

If you liked *Crank* & other books by Ellen Hopkins...

...here are some other "edgy" books to try!

(booklist created by Ms. Martin; descriptions from NovelList, book jackets, or written by Ms. Martin)



- **The Death of Jayson Porter** by Jaime Adoff (FIC ADO)
In the Florida projects, sixteen-year-old Jayson struggles with the harsh realities of his life which include an abusive mother, a drug-addicted father, and not fitting in at his predominately white school, and bring him to the brink of suicide. Verse novel.
- **Speak** by Laurie Halse Anderson (FIC AND)
A traumatic event in the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year of high school.
- **Thirteen Reasons Why** by Jay Asher (FIC ASH)
When high school student Clay Jenkins receives a box in the mail containing thirteen cassette tapes recorded by his classmate Hannah, who committed suicide, he spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death.
- **Tyrell** by Coe Booth (FIC BOO)
Fifteen-year-old Tyrell, who is living in a Bronx homeless shelter with his spaced-out mother and his younger brother, tries to avoid temptation so he does not end up in jail like his father.
- **Candy** by Kevin Brooks (FIC BRO)
When 15-year-old Joe Beck gets lost in a disreputable neighborhood in London, he meets sixteen-year-old Candy, a heroin-addicted prostitute, and as he tries to help her, he experiences some unexpected consequences.
- **Because I am Furniture** by Thalia Chaltas (FIC CHA)
The youngest of three siblings, fourteen-year-old Anke feels both relieved and neglected that her father abuses her brother and sister but ignores her, but when she catches him with one of her friends, she finally becomes angry enough to take action. Verse novel.
- **Perks of Being a Wallflower**
by Stephen Chbosky (FIC CHB)
A series of letters to an unknown correspondent reveals the coming-of-age trials of a high-schooler named Charlie.
- **Prep** by Jake Coburn (FIC COB)
One-time tag-artist, Nick tries to come to terms with the death of a friend, to protect the brother of his would-be girlfriend, to escape the violence of wealthy New York City prep school hoods, and to figure out who he really is.
- **After** by Amy Efav (FIC EFA)
In complete denial that she is pregnant, straight-A student and star athlete Devon Davenport leaves her baby in the trash to die, and after the baby is discovered, Devon is accused of attempted murder.
- **America** by E.R. Frank (FIC FRA)
Teenage America, a not-black, not-white, not-everything boy who has spent many years in institutions for disturbed, antisocial behavior, tries to piece his life together.
- **Shattering Glass** by Gail Giles (FIC GIL)
When Rob, the charismatic leader of the senior class, turns the school nerd into Prince Charming, his actions lead to unexpected violence.
- **Go Ask Alice** by anonymous (FIC GOA)
A novel in diary form of a fifteen-year-old girl's journey from a secure middle class family to the nightmare world of drug addiction, hustlers, and dealers.
- **Theories of Relativity**
by Barbara Haworth-Attard (FIC HAW)
When his volatile mother throws him out of the house and he loses contact with his two younger brothers, sixteen-year-old Dylan is forced to live on the streets and beg for money, yet through it all, he finds a way to survive, keeps his spirit intact, and meets other street kids with whom he develops a real bond out of desperation and necessity in their harsh environment.
- **Suckerpunch** by David Hernandez (FIC HER)
Shy, seventeen-year-old Marcus and his sixteen-year-old brother, Enrique, accompanied by two friends, drive from their home in southern California to Monterey to confront the abusive father who walked out a year earlier, and who now wants to return home.
- **Willow** by Julia Hoban (FIC HOB)
Sixteen-year-old Willow, who was driving the car that killed both of her parents, copes with the pain and guilt by cutting herself, until she meets a smart and sensitive boy who is determined to help her stop.
- **Heaven** trilogy by Angela Johnson (FIC JOH)
Fourteen-year-old Marley's seemingly perfect life in the small town of Heaven is disrupted when she discovers that her father and mother are not her real parents. (Heaven, The First Part Last & Sweet, Hereafter)
- **Dark Angel** by David Klass (FIC KLA)
When his older brother is released from prison, seventeen-year-old Jeff's family secret is revealed, causing upheaval in his home, school and love life.
- **Stoner & Spaz** by Ronald Koertge (FIC KOE)
A troubled youth with cerebral palsy struggles toward self-acceptance with the help of a drug-addicted young woman. Verse novel. Also by Koertge, **The Brimstone Journals**.
- **Hold Still** by Nina LaCour (FIC LAC)
As she reads the journal left by her best friend, who committed suicide, Caitlin struggles with powerful feelings of loss, sadness, and guilt, but friends and a first love help her to cope with her negative emotions.
- **In Ecstasy** by Kate McCaffrey (FIC MCC)
When teenagers Mia and Sophie take ecstasy at a party, Mia falls heavily into drug culture while Sophie is sexually assaulted and attempts to hide it from the authorities.
- **Cut** by Patricia McCormick (FIC MCC)
While confined to a mental hospital, thirteen-year-old Callie slowly comes to understand some of the reasons behind her self-mutilation, and gradually starts to get better.
- **Echo** by Kate Morgenroth (FIC MOR)
After Justin witnesses his brother's accidental shooting death, he must live with the repercussions, as the same horrific day seems to happen over and over.
- **Break** by Hannah Moskowitz (FIC MOS)
To relieve the pressures of caring for a brother with life-threatening food allergies, another who is a fussy baby, and parents who are at odds with one other, seventeen-year-old Jonah sets out to break every bone in his body in hopes of becoming stronger.
- **The Beast** by Walter Dean Myers (FIC MYE)
A visit to his Harlem neighborhood and the discovery that the girl he loves is using drugs give sixteen-year-old Anthony Witherspoon a new perspective both on his home and on his life at a Connecticut prep school.
- **We Were Here** by Matt de la Pena (FIC PEN)
Haunted by the event that sentences him to time in a group home, Miguel breaks out with two unlikely companions and together they begin their journey down the California coast hoping to get to Mexico and a new life.
- **By the time you read this, I'll be dead**
by Julie Anne Peters (FIC PET)
High school student Daelyn Rice, who has been bullied throughout her school career and has more than once attempted suicide, again makes plans to kill herself, in spite of the persistent attempts of an unusual boy to draw her out.

