

Chick Lit:
Girls rule!



Summer Boys

Hailey Abbott

YA FIC ABB

Watch out *OC*, you've met your match! Cousins Ella, Beth, and Jamie spend an unforgettable summer vacationing on a beach in Maine. The summer is spent talking about boys, life, and clothes. *Summer Boys* has all the drama of a teen sitcom and is a great light read for girls who just want to read about girlie things.

Prom

Laurie Halse Anderson

YA FIC AND

Ashley is a senior in high school and a self-proclaimed "normal kid." She doesn't care at all about her senior prom, but when the school's math teacher steals the prom money, Ashley finds herself being sucked into a scheme to help save the prom because it means so much to her best friend, Nat.

Hope Was Here

Joan Bauer

YA BAU

16-year-old Hope had no idea what was in store for her when she and her aunt moved to Wisconsin to work at a local diner as waitress and cook. They both found themselves in the middle of a political war as the head of the diner is running for Mayor in a very corrupt government. And, in the midst of all the political trauma, both Hope and her aunt are experiencing the budding of new romances.

Rules of the Road

Joan Bauer

YA BAU

Sixteen-year-old Jenna has two things in her life that she is quite proud of: her job as a salesperson at Gladstone's shoes and her Illinois driver's license. She has her concerns when the 73-year-old president of Gladstone's asks Jenna to accompany her on a road trip to Texas, but the pay is too good to pass up. On the road, Jenna learns a lot about her boss and even more about herself. Will Jenna learn how to muster the courage to confront her alcoholic father?

A Great and Terrible Beauty

Libba Bray

YA FIC BRA

In 1896, sixteen-year-old Gemma got into a huge argument with her mother because Gemma wanted to leave their home in India to attend a boarding school in England. After the argument, Gemma runs away, but she has a vision of her mother's death after she leaves and returns to discover that the vision was real. Gemma is then sent to the boarding school, but she continues to have strange and magical visions.

True Confessions of a Heartless Girl

Martha Brooks

YA BRO

This is a rather depressing story about four people, all struggling with different tragedies, who support each other through tough times. Lynda has just escaped an abusive relationship and is raising her new baby on her own; Del feels guilty for his brother's tragic death; Delores is struggling with the death of her daughter; and Noreen is pregnant and has severed all ties with her baby's father.

Teen Idol (And other Meg Cabot books)

Meg Cabot

YA CAB

Jenny has a big secret to keep! Famous heartthrob actor, Luke Striker, comes to Jenny's hometown to do research for an upcoming movie and decides to go undercover at the local high school as a student. Jenny is Luke's guide and the only one who knows his secret. To make matters worse, Jenny starts to develop a

crush on a guy friend, but he has a girlfriend already. There are quite a few twists and turns in the plot of this book, making it fun and dramatic.

Wild Roses

Deb Caletti

YA FIC CAL

Cassie's new stepfather, Dino, is a famous violinist; he is eccentric, artistic, and diagnosed as mentally ill. Cassie cannot understand why her mother would marry someone who is crazy, but as Cassie is slowly drawn in to Dino's world of art, she begins to explore the line that separates talent and passion from insanity.

Gingerbread

Rachel Cohn

YA COH

Sixteen-year-old Cyd is a headache to her wealthy parents- she was kicked out of her elite boarding school, and now she's dating a laidback surfer. Her parents don't even know the worst of it, like the fact the Cyd recently had an abortion. Frustrated, her parents send her to New York to live with her biological father, and, taken out of her comfort zone, Cyd starts to reevaluate things.

The Au Pairs

Melissa De la Cruz

YA FIC DEL

Three girls accept positions supervising children of the wealthy and elite in the Hamptons one summer. Eliza accepted the position so she could live the high life, hang out on the beach, and meet boys; Mara took the position so she could escape her small town and make money to pay for college; and Jacqui is only looking for real romance.

