



AUTUMN '15 Top Ten Kids' Next

The Thing About Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin

"In Benjamin's debut, 13-year-old Suzy learns that jellyfish are quite like friendships: delicate, and sometimes dangerous for your heart. Suzy and her best friend, Franny, are in the middle of a painful estrangement when she learns of Franny's death. The shocking news leaves Suzy sad, angry, and, perhaps most of all, disbelieving. Convinced that Franny, a talented swimmer, could never have drowned, Suzy becomes obsessed with proving that a freak jellyfish sting was the true catalyst for her death. Readers will feel deeply for the determined Suzy and her struggle to cope with her grief and guilt. Subtle use of the scientific method and jellyfish research provide a fascinating element to this tender tale."

—Sara Grochowski, Brilliant Books, Traverse City

Find out more about this book and others at WWW.INDIEBOUND.ORG



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Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon

"Madeline Whittier has not left her house since she was an infant—17 years!—as her doctor mother diagnosed her with a form of Severe Combined Immunodeficiency, or 'bubble baby disease.' The only human contact allowed comes from her mother, her day nurse, and an occasional visit from an online tutor. Madeline has been surprisingly content with her life until the day a new family moves into the house next door. The moment Madeline and Olly lay eyes on each other it is certain that 'staying alive' will never again be the same as really living for Madeline. Diary and health log entries, texts, emails, charts, lists, and illustrations, plus a startling plot twist make this a fresh and riveting read for young adults."

—Jennifer Gwydir, Blue Willow Bookshop, Houston, TX

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The Rest of Us Just Live Here by Patrick Ness

"In *The Rest of Us Just Live Here*, Ness finally answers the question that readers often have when the main characters are off fighting baddies and blowing up cities: What about everyone else? What happens to the 'normal' people on the fringes of those stories, the ones who aren't 'chosen?' This beautifully crafted story focuses on a group of high school students who, unlike the 'indie kids' with their mythical monsters, are fighting their own battles against anxiety, changing family dynamics, and a myriad of other teenage concerns—including graduating before the indie kids accidentally blow up the high school. Captivating, whimsical, and wonderful!"

—Hannah Hyde, Little Shop of Stories, Decatur, GA

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Goodbye Stranger by Rebecca Stead

"When Bridge—short for Bridget—was eight years old, she was nearly killed in an accident and a nurse told her she must have survived for a reason. As a seventh grader, Bridge still wonders what that reason is. With the help of her brother, Jamie, her best friends Emily and Tabitha, and a boy named Sherm, Bridge may just find her purpose in life. A mysterious, unnamed character adds to the intrigue. *Goodbye Stranger* is a story about love in many different forms, and Stead's characters grapple with relationship issues that real teens face: bullying, peer pressure, first romance, and changing family dynamics."

—Carla Ketner, Chapters Books & Gifts, Seward, NE

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The Marvels

by Brian Selznick

"As in his previous books, Selznick blends both wordless pictures and written text to tell a complete story. The first part of the book uses beautiful drawings to convey the story of a theatrical family, the Marvels, from the 18th century to the beginning of the 20th century. The second half—the narrative—starts in 1990 as Joseph has run away from his boarding school to London to find his uncle Albert. Joseph not only finds his uncle, but also an enchanting house filled with as many mysteries as there are rooms. These mysteries are what brings the two halves of the tale together, forming a beautiful and moving whole. Selznick has created a stunning and moving testament to the power of family and love."

—Jannis Mindel, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI

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AUTUMN '15 Top Ten Kids' Next

George

by Alex Gino

"No one says it better than David Levithan, editor of Gino's beautiful middle grade debut: 'This is a very special, very important, very wonderful book.' *George* tells the story of a young girl trapped in the wrong body—a boy's body—but at its crux it is also a heartwarming story of acceptance and what it means to be true to yourself. This is not just a story about a transgender child, but also a story for any child, teen, or adult who has ever felt uncomfortable in their own skin or out of place in this world. I'm sure anyone who has read and been moved by *George* would agree: Reading this breathtaking debut should be a requirement for living."

—Marisa DeNovis, Flyleaf Books, Chapel Hill, NC

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AUTUMN '15 Top Ten Kids' Next

Beastly Bones

A Jackaby Novel, by William Ritter

"First, a cat has suddenly shape-shifted into a fish and then its owner is mysteriously murdered. Next, fossils of a giant unknown creature go missing. The second book in Ritter's Jackaby series has Jackaby, a fantastical Sherlock Holmes, and Abigail Rook, his intuitive and intelligent Watson, teamed up with a host of characters to solve the case. With the aid of two paleontologists, a werewolf police detective, a big game hunter, and an intrepid reporter, Abigail and Jackaby must solve this mystery. What they find is even more incredible and more dangerous than they could have imagined. *Beastly Bones* has it all—an intriguing mystery, a strong feminist role model, and just a hint of romance."

—Claire Meints, Grass Roots Books & Music, Corvallis, OR

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AUTUMN '15 Top Ten Kids' Next

Waiting

by Kevin Henkes

"We rush. We hurry. We run frantically from one 'important' thing to the next. In our haste, we miss so very much. Henkes' wise and gentle picture book reminds us that we must make time to notice and appreciate the many gifts that are right before us. Patience, we learn, leads to gratitude. *Waiting* is a subtle, quiet masterpiece."

—Christopher Rose, Andover Bookstore, Andover, MA

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AUTUMN '15 Top Ten Kids' Next

Orbiting Jupiter

by Gary D. Schmidt

"Once again Schmidt plumbs the depths of love and the binding forces of the universe as readers witness 14-year-old Joseph Brook's story unfold within his new foster family and rural Maine community. Joseph's past keeps him guarded, marked by those who only see his prior transgressions, but it also propels him to find and protect the one closest to his heart. Through the voice of Jack, his compassionate, 12-year-old foster brother, readers glean why Joseph cries out in the night and why he cannot be approached from behind. Schmidt expertly guides readers through an emotional landscape that brings both bitter and joyous tears as he reveals what grace and loyalty really mean."

—Jane Knight, Bear Pond Books of Montpelier, Montpelier, VT

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Toys Meet Snow

Being the Wintertime Adventures of a Curious Stuffed Buffalo, a Sensitive Plush Stingray, and a Book-Loving Rubber Ball, by Emily Jenkins, Paul O. Zelinsky (illus.)

"You have not met darling until you have met Buffalo, Stingray, and Plastic. These three best friends venture out to discover snow. Are snowflakes tiny dancers? Is snow a peaceful blanket? Is it all just frozen water? Or could it be that there are many ways to see a snowy landscape? Readers will want to play with these toys over and over again!"

—Jessilynn Norcross, Mclean & Eakin Booksellers, Petoskey, MI

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