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Hellraisers

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Urlick Babbit. Urlick has finally found the key to his own cure, the machine that will eliminate his deformities: ghostly white skin marred by deep purple marks and bright pink eyes. As he escapes with the machine, Eyelet jumps into his carriage. Now they're stuck with each other until the deadly Vapour recedes. These clouds of fatal gas can linger for months. How will Urlick keep his secrets from this inquisitive young woman? Little do Eyelet and Urlick know they have the same goals and many secrets. Can they learn to trust each other to save themselves and the world? Garlick has created a visually impactful steampunk world where magic, friendship, and trust are integral for survival. Readers will become fully immersed in this well-thought-out universe and feel strong connections to the unique, well-developed characters. **VERDICT** YA fantasy readers will be clamoring for the second installment.—*Jessica Streffling, US Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit Library*

GORDON SMITH, Alexander. *Hellraisers*. 352p. (The Devil's Engine: Bk. 1). ebook available. Farrar. Dec. 2015. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9780374301699.

Gr 9 Up—Fifteen-year-old Marlow Green is a Staten Island native and nothing but trouble. While attempting to avoid the police after his latest expulsion from school, Marlow accidentally stumbles into hell on earth. Demons with bodies made of concrete and car parts have appeared in an underground parking garage, and the most beautiful girl Marlow has ever seen is trying to fight them off with what seem to be super powers. The girl, nicknamed Pandora, is part of an army of Hellraisers who receive their powers by making deals with an ancient machine known as the Devil's Engine; the Engine can grant any wish, for just the price of your soul. Marlow is a coward, so his first instinct is to run, but now that he knows too much, that may not be an option. The first in a trilogy, this volume is fast-paced and gritty. Marlow isn't a likable character, but he is relatable and fits perfectly into the setting. Chapters told from the teen's point of view highlight loyalty among friends, the importance of family, and the difficulty that is growing up, while chapters from the view of veteran Pandora—although she is only a couple of years older than Marlow—flesh out the details of life as a Hellraiser. **VERDICT** A chaotic pace, snarky humor, graphic descriptions, and strong language make this title just right for older horror enthusiasts.—*Maggie Mason Smith, Clemson University R. M. Cooper Library, South Carolina*

GORZELANCZYK, Melissa. *Arrows*. 256p. Delacorte. Jan. 2016. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9780553510447; lib. ed. \$20.99. ISBN

9780553510454; ebk. \$10.99. ISBN 9780553510461.

Gr 9 Up—Reality and mythology coexist in this new fantasy/adventure novel. In a battle between Mount Olympus and Earth, Aaryn, son of Cupid, is sent to Earth on his first mission to shoot both Karma and her boyfriend Danny with love arrows. Only after he has already shot Karma does he realize the leftover arrow is useless. One year later, Karma has lost her dance scholarship, gotten pregnant, and had a baby, all with minimal support from Danny. Aaryn is sent back to Earth as a human with the chance to make things right. If he can convince Danny to treat Karma right and propose there will be no consequence. While Aaryn is trying to push Danny toward Karma, he begins to fall for her himself. This story bounces back and forth from Karma's and Aaryn's points of view, exposing both of their trials and tribulations with love and choice. Appropriate themes for teens are explored in the book, such as honesty, self-worth, standing up for oneself, and teen pregnancy. This tale of Cupid meets teen mom is unique, but it pans out as a bit of a cliché teen love triangle with an unsurprising conclusion. **VERDICT** For fans of fantasy fiction and mythology, such as Aimee Carter's "The Goddess Test" series (Harlequin Teen) or Rick Riordan's titles.—*Morgan O'Reilly, Riverdale Country School, NY*

GRANT, Michael. *Front Lines*. 576p. ebook available. HarperCollins/Katherine Tegen Bks. Jan. 2016. Tr \$18.99. ISBN 9780062342157.

Gr 9 Up—This imaginative alternate history novel is told from the point of view of young women who enlist in the military during World War II. A court case decides that women can serve in the military and be drafted before World War II happens, and in the throes of war, teens from a range of backgrounds, religions, and races enlist for very different reasons. Though it is a lengthy tome, the story flies by and teens will stay engaged as they read the alternating women's perspectives and stories—from boot camp to assignments to actual war on the front lines. Grant does not sugarcoat the racism, anti-Semitism, and sexism that was so matter-of-fact in America at that time, so there is plenty of strong language. The main characters are all well-drawn, strong women, and the wartime events are well researched and accurate, even within the context of the alternate history plotline. Though the length may put some teen readers off, the alternative history and wartime plot, which reads like a movie, will appeal to many. **VERDICT** A first purchase for every teen collection, and an interesting series opener.—*Heather Massa, East Rockaway Public Library, NY*

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