secrets about his past, particularly regarding his mother and her deathdate.

**Flawed by Cecelia Ahern** Bi-racial 17-year-old Celestine sees things in black and white and would never break society's rules-until she impulsively helps a Flawed man on a bus, an act that's illegal. Her compassionate gesture lands her in jail for aiding a Flawed, and it's certain she'll be judged Flawed, too. Judge Craven makes an example of Celestine for threatening his abuse of the Guild's power. The only person Celestine feels understands what she's suffered is the mysterious boy she saw in prison but never actually spoke to.

**The Girl in the Blue Coat by Monica Hesse** In 1943 Amsterdam, Hanneke spends her days procuring and delivering sought-after black market goods to paying customers, her nights hiding the true nature of her work from her concerned parents, and every waking moment mourning her boyfriend, who was killed on the Dutch front lines. On a routine delivery, a client asks Hanneke to find a *person* - a Jewish teenager who has vanished without a trace from a secret room.

**Highly Illogical Behavior by John Corey Whaley** Lisa Praytor is determined to use Solomon Reed as an example for her scholarship essay. Solomon has not left his house in over three years, suffering from agoraphobia. When Lisa and her boyfriend Clark find that they have a new best friend in Solomon, Lisa's essay scheme is revealed and almost destroys all the progress Solomon has made in overcoming his mental disorder. Their friendship endures and gives hope that Solomon will continue to improve.

**I Will Always Write Back by Cairlin Alifirenka & Martin Ganda** Caitlin didn't even know how to pronounce "Zimbabwe" when she chose the African country for a pen pal in 7th grade. Little did she know that her random choice and her pen pal Martin Ganda would rock both their worlds. The long friendship of Caitlin and Martin is a lens for understanding two cultures, two families and two lucky young people.

**A List of Cages by Robin Roe** When Adam Blake gets to be an aide to the school psychologist, he thinks he's got it made. Sure, it means a lot of sitting around, which isn't easy for a guy with ADHD, but he gets to spend the period texting all his friends. Then the doctor asks him to track down the troubled freshman who keeps dodging her, and Adam discovers that the boy is Julian - the foster brother he hasn't seen in five years. Adam learns that Julian is keeping secrets, like what's really going on inside his house. Adam is determined to help him, but his involvement could cost both boys their lives.

**A Madness so Discreet by Mindy McGinnis** Privileged young women aren't supposed to be pregnant, so Grace Mae is sent to a Boston insane asylum until her child is born and she can re-enter society. But the unethical treatments in her asylum cause Grace to act out and, as a result, be punished. When Grace meets a doctor who sees in her intelligence and the ability to be a crime-solving assistant, he helps her escape to an ethical asylum in Ohio. It is here where Grace confronts both an unsolved serial killer case and her family's past.

**One Paris Summer by Denise G. Swank** Most teens dream of visiting the City of Lights, but it feels more like a nightmare for Sophie Brooks. She and her brother are sent to Paris to spend the summer with their father, who left home a year ago without any explanation. As if his sudden abandonment weren't betrayal enough, he's about to remarry, and they're expected to play nice with his soon-to-be wife and stepdaughter, Camille. Sophie could deal with all the pain and humiliation if only she could practice piano, preparing for a scholarship competition. Even though her father moved to Paris to pursue his own dream, he clearly doesn't support hers. His promise to provide her with a piano goes unfulfilled.

**Riders by Veronica Rossi** For eighteen-year-old Gideon Blake, nothing but death can keep him from achieving his goal of becoming a U.S. Army Ranger. As it turns out, it does. Recovering from the accident that most definitely killed him, Gideon finds himself with strange new powers and a bizarre cuff he can't remove. His death has brought to life his real destiny. He has become War, one of the legendary four horsemen of the apocalypse. And with this new identity comes the task of convincing the skeptical government that the world is in imminent danger.

**Saving Red by Sonya Sones** When Molly reluctantly agrees to complete community service hours around the holiday season, she encounters Red, a homeless and somewhat unpredictable teen girl. Molly decides to reunite Red with her family for the holidays, but getting close to Red isn't as easy as it seems. And Molly's holiday wish for Red might not be Red's wish for herself, leaving Molly to confront her own demons from her past.

**The Serpent King by Jeff Zentner** Dill has had to wrestle with vipers his whole life - at home, as the only son of a Pentecostal minister who urges him to handle poisonous rattlesnakes; and at school, where he faces down bullies who target him for his extreme faith and very public fall from grace. Graduation will lead to new beginnings for Lydia, whose edgy fashion blog is her ticket out of their rural Tennessee town. And Travis is content where he is thanks to his obsession with an epic book series and the fangirl turning his reality into real-life fantasy.

**Starflight by Melissa Landers** Solara Brooks needs a fresh start, someplace where nobody cares about the engine grease beneath her fingernails or the felony tattoos across her knuckles. The outer realm may be lawless, but it's not like the law has ever been on her side. It's been a long time since Solara has believed in anyone, and Doran is the last person she expected to trust. But when the Banshee's dangerous enemies catch up with them, Solara and Doran must come together to protect the ship that has become their home - and the eccentric crew that feels like family.