- **Scars** by C.A. Rainfield (FIC RAI)
Fifteen-year-old Kendra, a budding artist, has not felt safe since she began to recall devastating memories of childhood sexual abuse, especially since she cannot remember her abuser's identity, and she copes with the pressure by cutting herself.
- **Punkzilla** by Adam Rapp (FIC RAP)
As a runaway on the streets of Portland who sustains himself through petty crimes, a 14-year-old boy nicknamed Punkzilla decides to try to kick his meth habit and turn his life around; putting him on a cross-country, soul-searching journey to Tennessee to visit his older brother who is dying of cancer.
- **Living Dead Girl** by Elizabeth Scott (FIC SCO)
After being abducted when she was ten and abused for five years by her kidnapper, Ray, Alice's only hope of freedom is in death, but her only way to achieve such an escape is to help Ray find the next girl for his collection.
- **Last Night I Sang to the Monster** by Benjamin Alire Saenz (FIC SAE)
Eighteen-year-old Zach does not remember how he came to be in a treatment center for alcoholics, but through therapy and caring friends, his amnesia fades and he learns to face his past while working toward a better future.
- **Push** by Sapphire (FIC SAP)
A courageous and determined young teacher opens up a new world of hope and redemption for sixteen-year-old Precious Jones, an abused young African American girl living in Harlem who was raped and left pregnant by her father.
- **Give a Boy a Gun** by Todd Strasser (FIC STR)
Events leading up to a night of terror at a high school dance are told from the point of view of various people involved.
- **Rikers High** by Paul Volponi (FIC VOL)
Arrested on a minor offense, a New York City teenager attends high school in the jail facility on Rikers Island, as he waits for his case to go to court.
- **The Rules of Survival** by Nancy Werlin (FIC WER)
Seventeen-year-old Matthew recounts his attempts, starting at a young age, to free himself and his sisters from the grip of their emotionally and physically abusive mother.
- **Glimpse** by Carol Lynch Williams (FIC WIL)
Living with their mother who earns money as a prostitute, two sisters take care of each other and when the older one attempts suicide, the younger one tries to uncover the reason. Verse novel.
- **Jumped** by Rita Williams-Garcia (FIC WIL)
The lives of Leticia, Dominique, and Trina are irrevocably intertwined through the course of one day in an urban high school after Leticia overhears Dominique's plans to beat up Trina and must decide whether or not to get involved.
- **Beneath a Meth Moon** by Jacqueline Woodson (FIC WOO)
After losing her mother and grandmother during Hurricane Katrina, Laurel moves to another town and becomes a meth addict.

