Caraval

By Stephanie Garber

“In Caraval, Stephanie Garber creates a complex and intriguing world that will draw you in with the perfect mixture of magic and madness. Just like the main character, Scarlett, who journeys into the titular Caraval to find her sister, every time you think you know what’s going on, it’s completely flipped around to the point where you don’t know who to trust, who to fall for, and what’s even real. The best advice? Just remember: it’s all a game.”
—Miranda McGowan, An Unlikely Story, Plainville, MA

The Upside of Unrequited

By Becky Albertalli

“Molly Peskin-Suso has two moms and a twin sister/best friend, Cassie, who are all out and proud. Molly is straight, a chubby homebody with anxiety who has never had a boyfriend—just 26 unrequited crushes. She would rather hang out with her nerdy co-worker Reid or stay at home crafting or making cookie dough than go to parties. But when Cassie gets a serious girlfriend, Molly finally agrees to be matched up with a cute boy named Will, who seems to like her. Problem is: does Molly like him? A really funny book about finding the confidence to ‘come out’ and be yourself, whatever that might mean to you.”
—Jill Zimmerman, Literati Bookstore, Ann Arbor, MI

The Hate U Give

By Angie Thomas

“Angie Thomas’ novel gives readers a complex narrative of life in a black community that is dealing with the intersectional traumas of mass incarceration, the war on drugs, police violence, and death. We follow 16-year-old Starr through her community of Garden Heights and as she tries to navigate black existence in the predominantly white, affluent high school where she spends most of her time. It is a powerfully written tale of coming to terms with the things outside of our control and all that which we can change.”
—Sarah Zarantonello, Carmichael’s Bookstore, Louisville, KY

Princess Cora and the Crocodile

By Laura Amy Schlitz, Brian Floca (Illus.)

“What a felicitous combination of talents that produced this early chapter book about a perky princess and an unusual pet! Devoted royal parents want their daughter to be clean, wise, and strong in order to become a good queen, so they set about managing her every moment with a schedule of bathing, studying, and exercise. Princess Cora soon yearns for some diversion and asks her fairy godmother to intervene with a pet. Imagine her dismay when a crocodile is delivered! This is not, however, your average reptile, and surprising solutions lay ahead. Highly entertaining and engaging, this clever, charming story is enhanced with watercolor illustrations that portray the personalities of each character, adding details that delight.”
—Carol Moyer, Quail Ridge Books, Raleigh, NC
**Piper Perish**  
By Kayla Cagan  
“...a diary-plus-art format, Piper takes us from an awful New Year’s Eve her senior year of high school until it’s time to embark on a new adventure in August. This book is full of the ups and downs of friendships and relationships, the creative struggles of a young artist, and the unfortunate realities families face when trying to afford college. It’s also inspiring at times, and each character’s flaws are refreshingly clear as they all muddle their way through their own hangups. The best part is watching Piper evolve from a dramatic girl who wants to be Andy Warhol into someone who works toward a future that is entirely her own.”  
—Danielle Borsch, Vroman’s Bookstore, Pasadena, CA

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**We Are Okay**  
By Nina LaCour  
“It’s winter break in upstate New York and Marin is alone at her college. In a few hours, her best friend from San Francisco will come to visit and she will finally have to answer questions about the way she left her home. Will she be able to face the betrayal she endured and build a new life? To no one’s surprise, this new book from Nina LaCour will tug on your heart and then slowly, completely unravel it. Highly recommended.”  
—Cecilia Cackley, Hooray for Books!, Alexandria, VA

Find out more about this book and others at [WWW.INDIEBOUND.ORG](http://WWW.INDIEBOUND.ORG)

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**Not Quite Narwhal**  
By Jessie Sima  
“Kelp, a unicorn raised in the ocean, thinks he is a narwhal, but, of course, he is an awful narwhal. When he meets his first unicorn, his world opens up. Everyone I give this book to thinks it’s about something different. It’s that amazing kind of book that speaks to so many of us—anyone who has felt like they couldn’t possibly belong. It’s a reminder that when we fail, it’s often because we are being tested on the skills we were never meant to have. It’s the idea that when we have those conflicting pieces of ourselves, we can celebrate them all.”  
—Katherine Fergason, Harvard Book Store, Cambridge, MA

Find out more about this book and others at [WWW.INDIEBOUND.ORG](http://WWW.INDIEBOUND.ORG)

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**Little Fox in the Forest**  
By Stephanie Graegin  
“A nearly wordless picture book laid out like a graphic novel, *Little Fox in the Forest* is a beautifully illustrated story of friendship, exploration, and discovering the unexpected. The wordless format allows even the littlest littles to enjoy it on their own and tell the story in their own words. And, oh my gracious, the little animals in their people clothes and their little village in the forest are just too danged adorable for words.”  
—Billie Bloebaum, Third Street Books, McMinnville, OR

Find out more about this book and others at [WWW.INDIEBOUND.ORG](http://WWW.INDIEBOUND.ORG)
**Escargot**

By Dashka Slater, Sydney Hanson (Illus.)

“Escargot is an adorable French snail trying to reach the salad at the end of the book. He admires himself and his shiny trail as he moves across the table to the salad. He hopes it has no carrots, because he really does not like carrots. Fun illustrations and a charming story make this a picture book for everyone to enjoy!”

—Cathy Berner, Blue Willow Bookshop, Houston, TX

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**See You in the Cosmos**

By Jack Cheng

“If ever a more galactically inquisitive, earnest, honest, and loving narrator exists, I have yet to meet them. Alex is the 11-year-old every reader will want to spend time with, and his creator has done precisely what Alex himself does with his (Carl Sagan Golden Record-inspired) iPod recordings and rocket science obsession: launched a beautiful account of what it is to be a mere human on earth into the vast, unknown universe. You’ll be so glad when it falls with extraordinary grace from the cosmos and into your hands.”

—Joanna Parzakonis, Bookbug, Kalamazoo, MI

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