

REAL LIVES: PERSONAL STORIES

Andrew, Arin

Some Assembly Required: The Not-So-Secret Life of a Transgender Teen (2014)

Andrew lays out the journey which led him to female-to-male gender reassignment as a high school junior.

#witty #honest #painful

Baldwin, Tindell

Popular: Boys, Booze & Jesus: A Memoir (2013)

This girl's journey away from and back to the Christianity seeks to convince others to stay true to their faith.

#desperate to be popular #scary night

Burcaw, Shane

Laughing at My Nightmare (2014)

Awkward doesn't begin to describe Burcaw's life with spinal muscular atrophy, but his irreverent memoir does.

#TMI #hilarious #eye-opening

Hall, Shyima

Hidden Girl: The True Story of a Modern-Day Child Slave (2014)

Sold into slavery at age 8 and rescued at age 12, Shyima tells of her harrowing story and current advocacy work.

#Egypt #large family #extreme poverty

Hartzler, Aaron

Rapture Practice: A True Story (2013)

While wishing to be obedient to his strict Baptist family, Hartzler gives in to the need to be true to himself.

#tough parents #hilarious #LGBTQ

Hernandez, Daniel with Susan Goldman-Rubin

They Call me a Hero: A Memoir of My Youth (2013)

Hernandez saved Gabrielle Giffords after her shooting. He talks about that morning and the life that led to it.

#high achiever #medical training #LGBTQ

Leyson, Leon

The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible ... on Schindler's List (2013)

The youngest person on Schindler's famous list talks plainly about his life in World War II Warsaw.

#middle grade #confused loyalties #hunger #fear

Morrison, Joan

Home Front Girl: A Diary of Love, Literature, and Growing Up in Wartime America (2013)

Drawn from a diary, a Chicago teen witnesses significant events in the 1930s and 1940s.

#historic moments #everyday thoughts #honesty

Murray, Liz

Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard (2010)

Homeless at 15, Murray pushed her way through high school, won a scholarship, and went to Harvard.

#terrible parents #drug addiction #resiliency

Rodriguez, Gaby

The Pregnancy Project: A Memoir (2012)

Rodriguez faked a pregnancy for a school project to shed light on people's assumptions about teen moms.

#poverty #family legacy #high achiever

Stokke, Regine

Regine's Book: A Teen Girl's Last Words (2014)

This blog-turned-book chronicles the physical and emotions trials of facing leukemia as a teen.

#Norwegian translation #life lessons #death

Van Wagenen, Maya

Popular: Vintage Wisdom for the Modern Geek (2014)

In diary style, Van Wagenen talks about being 13 and trying to live by advice from a 1951 popularity guide.

#secret project #sweet & funny #it kind of works

BIG EVENTS AND TRUE STORIES

Bowers, Rick

The Spies of Mississippi: The True Story of the Spy Agency that Tried to Destroy the Civil Rights Movement (2009)

To save segregation, Mississippi formed a spy agency, pitting neighbor against neighbor in the 1950s and 60s.

#secret files #interviews #everyday spies

Fradin, Judith and Dennis Fradin

Stolen into Slavery: The True Story of Solomon Northup, Free Black Man (2012)

Free born Northup, 33, was kidnapped, and sold in 1841. He survived 12 years of slavery and lived to tell the tale.

#one of many #survival #made into a movie

Hopkinson, Deborah

Titanic: Voices from the Disaster (2012)

Survivor stories and photographs are coming to tell this gripping story from many perspectives.

#real drama #primary sources #fascination

Hoose, Phillip

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice (2009)

Before Rosa Parks, Montgomery teenager Claudette also was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on the bus.

#sparked the flame #civil rights #courage

Lewis, Anna M.

Women of Steel and Stone: 22 Inspirational Architect, Engineers, and Landscape Designers (2014)

Fascinating profiles of the women who broke into architecture, engineering, and landscape design.
#big barriers #persistence #talent

Murray, Elizabeth A.

Forensic Identification: Putting a Name and Face on Death (2013)

Told in case studies, some gory storytelling illustrates the amazing science used by forensic specialists.
#fingerprints #DNA #scary pictures

Perkins, Mitali (editor)

Open Mic: Riffs on Life Between Cultures in Ten Voices (2013)

Ten young adult authors share their own stories about growing up betwixt and between culturally.
#funny #bittersweet #ultimate multicultural mix

Sheinkin, Steve

The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism, and Treachery (2010)

Riveting history woven of what is well-known and little known about a famous American traitor.
#war hero first #bloody battles #bad decisions

Sheinkin, Steve

Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon (2012)

This account of scientific daring, sabotage, and sneaky spies reads like an improbable novel—but it's true.
#Germany #splitting atoms #loyalty & treachery

Swanson, James L.

Chasing Lincoln's Killer (2009)

Crazy adventure as John Wilkes Booth goes on the run and manages to hide for 12 days after killing Lincoln.
#conspiracy #assassination #manhunt

Swanson, James L.

"The President has Been Shot": The Assassination of John F. Kennedy (2013)

An engrossing chronicle of a devastating event in American history told from many viewpoints.
#lots of photos #assassination #a nation in mourning

Yolen, Jane and Heidi E.Y. Stemple

Bad Girls: Sirens, Jezebels, Murderesses, Thieves, & Other Female Villains (2013)

Yolen and Stemple debate the guilt or innocence of 26 of history's most notorious women.
#making men nervous #willful #determined

Narrative Non-Fiction



- True stories written in a style usually associated with fiction
- Styles may include short stories, poems, or novels
- Writers pay close attention to elements of plot structure and character development
- Books are written with creating a compelling story from a factual basis

Salem Public Library Teen Scene

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