

Recent Gender-Based and Sexual Dystopian Fiction for Teens
YART Presentation
May 2, 2012

Condie, Allyson. *Matched*. New York: Dutton Books, 2010.

Seventeen-year-old Cassia has always trusted the Society to make the right choices for her, but when there is a "glitch" at her Matching ceremony, she is torn between marrying her best friend and a new love, which could bring disaster.

Condie, Allyson. *Crossed*. New York: Dutton Books, 2011.

Seventeen-year-old Cassia sacrifices everything and heads to the Outer Provinces in search of Ky, where she is confronted with shocking revelations about Society and the promise of rebellion. (Sequel to *Matched*)

DeStefano, Lauren. *Wither*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2011.

After modern science turns every human into a genetic time bomb with men dying at age twenty-five and women dying at age twenty, girls are kidnapped and married off in order to repopulate the world. (Chemical Garden Trilogy, 1)

DeStefano, Lauren. *Fever*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2012.

In a future where genetic engineering has cured humanity of all diseases and defects but has also produced a virus that kills all females by age twenty and all males by the age twenty-five, teenaged Rhine escapes her forced marriage and journeys back to New York to find her twin brother. (Chemical Garden Trilogy, 2)

Karr, Julia. *XVI*. New York: Speak, 2011.

Nina lives in a totalitarian future society in which all girls are required to get a Governing Council-ordered "XVI" wrist tattoo on their 16th birthdays, announcing to the world that they are ready for sex. Becoming a "sex-teen" is Nina's worst fear until her mother is brutally attacked and reveals a shocking truth with her dying breaths. Now Nina must try to discover who she really is while staying one step ahead of her mother's killer.

Kinch, Michael P. *The Blending Time*. Woodbury, Minn.: Flux, c2010.

In the harsh world of 2069, ravaged by plagues and environmental disasters, friends Jaym, Reya, and D'Shay are chosen to help repopulate Africa as their mandatory Global Alliance work, but civil war and mercenaries opposed to the Blending Program separate them and threaten their very lives.

Kinch, Michael P. *The Fires of New SUN*. Woodbury, Minn.: Flux, 2012.

Although the Nswibe refugees find safe haven at a New SUN outpost, infighting and treachery make them ill-equipped to fight off a 'gade attack and Jaym, Reya, and D'Shay must work to reunite the factions before mounting a daring counterattack. (Sequel to *The Blending Time*)

McCafferty, Megan. *Bumped*. New York: Balzer + Bray, 2011.

In 2036 New Jersey, when teens are expected to become fanatically religious wives and mothers or high-priced Surrogates for couples made infertile by a widespread virus, sixteen-year-old identical twins Melody and Harmony find in one another the courage to believe they have choices.

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McCafferty, Megan. *Thumped*. New York: Balzer + Bray, 2012.

The whole country awaits the birth of Melody's and Harmony's double set of twins. Harmony, however, realizes that her children will be taken away by the cult her family belongs to and plans escape. Melody has a secret, too—she's not really pregnant at all. (Sequel to *Bumped*)

Ness, Patrick. *The Knife of Never Letting Go*. Cambridge, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2008.

Pursued by power-hungry Prentiss and mad minister Aaron, young Todd and Viola set out across New World searching for answers about his colony's true past and seeking a way to warn the ship bringing hopeful settlers from Old World. (Chaos Walking: Book 1)

Ness, Patrick. *The Ask and the Answer*. Somerville, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2009.

Alternate chapters follow teenagers Todd and Viola, who become separated as the Mayor's oppressive new regime takes power in New Prentisstown, a space colony where residents can hear each other's thoughts. (Chaos Walking: Book 2)

Ness, Patrick. *Monsters of Men*. Somerville, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2010.

As a world-ending war surges to life around them, Todd and Viola face monstrous decisions, questioning all they have ever known as they try to step back from the darkness and find the best way to achieve peace. (Chaos Walking: Book 3)

O'Brien, Caragh M. *Birthmarked*. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2010.

