

The Boy Who Couldn't Sleep and Never Had To

by D.C. Pierson

Fifteen-year-old Darren, a social misfit who spends his time at school trying not to be noticed while drawing characters for a planned film series and book tie-ins, befriends Eric, another outcast who reveals that he never sleeps.

Breaking Night

by Liz Murray

The memoir of a young woman who at age 15 was living on the streets but survived and made it to Harvard.

Girl In Translation

by Jean Kwok

Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn squalor; she quickly begins a secret double life: exceptional schoolgirl during the day, Chinatown sweatshop worker in the evenings. Kimberly learns to constantly translate not just her language but herself back and forth between the worlds she straddles. -Goodreads.com

The Lock Artist

by Steve Hamilton

Traumatized at the age of eight and pushed into a life of crime. Michael sees his chance to escape. With one desperate gamble he risks everything to come home to the only person he ever loved, and to unlock the secret that has kept him silent for so long.

The Radleys

by Matt Haig

Struggling with overwork and parenting angst, English village doctor Peter Radley hides his family's vampire nature until their daughter's oddly satisfying act of violence reveals the truth.

The House of Tomorrow

by Peter Bognanni

Sebastian Prendergast is no ordinary teenager. Housed in a geodesic dome, he lives in near isolation and is home-schooled by his grandmother. Sebastian is expected to fulfill his destiny (saving the planet), yet his days are spent giving tours of the dome, working in the gift shop, and studying. He has never consumed processed foods, set foot in a church, played a guitar, or had a friend. Never, that is, until the day his grandmother suffers a stroke and the fabric of his life unravels. -Goodreads.com



2011

The Alex Awards are given to books written for adults that have special appeal to young adults (ages 12-18). The winning titles are selected from the previous year's publishing. These awards were first given annually beginning in 1998 and became an official ALA award in 2002.

The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake

by Aimee Bender

Being able to taste people's emotions in food may at first be horrifying. But young, Rose Edelstein grows up learning to harness her gift as she becomes aware that there are secrets even her taste buds cannot discern.

Room

by Emma Donoghue

Jack and his mother, kidnapped seven years earlier, live in a 11-foot-square cell in a converted shed in the kidnapper's yard. The sociopath, whom Jack has dubbed Old Nick, grudgingly doles out food and supplies. But Ma, as Jack calls her, proves to be resilient and resourceful as she attempts a nail-biting escape.

The Vanishing of Katharina Linden

by Helen Grant

Pia is a ten-year-old famed in her small German hometown for being the girl whose grandmother exploded in a freak accident. When girls from her town begin disappearing, with no clues as to their whereabouts, Pia decides to help find them with the help of her friend Stefan, through the aid of their elderly neighbor Herr Schiller.

The Reapers are the Angels

by Alden Bell

Born into a crumbling society plagued by zombies, all 15-year-old Temple knows is to kill or be killed. When she is assaulted at a safe house, she murders her human attacker, Abraham Todd, and runs from his vengeful brother. – Publishers Weekly