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Please Don't Tell

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pects? This is an insider's look into the life of a fangirl. Liv has always felt like an outsider at school, but her online life is where she thrives. Her reaction to the death of Spartan may seem melodramatic as the book begins, but Stone explores Liv's involvement in fandom, and her feelings emerge realistically. Texts, tweets, and descriptions of the vids Liv creates with her best friend, Xander, bring the "Starveil" fandom to life. Liv's college life, filled with awkward crushes and her inability to express her feelings, contrasts very well with the confident online Liv. Liv's experiences with fandom will resonate with many teens, but it is her struggles to understand her goals for the future, her feelings for Xander, and even the drudgery of college that will compel teens to stick with this story. **VERDICT** Hand to teens who are avid participants in popular fandoms or display during Comic Con programming.—*Sarah Wethern, Douglas County Library, Alexandria, MN*

TASH, Sarvenaz. *The Geek's Guide to Unrequited Love*. 256p. ebook available. S. & S. Jun. 2016. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9781481456531.

Gr 9 Up—Graham and Roxana have been best friends for eight years, ever since Roxy asked Graham what Hogwarts house he would be sorted into. They have grown together through various fandoms and into a love of comic books. So much so that they have teamed together to write their own comic. Once Graham learns that the creator of their favorite comic will make his first public appearance in 20 years at the New York Comic Con, Graham knows they have to go. He also decides this is the perfect opportunity to tell Roxy he loves her. But once Comic Con actually starts, nothing goes as planned, and Graham is left questioning his decision to confess his feelings. This is a quick and fun read. A majority of the story takes place over three days at the convention, with a cast of unique characters. There is a lot of talk about creating comics, writing fan fiction, and spending time on discussion boards. The back-and-forth between real characters and fake worlds may seem jarring to some readers, and the buildup to Graham's reveal takes too long for its quick resolution, which may leave some unsatisfied. **VERDICT** A good purchase for large public libraries.—*Faythe Arredondo, Tulare County Library, CA*

TAYLOR, Jessica. *Wandering Wild*. 304p. ebook available. Sky Pony. May 2016. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9781510704008.

Gr 9 Up—Sixteen-year-old Tal and her 15-year-old brother Wen are Wanderers: moving from town to town and living off the grid, they are essentially parentless and live by the rules of their fellow rovers. They subsist by running cons and scams on various "markies"—townies who are easy marks or targets. Tal loves her free-spirited way of life and has

little to no regrets about her felonious methods, until she meets Spencer Sway, a markie her own age who has his own secrets. This, coupled with an impending arranged marriage at age 18 to a fellow Wanderer, leads to an awakening of sorts for Tal, who now begins to imagine a life free of the Wanderers. Still adverse to school, a nine-to-five job, or any other form of imposed structure, Tal yearns to continue to roam, but on her own terms rather than those of the Wanderers. But trying to break free from the Wanderers while at the same time protecting Wen proves to be a challenge that Tal might not yet be ready to face. Taylor keeps the narrative moving at a good pace with believable dialogue and a bit of suspense. The unique setting of the somewhat squalid Wanderer camp, especially when juxtaposed with the comfort of Spencer's home, is thought provoking. Despite her life of grift, readers will root for Tal and her nascent moral compass. **VERDICT** A very enjoyable debut featuring an appealing protagonist in unusual circumstances; add to coming-of-age collections.—*Melissa Kazan, Horace Mann School, the Bronx, NY*

TIMS, Laura. *Please Don't Tell*. 368p. ebook available. HarperCollins/HarperTeen. May 2016. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9780062317322.

Gr 8 Up—Joy Morris truly hates Adam Gordon for what he did to her twin sister, Grace. So when Joy ditches Grace to go to Adam's birthday party and blacks out from drinking and Adam ends up dead in the quarry, Joy worries that she may have been the one to kill him. And just when Joy begins to think Adam's death may not be her fault after all, she receives a letter. Someone was at the quarry; someone saw what happened to Adam; someone has proof that Joy is a killer. If Joy doesn't expose a scandalous school secret exactly as the letter instructs, someone will report her to the police. But if she does, will this nightmare really end? Although this debut work addresses classic coming-of-age questions and touches on many important contemporary issues—mental instability, crime, physical differences—the combination is disappointing. The twins' self-reflective tendencies frequently overshadow their actions. This shortcoming is often used to reinforce a weak plot, resulting in a repetitious story line. Strong language is used throughout, and sexual situations are included. **VERDICT** An additional purchase for fans of crime-driven thrillers.—*Maggie Mason Smith, Clemson University R.M. Cooper Library, South Carolina*

TOTEN, Teresa. *Beware That Girl*. 336p. ebook available. photos. Delacorte. May 2016. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9780553507904; lib. ed. \$20.99. ISBN 9780553507911. **POP**

Gr 10 Up—Street smart and already world-weary, 17-year-old Kate is an admitted liar. She lies with the goal of one day attending

Yale University, her dream school. As a new scholarship student at the prestigious Waverly School in New York, she relies heavily on her smarts, good looks, and experience to get by. Kate searches for a target, someone to befriend who has influence and money. She spots Olivia, a beautiful and rich girl who missed a year of school because of a mystery illness. Kate moves into Olivia's absent father's penthouse, with only a housekeeper as parental guidance. The friendship blossoms, until a mysterious man, Mark Redkin, enters their lives. The handsome Mark charms Olivia, but Kate senses that there is something terribly wrong. She discovers that he is a dangerous psychopath with a past as dark and carefully concealed as Kate's and Olivia's. Alternating chapters between the two teens keep the story fresh and make readers feel privy to secrets. Kate's tragic history is revealed with flashbacks. The plot develops at a steady pace until the game being played among all three characters finally blows up with tragedy and murder. In this book for older teens, the author skillfully reveals gritty and tantalizing details in meager bites, keeping readers captivated. **VERDICT** Complete with a disturbing yet satisfying conclusion, this is a must-have for teen fans of psychological thrillers such as Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*.—*Mindy Hiatt, Salt Lake County Library Services*

TOUCHELL, Dianne. *A Small Madness*. 200p. ebook available. Groundwood. May 2016. Tr \$16.95. ISBN 9781554988372.

Gr 10 Up—Seventeen-year-olds Rose and Michael are two kids in love. Shortly after becoming sexually active, however, Rose discovers she is pregnant. This news sends both of the teens into a tailspin, with Rose choosing denial and Michael isolating himself and developing rage-filled fantasies. When they can no longer ignore reality, they make a decision that has much stronger consequences for their futures. Unfortunately, an interesting story is overtaken by shallow characterization, teen voices that do not ring true, and needless and sometimes digressive point-of-view changes. Readers know only taken things about the protagonists beyond the pregnancy, to the point where it is unclear whether Rose has an intellectual disability or is simply an unbelievably naive 17-year-old. This work reads like a dated Beatrice Sparks-style cautionary tale where teen sex has the worst consequences imaginable and no male character misses a chance to label a girl a slut. Despite a frustrating lack of detail at the book's crucial moment, the omniscient narrator's description is frequently substituted for elements that should be shown through characters' actions. **VERDICT** Not recommended, because of poor narrative style and stock characterizations.—*Elizabeth Saxton, Library Consultant, Tiffin, OH*

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