Double Dutch

Sharon M. Draper

YA DRA

Three eighth grade girls in Cincinnati, Ohio are practicing for the International Double Dutch Championship jump rope competition. The girls are awesome at jump rope, but their problems in life are starting to become overwhelming. Delia is illiterate and has been concealing it for years; Randy's father has been missing for two weeks now, and she has been living alone; and Yo-Yo's having trouble with bullies at school.

The Skin I'm In

Sharon G. Flake

YA FIC FLA

Thirteen-year-old Maleeka is embarrassed because she is the darkest person in her school. The other kids make fun of the way she looks and dresses, and Maleeka, although she is extremely intelligent, is starting to lose her temper at school. A teacher takes Maleeka under her wing to help Maleeka learn to accept the skin that she's in.

Just Ella

Margaret Peterson Haddix

YA HAD

What happened to Cinderella after she agreed to Prince Charming's proposal? This is the story of Ella, a fifteen-year-old girl engaged to be married to Prince Charming and completely miserable. Ella thought that escaping her home life to live in the castle would make her happy, but she finds the new rules and snobbish attitudes of the royals to be stifling. Will Ella ever be able to find her happily ever after?

The Secret Life of Bees

Sue Monk Kidd

FIC KID

Fourteen-year-old Lily's mother died of a tragic accident when she was only four, and she has been raised by her stern and uncaring father and her hired African American caretaker, Rosaleen. When Rosaleen is thrown in jail for standing up to some racist white women, Lily helps her escape, and the two travel to a small town in South Carolina where they find refuge with three eccentric beekeepers.

Confessions of a Shopaholic

Sophie Kinsella

FIC KIN

Becky is twenty-five, lives in London, works as a financial writer, and has a massive obsession with shopping for clothes and makeup. Becky shops to bring excitement to her monotonous life. When her shopping addiction sinks Becky further and further into debt, her denial and her lies get out of control.

Ella Enchanted

Gail Carson Levine

J FIC LEV

A retelling of the *Cinderella* story, *Ella* is a charming and comical book about young Ella who is blessed with the gift of obedience at birth. The blessing turns into a curse when her mother dies and her evil stepmother moves in. Ella must do everything that her stepmother says because of the charm that is on her. The ultimate test occurs, however, when Ella falls in love with a prince, but the only way to save his life is to lie and say she does not love him.

The Boyfriend List

E. Lockhart

YA FIC LOC

Fifteen-year-old Ruby Oliver has had a pretty tough year. She's been arguing with her parents, dealing with peer pressure at school, and now her boyfriend has just broken up with her to date her best friend. Ruby freaks out so much that her parents send her to a therapist. The therapist tells her to write a list of all of the guys that she's been with, which wouldn't have been a big deal, but the list somehow gets into the wrong hands and everyone at school sees it!

The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big, Round Things

Carolyn Mackler

YA MAC

Virginia Shreves is a sophomore at an uppity private school in Manhattan, her family is perfect, and her body is less than perfect. Virginia's mom is a children's therapist who is obsessed with Virginia's weight. When her perfect older brother gets accused of date rape, Virginia realizes she might not be the only one in the family with problems.

Vegan Virgin Valentine

Carolyn Mackler

YA MAC

Mara is a major overachiever. She is a vegan, a virgin, a straight-A senior, and competing with her ex-boyfriend for the title of valedictorian by graduation. Because Mara's life is filled with so many v-words, she has been dubbed "V" by her friends. Mara's whole life changes, however, when her same age and polar-opposite niece Victoria, also called "V", comes to live with her family. The new "V" smokes, swears, and doesn't care much for school. Old V starts to reassess her own life based on her niece.

Sloppy Firsts

Megan McCafferty

YA FIC MCC

Sixteen-year-old Jessica Starling's year has not gotten off to a good start. Her best friend, Hope, has moved away, her dad is overly-obsessed with her track meets, her mom is going crazy over her older sister's wedding, and she is friendless and boyfriendless. Jessica goes from an active teenager to a lethargic insomniac. Will she be able to get her life back in order again?

