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The Escape

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life without pleasure and that some experiences are worth the risks. **VERDICT** Recommended for most fiction collections.—Karen E. Brooks-Reese, Summit Pierce County Library, Tacoma, WA

HASTON, Meg. *Paperweight*. 304p. Harper Collins/HarperTeen. Jul. 2015. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9780062335746; ebk. \$10.99. ISBN 9780062335760.

Gr 8 Up—This realistic tale opens as Stephanie (Stevie) arrives at a 60-day residential treatment facility for eating disorder, located in rural New Mexico. Back in Atlanta, Stevie thought she had it all figured out—how to starve herself slowly (except when she

Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9780544388499. LC 2014023458.

Gr 9 Up—Presumed dead in an explosion, Charlie Price is being mourned at his funeral in Paris, which is attended by friends and family. Charlie's death is a tragedy—he was young, charming, and full of life. A world traveler, he was also something of a playboy; both Audrey and Lena loved Charlie and thought that they were the only women in his life. When they meet at the funeral, it sets them off on a whirlwind journey around the globe, where they must confront the questions that come up time and time again: did they really know Charlie? Did anyone? And is Charlie, presumed dead, actually gone

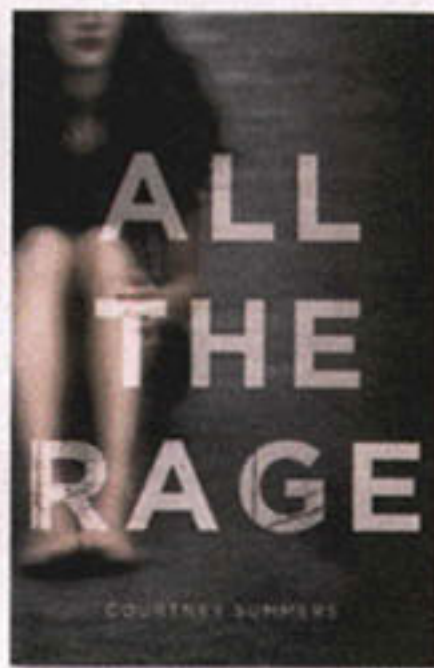
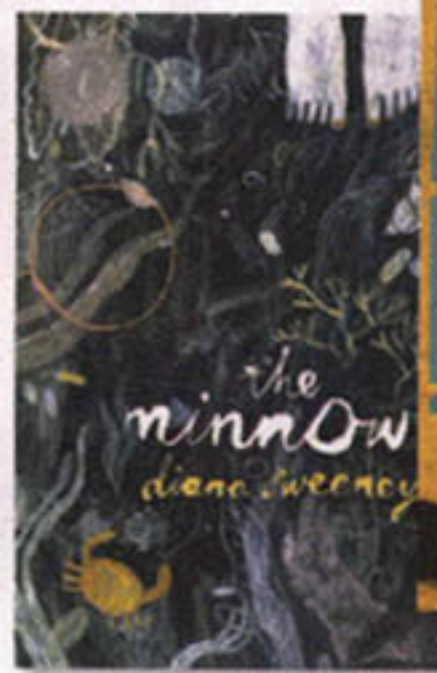
readers begin to see potentially interesting layers to the boy's personality. But a new side of the teen is never quite revealed, and Avery remains frustratingly static; at times, her knowledge of police lingo and murder investigative procedure is more interesting than her thoughts or her actions. As it is, Avery complements Fletcher, and the dynamic between the two helps to keep readers interested. **VERDICT** A thriller of average quality, *The Escape* offers readers a slight twist to an otherwise predictable ending.—Maggie Mason Smith, Clemson University R. M. Cooper Library, South Carolina

KARALUS, Kimberly. *Love Fortunes and Other Disasters*. 368p. ebook available. Feiwel & Friends/Swoon Reads. May 2015. pap. \$9.99. ISBN 9781250047205.

