HIDDEN GIRL

by Shyima Hall

Shyima was born in Egypt in 1989, the seventh child of desperately poor parents. When she was eight, her parents sold her into slavery. When she was ten, her captors moved to California, and smuggled Shyima with them. Two years later, an anonymous call from a neighbor brought an end to Shyima’s servitude—but her journey to true freedom was far from over. In this memoir, Shyima reveals how she overcame her harrowing circumstances, bringing awareness to human trafficking around the world.

OBSESSED

by Allison Britz

Until sophomore year of high school, fifteen-year-old Allison Britz lived a comfortable life in an idyllic town. Her life is derailed after a vivid nightmare changes how she perceives and interacts with the world around her. Here she recounts her debilitating struggle with obsessive-compulsive disorder—and brings readers through every painful step as she finds her way to the other side.

MARCH

by John Lewis, Andrew Ayden, and Nate Powell

A vivid first-hand account of John Lewis’ lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis’ personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement. Inspired by the 1950s comic book “Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story.”

POPULAR

by Maya Van Wagenen

Unpopular and lacking self-confidence, Maya decided to begin a unique social experiment: spend the school year following a 1950s popularity guide, written by former teen model Betty Cornell. Can curlers, girdles, Vaseline, and a strand of pearls help Maya on her quest to be popular? The results are painful, funny, and surprising—including meeting and befriending Betty Cornell herself.

EVERY FALLING STAR

by Sungju Lee

The intense memoir of a North Korean boy named Sungju who is forced at age twelve to live on the streets and fend for himself. To survive, Sungju creates a gang and lives by thieving, fighting, begging, and stealing rides on cargo trains. It depicts what it was like for a boy alone; to be hungry and to fear arrest, imprisonment, and even execution in one of the most oppressive countries in the modern world.

STITCHES, A MEMOIR

by David Small

One day fourteen-year-old David Small awoke from a supposedly harmless operation to discover that he had been transformed into a virtual mute. A vocal cord removed, his throat slashed and stitched together like a bloody boot. David’s deeply problematic parents had not told him that he had cancer and was expected to die. In this memoir, Small details his journey from sickly child to the troubled teen whose risky decision to run away from home at sixteen—with nothing more than the dream of becoming an artist.

THEY CALLED US ENEMY

by George Takei

A graphic memoir recounting actor/author/activist George Takei’s childhood forcibly imprisoned within American concentration camps during World War II. He details the years behind barbed wire, the joys and terrors of growing up under legalized racism, his mother’s hard choices, his father’s faith in democracy, and the way those experiences planted the seeds for his astonishing future.