

Book suggestions for girls: novels about life

LOVE, FRIENDSHIP, FAMILY... WHAT TYPE OF NOVEL IS YOURS?

Benduhn, Tea

Gravel queen

It's the summer between their junior and senior years of high school for Aurin and her friends Kenney and Fred. Fred has known he's gay for as long as he can remember, but Aurin discovers her attraction to Neila, a new girl in town, as the novel progresses. The plot centers on her awakening to her sexual identity and the difficulty she has in maintaining her old friendships while pursuing the new intimacy. [School library journal]

Saul-Bellow: ADO FIC B459g

Brashares, Ann

The sisterhood of the traveling pants

Carmen got the jeans at a thrift shop. They didn't look all that great: they were worn, dirty, and speckled with bleach. On the night before she and her friends part for the summer, Carmen decides to toss them. But Tibby says they're great. She'd love to have them. Lena and Bridget also think they're fabulous. Lena decides that they should all try them on. Whoever they fit best will get them. Nobody knows why, but the pants fit everyone perfectly. Even Carmen (who never thinks she looks good in anything) thinks she looks good in the pants. Over a few bags of cheese puffs, they decide to form a sisterhood and take the vow of the Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants... The next morning, they say good-bye. And then the journey of the pants and the most memorable summer of their lives - begins.

Saul-Bellow: ADO FIC B823s

Franklin, Emily

The other half of me

Feeling out of place in her athletic family, artistic sixteen-year-old Jenny Fitzgerald, whose biological father was a sperm donor, finds her half sister through the Sibling Donor Registry and contacts her, hoping that this will finally make her feel complete.

Saul-Bellow: ADO FIC F832o

Godbersen, Anna

The luxe

Pretty girls in pretty dresses, partying until dawn. Irresistible boys with mischievous smiles and dangerous intentions. White lies, dark secrets, and scandalous hookups. This is Manhattan, 1899. Beautiful sisters Elizabeth and Diana Holland rule Manhattan's social scene. Or so it appears. When the girls discover their status among New York City's elite is far from secure, suddenly everyone--from the backstabbing socialite Penelope Hayes, to the debonair bachelor Henry Schoonmaker, to the spiteful maid Lina Broud--threatens Elizabeth's and Diana's golden future.... - Inside jacket

Saul-Bellow: : ADO FIC G557L

Holeman, Linda

Toxic love

In the title story "Toxic Love", Carla is an intellectual with a stutter, a dweeb. She's also an incurable romantic. Feeling isolated in her country town, she tries to dream up romances for her English teacher, Miss Kleinfeld, and a handsome colleague. Carla is shocked from her giggly wishful daydreams when she realizes that Miss Kleinfeld's love was never available. In the hilarious "Something Fishy" the narrator is looking for some excitement in her ho-hum suburban life, and almost without meaning to, she tells a whopper of a lie. The excitement that follows is more than she bargained for.

Saul-Bellow: ADO FIC H729t

Holt, Kimberly Willis

Keeper of the night

Isabel's mother died peacefully. At least that's what Isabel likes to think since no one will talk about the truth. But the truth has a way of revealing itself at night. Ta`Ta sleeps curled up on the floor right where Mama's body was found. Olivia wets her bed and wakes repeatedly from nightmares, and Frank starts carving his anger into his bedroom wall. It's up to Isabel to help her family get beyond the pain and loss—to be the keeper of the night. But who will be there for Isabel and help her through to the other side?

ADO FIC H758k

Levinthan, David

How they met and other stories

A collection of eighteen stories describing the surprises, sacrifices, doubts, pain, and joy of falling in love

Saul-Bellow: ADO FIC L666h

McClintock, Norah

Break and enter

Chloe can't believe a teacher would accuse her of cheating. And when she finds herself under suspicion for vandalism too, she realizes she's being framed. As she tries to figure out why she's being set up, she uncovers a trail of blood... and a far more sinister plot.

ADO FIC M127b

Mackler, Carolyn

The earth, my butt, and other big round things

Sophomore Virginia Shreves lives in Manhattan and attends a prestigious private school. She lives by her Fat Girl Code of Conduct. She has a budding romance with Froggy the Fourth, but she doesn't want his wandering hands to feel her fat. Her baggy clothing helps her to "hide." Her mother, Dr. Phyllis Shreves, is an adolescent psychologist obsessed with her imperfect daughter's weight, and her father is rarely around. Her older sister joined the Peace Corps to escape mom, and brother Byron is big man on the Columbia campus-until he's suspended for date rape. Finally, Virginia stands up to her mother and takes charge of her life. [School Library Journal]

Saul-Bellow: ADO FIC M158e

Porter, Tracey.

A dance of sisters

The only time Delia feels important and alive is when she is dancing for Madame Elanova, a world-famous ballet instructor who calls Delia "destined." Delia relishes the hard work required to be a ballet dancer, but she doesn't see the toll it is taking on her life. As competition for Madame's approval takes over, Delia's weight drastically drops, her schoolwork suffers, and she pulls away from her friends and family. Only then does she begin to understand how fiercely her sister had to fight to find her own truth.

Saint-Pierre: ADO FIC P848d

Sheldon, Dyan

Confessions of a teenage drama queen

Mary Elizabeth Cep (or Lola, as she prefers to be called) longs to be in the spotlight. But when she moves to New Jersey with her family and becomes a student at Dellwood "Deadwood" High, Lola finds the role of resident drama queen already filled, by the Born-to-Win, Born-to-Run-Everything Carla San-tini. Carla has always gotten every-thing she wants until Lola comes along and snags the lead in the school play. Will Lola survive Carla's attempts at retaliation? Once the curtain goes up on the school play, which drama queen will take center stage?

Saul-Bellow: ADO FIC S544c

Soto, Gary

Taking sides

Lincoln Mendoza remains loyal to his former school's basketball team even after he moves from the barrio to the suburbs and plays for his new school's team. This touchingly realistic story explores the divided loyalties of a Hispanic basketball player who has recently moved from a poor neighborhood to a more affluent one...

Saul-Bellow: ADO FIC S718t

Stinson, Kathy

Becoming Ruby

Nan Larkin is 14 and has decided she's Nan no longer. It's a horrible name -- so from now on, she's Ruby. Changing her name is one thing; changing her life is another. And life isn't so fun at her house. Ruby can't help clashing with her mom, who seems so distant but still wants to control every little thing Ruby does. Why can't she just let Ruby be? Just let her be free to explore, to feel independent, to understand the strange new feelings bombarding her?

Saul-Bellow: ADO FIC S859b

Sullivan, Paul

Maata's journal

Maata has spent her entire life on the tundra, in a world of snow and ice. Her people, the Inuit, live a nomadic life, carrying all of their possessions on sleds, traveling with the seasons and the game. But one day, a huge ship shows up and her people are forced onto it. They are taken away to a Canadian government camp.

Saint-Pierre: ADO FIC S951m