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**The Sun is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon** Natasha and Daniel forget all about their current situations (like Natasha being deported in twelve hours) and future plans when they see each other on a crowded NYC street. Could fate have something more extraordinary in store for them? Has every moment of their lives brought them together for this single moment?

**Superman: An American Alien by Max Landis** THIS IS NOT A SUPERMAN COMIC. This is the story of Clark Kent, a Kansas farm boy who happens to be from another planet. It's the story of a scared young kid with impossible powers, of a teenage delinquent with a lot to learn, of a reporter with a nose for the truth who's keeping the biggest secret the world has ever known. This is not the Superman you know. Not yet.

**Sweet by Emmy Laybourne** Solu, the sweetener of the future, could solve the world's obesity problem. The makers of Solu decide to launch an exclusive 7 day cruise to try out their new product on the celebrity elite. Unfortunately, things take a horrifying turn and Laurel and former child-star Tom Forelli must warn others before the drug is released to the world.

**Taking Flight by Michaela DePrince** Michaela DePrince was tormented in her orphanage as a "devil child" for a skin condition. But it was here where Michaela would find a picture of a beautiful ballerina en pointe that would change the course of her life. After being adopted at age 4, Michaela studied at the American Ballet Theatre and now dances for the Dutch National Ballet. Michaela shares her journey from an orphan in West Africa to becoming one of ballet's most exciting rising stars.

**Three Dark Crowns by Kendare Blake** In every generation on the island of Fennbirn, a set of triplets is born: three queens, all equal heirs to the crown and each possessor of a coveted magic. But becoming the Queen Crowned isn't solely a matter of royal birth. Each sister has to fight for it in a game of life and death. The night the sisters turn sixteen, the battle begins. The last queen standing gets the crown.

**The Way I Used to Be by Amber Smith** Eden was always good at being good. Starting high school didn't change who she was. But the night her brother's best friend rapes her, Eden's world capsizes. What was once simple is now complex. What Eden once loved - who she once loved - she now hates. What she thought she knew to be true is now lies. Nothing makes sense anymore, and she knows she's supposed to tell someone what happened, but she can't. So she buries it instead. And she buries the way she used to be.

**We'll Never Be Apart by Emiko Jean** Murder. Fire. Revenge. That's all seventeen-year-old Alice Monroe thinks about. Committed to a mental ward at Savage Isle, Alice is haunted by memories of the fire that killed her boyfriend, Jason. A blaze her twin sister Cellie set. But when Chase, a mysterious, charismatic patient, agrees to help her seek vengeance, Alice begins to rethink everything. Writing out the story of her troubled past in a journal, she must confront hidden truths. Is the one person she trusts only telling her half the story?



*Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award  
Annotations for 2018-2019 Nominees*

**All We Have Left by Wendy Mills** Jesse's home has been filled with anger and grief since her brother died in the 9/11 terrorist attacks. She knows that the only way to change her home life is to confront the reasons for her brother's death. In 2001, after deciding to confront her father in his Manhattan office, Alia is trapped inside a Twin Tower when the planes hit. It is in this devastation that she meets a boy that will change everything.

**The Assassin Game by Kirsty McKay** At Cate's isolated boarding school, Killer Game is a tradition. Only a select few are invited to play. They must avoid being killed by a series of thrilling pranks, and identify the murderer. But this time, it's different: the game stops feeling fake and starts getting dangerous and Cate's the next target. Can they find the culprit ... before it's too late?

**The Boy in the Black Suit by Jason Reynolds** Struggling to find his way through grief over his mom's death and identify with "Senior Year" normalcy, Matt Miller quietly finds peace in the oddest of places—the local funeral home. Because of this job, Matt dons the black suit that allows him to fade into the background of the various funerals he attends. The black suit also provides a grounding that he had not experienced before losing his mom, giving Matt confidence to pursue school, face his dad's grief, and meet (ahem) a girl.

**Burn Baby Burn by Meg Medina** Nora Lopez is seventeen during the infamous New York summer of 1977, when the city is besieged by arson, a massive blackout, and a serial killer named Son of Sam. Nora's family life isn't going so well either: her bullying brother, Hector, is growing more threatening by the day, her mother is helpless and falling behind on the rent, and her father calls only on holidays. All Nora wants is to turn eighteen and be on her own. And while there is a cute new guy who started working with her at the deli, is dating even worth the risk when the killer likes picking off couples who stay out too late?

**Dear Nobody: The True Diary of Mary Rose by Gillian McCain, ed.** They call her a freak, and Mary Rose is sick of it. It makes her want dangerous, bad things. Drugs-hard drugs-and people who are bad for her, but she doesn't care, because she's so lonely and no matter what their intentions are at least they're talking to her. They say that high school is supposed to be the best time of your life. But what if that's just not true? More than anything, Mary Rose wants to fit in. To be loved. And she'll do whatever it takes to make that happen. Even if it costs her her life.

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