Bras and Broomsticks

Sarah Mlynowski

YA FIC MLY

14-year-old Rachel is stunned to discover that her mother and younger sister, Miri, are both witches. Her shock soon turns to scheming, however, when she realizes that Miri could be very useful to her in gaining popularity. The spells may work at first, but each spell comes with a consequence.

The Dive from Clausen's Pier

Ann Packer

FIC PAC

Twenty-three-year-old Carrie Bell lives in Madison, Wisconsin and is engaged to her high school sweetheart, Mike. Carrie is starting to have apprehensive feelings about her life as she longs to leave Madison and falls out of love with Mike. When Mike breaks his neck in a tragic accident, Carrie's life becomes even more complicated. If she leaves him now, it will look as though she is deserting him in his darkest hour.

My Sister's Keeper

Jodi Picoult

FIC PIC

Anna Fitzgerald was conceived when her sister developed a rare form of leukemia and needed someone to donate blood and bone marrow. Anna has been keeping her sister alive through blood and bone donations

her whole life. However, when her parents tell her that she has to give up a kidney, Anna goes to a lawyer to sue her family for forcing her to give away pieces of her own body.

Angus, Thongs, and Full-Frontal Snogging

Louise Rennison

YA REN

This is the hilarious diary of 14-year-old Georgia who is just trying to make her way through life, love, and friendships. She is desperately in love with a boy who is three years older than her. And, as if the age difference wasn't enough of a problem to get past, the love of her life also has a girlfriend who actually wears a thong! The British wit and humor of this tale is similar to *Bridgette Jones Diary*, and it's a great read for those who are looking for something that will make them chuckle.

The Lovely Bones

Alice Sebold

FIC SEB

Fourteen-year-old Suzy Salmon narrates this emotional novel from heaven. Suzy was raped on murdered on her way home from school, and now she is watching her family's reactions to her tragic death from heaven. Her father reacts in anger, determined to find the killer; her mother distances herself from the rest of the family in grief; her tough younger sister tries to behave as though it never happened; and her four-year-old brother does not understand where his big sister is.

What My Mother Doesn't Know

Sonya Sones

YA FIC SON

Written as a series of poems, Sophie tells the story of her fourteen-year-old life. She fights constantly with her mom, and she's dealing with typical boy issues. Sophie has a crush on the handsome Dylan, but he turns out to be a lot different than she expected. Imagine her surprise, though, when she really starts falling for someone that she's been friends with all along.

At First Sight (And Other Sparks' Books)

Nicholas Sparks

FIC SPA

Jeremy Marsh is from big city New York, but since he started dating Lexie Darnell, he's made a lot of changes. Lexie is a young librarian from Boone Creek, North Carolina, and when she and Jeremy discovered that Lexie was pregnant, Jeremy moved to Boone Creek with her. Now people are starting to warn Jeremy that Lexie might be unfaithful, and Jeremy grapples with his love for his soon-to-be wife and his fear of what people are saying.

My Cup Runneth Over

Cherry Whytock

YA FIC WHY

Fourteen-year-old Angel is obsessed with dieting and self-image. She tries every diet in the book, but to no avail. Finally, Angel is asked to participate in a school fashion show, and she begins to realize that her negative self-perception is all in her head, and no one sees her the way that she sees herself. Packed with quirky British humor, readers will find Angel to be a hilarious and likable character.

If You Come Softly

Jacqueline Woodson

YA WOO

Miah and Ellie both come from similar, broken families. Struggling to just deal with life, the two meet and fall in love. For them, their love is perfect, but the rest of the world leers at them because Miah is black and Ellie is white. Even Ellie's lesbian older sister tells her that she should be careful dating a different race.

Compiled by Beth Blood 2006

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