In a future world baked dry by the sun and divided into those who live inside the wall and those who live outside it, sixteen-year-old midwife Gaia Stone is forced into a difficult choice when her parents are arrested and taken into the city.

O'Brien, Caragh M. *Prized*. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2011.

Sixteen-year-old midwife Gaia Stone is in the wasteland with nothing but her baby sister, a handful of supplies, and a rumor to guide her when she is captured by the people of Sylum, a dystopian society where she must follow a strict social code or never see her sister again. (Sequel to *Birthmarked*)

Oliver, Lauren. *Delirium*. New York: HarperCollins, 2011.

Lena looks forward to receiving the government-mandated cure that prevents the delirium of love and leads to a safe, predictable, and happy life, until ninety-five days before her eighteenth birthday and her treatment, when she falls in love.

Oliver, Lauren. *Pandemonium*. New York: HarperCollins, 2012.

After falling in love, Lena and Alex flee their oppressive society where love is outlawed and everyone must receive "the cure"—an operation that makes them immune to the delirium of love—but Lena alone manages to find her way to a community of resistance fighters, and although she is bereft without the boy she loves, her struggles seem to be leading her toward a new love. (Sequel to *Delirium*, 2nd in planned trilogy)

Patneau, David. *Epitaph Road*. New York: Egmont USA, 2010.

In 2097, men are a small and controlled minority in a utopian world ruled by women, and fourteen-year-old Kellen must fight to save his father from an outbreak of the virus that killed ninety-seven percent of the male population thirty years earlier.

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Ryan, Amy Kathleen. *Glow*. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2011.

Part of the first generation to be conceived in deep space, fifteen-year-old Waverly is expected to marry young and have children to populate a new planet, but a violent betrayal by the dogmatic leader of their sister ship could have devastating consequences. (First in a planned series)

Spotswood, Jessica. *Born Wicked*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2012.

In an alternate New England of 1900, where the Brotherhood dominates and controls society, sixteen-year-old Cate Cahill has struggled since her mother's death to keep secret that she and her younger sisters are witches, but when a governess arrives from the Sisterhood, everything changes. (The Cahill Witch Chronicles: Book I)

Other Cited Works

Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1986.

After an oppressive religious regime seizes control of the United States, female political prisoners are doled out as "handmaids" to prominent men and their wives for the purpose of producing children.

Hopkins, Ellen. *Tricks*. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2009.

Five troubled teenagers fall into prostitution as they search for freedom, safety, community, family, and love.

Hrdlitschka, Shelley. *Sister Wife*. Victoria, B.C.: Orca Book Publishers, 2008. In a remote polygamist community, Celeste struggles to accept her destiny while longing to be free to live her life her way.

James, P.D. *The Children of Men*. New York: A.A. Knopf, 1993, c1992.

In a future where all the men have been rendered sterile, society begins to collapse into violence.

McCormick, Patricia. *Sold*. New York: Hyperion, 2006.

Thirteen-year-old Lakshmi, though poor, enjoys her life until the Himalayan monsoons wash away her family's crops and she is sold to a brothel in India by her stepfather. She remembers her mother's wisdom, "Simply to endure is to triumph," until the day comes that she can reclaim her life.

McKay, Sharon. *Thunder Over Kandahar*. Toronto; New York: Annick Press, c2010.

A powerful novel of enduring friendship set amid the terror and chaos of present-day Afghanistan.

Purcell, Kim. *Trafficked*. New York: Viking, 2012.

A seventeen-year-old Moldovan girl whose parents have been killed is brought to the United States to work as a slave for a family in Los Angeles.

Shusterman, Neal. *Unwind*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2007.

In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives "unwound" and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to uphold their beliefs--and, perhaps, save their own lives.

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Williams, Carol Lynch. *The Chosen One*. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2009.

In a polygamous cult in the desert, Kyra, not yet fourteen, sees being chosen to be the seventh wife of her uncle as just punishment for having read books and kissed a boy, in violation of Prophet Childs' teachings, and is torn between facing her fate and running away from all that she knows and loves.

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