

Journeys: Teens and Spirituality

MS = Middle School HS = High School

Fiction:



Alis

Naomi Rich
YA Rich

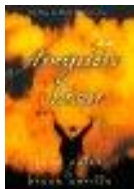
Raised within the strict religious confines of The Community of The Book, Alis flees from an arranged marriage to the much older minister of her town and her life takes a series of unexpected twists before she returns to accept her fate. HS



Anything But Normal: A Novel

Melody Carlson
YA Carl

Honor student and future journalist Sophie, a seventeen-year-old senior, was pressured to break her purity pledge and fears she is pregnant but is unable to go to her parents, friends, pastor, or even God for help. HS



Armageddon Summer

Jane Yolen and Bruce Coville
YA Yole

14-year-old Marina and 16-year-old Jed accompany their parents' religious cult, The Believers, to await the end of the world atop a remote mountain, where

they try to decide what they themselves believe. HS



Blind Faith

Ellen Wittlinger
YA Witt

While coping with her grandmother's sudden death and her mother's resulting depression and fascination with a spiritualist church, whose ministers claim to communicate with the dead, 15-year-old Liz finds herself falling for a new neighbor whose mother is dying of cancer. MS/HS



The Book of Fred

Abby Bard
YA Bard

Fifteen-year-old Mary Fred Anderson, brought up in a fundamentalist sect obsessed with an imminent Apocalypse and the propagation of the name "Fred," is placed in foster care with a very different family. HS



A Brief Chapter in My Impossible Life

Dana Reinhardt
YA Rein CD YA Rein

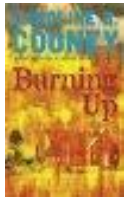
Sixteen-year-old atheist Simone's life changes when she reluctantly meets her biological mother, who has Orthodox Jewish roots. HS



Burned

Ellen Hopkins
YA Hopk CD YA Hopk

Raised in a stern, abusive Mormon household, a teenage girl starts to question her religion and struggles to find her destiny.



Burning Up

Caroline B. Cooney
YA Coon

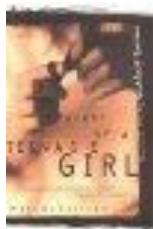
When a girl she had met at an inner-city church is murdered, fifteen-year-old Macey channels her grief into a school project that leads her to uncover prejudice she had not imagined in her grandparents and their wealthy Connecticut community. MS/HS



The Chosen One

Carol Lynch Williams
YA Will

13-year-old Kyra rebels against her close-knit, cult-like polygamist community when she is ordered to marry her 60-year-old uncle, who already has six wives. HS



Diary of a Teenage Girl: Becoming Me

Melody Carlson
YA Carl

Sixteen-year-old Caitlin O'Conner keeps a six-month diary in which she records the day-to-day events of her life as well as her struggles to understand herself and God's plan for her future. *It's My Life* and *Who I Am* continue this Christian fiction series. MS/HS



Does My Head Look Big in This?

Randa Abdel-Fattah
YA Abde PLAY YA Abde

Year Eleven at an exclusive prep school in Melbourne, Australia would be tough enough, but it is further complicated for Amal when she decides to wear the hijab, the Muslim head scarf, full time as a badge of her faith- without losing her identity or sense of style. MS/HS



The God Box

Alex Sanchez
YA Sanc

Paul wonders how he can choose between his spirituality and his sexuality, placing his prayers into a "god box" that some of his feelings will go away. Then he meets an openly gay Christian who discusses a broader view of Biblical passages. HS



Godless

Pete Hautman
YA Haut

A rebellious high schooler starts his own church, the Chutengodians, who worship the "Ten-legged God," their town's water tower. MS/HS



How to Ruin a Summer Vacation

Simone Elkeles
YA Elke

16-year-old Amy spends a life-changing summer in Israel with her estranged

father, and his family – who never knew she existed! HS



I Am Not Esther

Fleur Beale
YA Beal

After her mother unexpectedly leaves her with her uncle's family, members of a fanatical Christian cult, Kirby tries to learn what has become of her mother and struggles to cope with the repressiveness of her new surroundings and to maintain her own identity. MS/HS

Orthodox Jewish girl, has just been asked to be the token Jew on a TV show about a Jewish family, trading one insular community for another. HS



Nothing But Drama

ReShonda Tate Billingsley
YA Bill

Four teenage girls from different backgrounds find faith and friendship after joining Good Girlz, an afterschool church youth group. MS/HS



In the Name of God

Paula Jolin
YA Joli

Determined to follow the laws set down in the Qur'an, 17-year-old Nadia becomes involved in a violent revolutionary movement aimed at supporting Muslim rule in Syria and opposing the Western politics and materialism that increasingly affect her family. HS



Once Was Lost

Sara Zarr
YA Zarr YA CD Zarr

As the tragedy of a missing girl unfolds in her small town, 15-year-old Samara, who feels emotionally abandoned by her parents, begins to question her faith. HS



Kampung Boy

Lat
YA Lat

This graphic novel relates the life experiences, from birth to beginning boarding school, of a Muslim boy growing up on a rubber plantation in rural Malaysia. MS/HS



Other Bells for Us to Ring

Robert Cormier
YA Corm

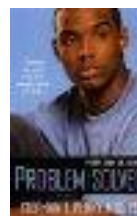
When her father is transferred to an army camp in Massachusetts during World War II, Darcy feels isolated in her French-Canadian neighborhood until she meets the vivacious Kathleen Mary O'Hara and learns about Catholicism. HS



Never Mind the Goldbergs

Matthue Roth
YA Roth

Hava, a devout 17-year-old



Problem Solved

Stephanie Perry Moore
YA Moor

When Perry attends a Christian sports camp in

Hilton Head, South Carolina, he comes face-to-face with racism and jealousy as the police accuse him of a crime he did not commit and his new teammates resent his skills on the football field. HS



Skunk Girl
Sheba Karim
YA Kari

Nina Khan is not just the only Asian or Muslim student in her small-town high school in upstate New York, she also faces the legacy of her “supernerd” older sister, body hair, and the pain of having a crush when her parents forbid her to date. HS



Sorta Like a Rock Star
Matthew Quick
YA Quic YA CD Quic

Although 17-year-old Amber is homeless, and lives on a school bus with her mother, she is relentlessly hopeful, volunteers to help others, and keeps up an internal dialog with Jesus. When tragedy strikes, she plunges into a depression that even an optimist might not survive. HS



The Tequila Worm
Viola Canales
YA Cana

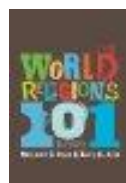
Sofia grows up in the close-knit community of the barrio in McAllen, Texas, then finds that her experiences as a scholarship student at an Episcopal boarding school in Austin only strengthen her ties to family and her “comrades.” MS/HS



The Weight of the Sky
Lisa Anne Sandell
YA Sand

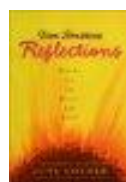
A 16-year-old girl travels to Israel to spend the summer on a kibbutz and discovers who she is and what she wants out of life. HS

Non-fiction:



World Religions 101: An overview for teens
Margaret O. Hyde
YA 204 Hyde

Examines the concept of religion and how it is practiced around the world. MS/HS



Teen Sunshine Reflections: Words for the heart and soul
June Cotner (compiler)
YA 291.43 Teen

An interfaith collection of poems, prayers and reflections, that address challenges faced by teens. Includes words by Mother Teresa, Mahatma Gandhi, the Dali Lama, and teenaged authors. MS/HS

Researched and compiled by F.Lehman 08/2010



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