Gr 7 Up—Fallon Dupree dreams about falling in love. Starting high school in the town of Grimbaud is the first step to finding a perfect match because in Grimbaud, love charms from Zita's Lovely Love Charms are a guarantee to happiness. Devastation awaits the protagonist when she unfurls her fortune to discover that her love will never be requited. This is far from the flawless start to high school Fallon envisioned. However, rebellion is brewing and she is invited to participate in a secret charms club with select students harmed by their love charms, including heartbreaker Sebastian. The goal—dethrone Zita's love charms and prove that everyone deserves to find love. Fallon's heart is on her sleeve and she is sure that romantic happiness is around the corner. Initially heartbroken by her fortune, soon she is ready to take up arms against Zita and put the power of love back in her own hands. Fallon's growing independence is a welcome dose of realism in this magic-infused story. As her relationship expectations grow beyond the idea of true love, the heroine starts to appreciate her friends more and better understand Sebastian. The writing style matches the tone of the story, adding ambiance to Grimbaud and Fallon's quest. **VERDICT** An unusual love story that will delight readers. Purchase where romance books are in high demand.—Sarah Wethern, Douglas County Library, Alexandria, MN

LEVY, Michelle. *Not After Everything*. 336p. ebook available. Dial. Aug. 2015. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9780803741584.

Gr 9 Up—Tyler is drowning in a sea of helplessness and it doesn't seem to be worth the effort to swim up for air. Right before the start of senior year, his mother committed suicide—and Tyler was the one who found her. He was supposed to go to Stanford on a football scholarship. He was supposed to stay interested in his hot girlfriend. All he can manage to do is avoid his dad's growing emotional and physical abuse and



got drunk, binged, and purged) so that she would be dead in a year. The treatment center proves to be a challenge, though, and a strict routine dictates Stevie's existence day to day: therapy with "Shrink," carefully portioned meals and snacks designed to help Stevie gain weight, group therapy, and medications. The teen resists her therapist's efforts to talk about her past, but flashbacks reveal the events that led to the extreme illness she is now battling. Joshua (her beloved "Irish twin" brother) died in a car accident nearly one year ago and the protagonist blames herself. An enabling friend Eden seems to be a mysterious reason for the accident. And Stevie's restrictive and distant mother abandoned the family to go live in Paris. The girl's exterior armor is painstakingly chipped away (with setbacks, of course) and she begins to uncover the truth of her past until it all becomes clear to Stevie and to readers. Despite her flaws, it is hard not to feel for Stevie. A carefully constructed buildup still lends to a quick read, which is hard to put down. Haston deals respectfully with the difficult subject matters of eating disorders and focuses on the recovery rather than the disease. **VERDICT** Recommended for fans of Laurie Halse Anderson's *Wintergirls* (Viking, 2009).—Tara Kehoe, New Jersey State Library Talking Book and Braille Center, Trenton

HELTZEL, Anne. *Charlie, Presumed Dead*. 272p. ebook available. HMH. Jun. 2015.

for good? Travel descriptions and fast-paced writing sprinkled with intrigue and horror spin this story forward at an enjoyable pace. Teen suspense fans will be satisfied with the *Gone Girl*-esque feeling of the work. The first in a series, the ending may leave some tearing at their hair, but the promise of more books will keep many readers salivating. **VERDICT** Recommended as a primary purchase.—Clair Segal, LREI, New York City

JAYNE, Hannah. *The Escape*. 256p. ebook available. Sourcebooks Fire. Jul. 2015. pap. \$9.99. ISBN 9781492616542.

Gr 8 Up—The day after popular Adam Marshall goes for a hike with loner Fletcher Carroll, the Dan River Falls police department receives a call that the two boys have vanished. Avery Templeton, daughter of the police chief, volunteers to help with a search of the local woods. Although she knows she shouldn't stray from the path, when she does, Avery finds a bruised and bloody Fletcher with no memory of the events of the previous day and no idea where Adam could be. The rumor at Dan River Falls High School is that Fletcher is guilty of murder, but Avery, who is spending more time with him, is determined to prove his innocence. Told from the viewpoints of Fletcher and Avery, this mystery is entertaining but lacks depth. Flashbacks add to the even pacing the work: as Fletcher's memories slowly reveal what happened on the hike, suspense builds, and