Non-fiction (aka true stories)

- **The Burn Journals** by Brent Runyon (362.28092 RUN)
In 1991, fourteen-year-old Brent Runyon came home from school, doused his bathrobe in gasoline, put it on, and lit a match. He suffered third-degree burns over 85% of his body and spent the next year recovering in hospitals and rehab facilities.
- **A Child Called It** by David Peltzer (362.76092 PEL)
The unforgettable account of one of the most severe child abuse cases in California history. It is the story of Dave Pelzer, who was brutally beaten and starved by his emotionally unstable, alcoholic mother: a mother who played torturous, unpredictable games--games that left him nearly dead. He had to learn how to play his mother's games in order to survive because she no longer considered him a son, but a slave; and no longer a boy, but an "it."
- **Runaway: Diary of a Street Kid** by Evelyn Lau (362.74092 LAU)
At the age of six, Evelyn Lau already knew what she wanted from life—to be a writer. Frustrated and discouraged by her parents, who forbade her to "waste" valuable time writing, Evelyn ran away at the age of fourteen. Seduced by the freedom and independence that life on the streets of Vancouver seemed to offer, she was soon trapped in a downward spiral of drug addiction and prostitution.
- **Breaking Night** by Liz Murray (362.74092 MUR)
At age fifteen, Liz found herself on the streets when her family finally unraveled. She learned to scrape by, foraging for food and riding subways all night to have a warm place to sleep. When Liz's mother died of AIDS, she decided to take control of her own destiny and go back to high school, often completing her assignments in the hallways and subway stations where she slept. Liz squeezed four years of high school into two, while homeless; won a *New York Times* scholarship; and made it into the Ivy League.
- **The Glass Castle: a memoir** by Jeannette Walls (362.82092 WAL)
Jeannette Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both their curse and their salvation. As the dysfunction of the family escalated, Jeannette and her brother and sisters had to fend for themselves, supporting one another as they weathered their parents' betrayals and, finally, found the resources and will to leave home.
- **I don't want to be crazy** by Samantha Schutz (811.6 SCH)
After going away to college and finding the independence she desired difficult to handle, the author begins to suffer from incapacitating anxiety attacks that change everything she had planned. A memoir written as poetry.
- **Living at the edge of the world : how I survived in the tunnels of Grand Central Station** by Tina S. and Jamie Pastor Bolnick (362.74 STI)
Tina S. tells of four years living in the train tunnels beneath Grand Central Station amidst the homeless and the drug addicted. With heartbreaking honesty Tina chronicles her descent into crack addiction, her several arrests and jail terms, and her overwhelming grief and guilt over the death of April, her best friend and fellow runaway.
- **A Million Little Pieces** by James Frey (362.29092 FRE)
At the age of 23, James Frey woke up on a plane to find his front teeth knocked out and his nose broken. He had no idea where the plane was headed nor any recollection of the past two weeks. An alcoholic for ten years and a crack addict for three, he checked into a treatment facility shortly after landing. There he was told he could either stop using or die before he reached age 24.
- **A Stolen Life: a memoir** by Jaycee Dugard (364.15409 DUG)
The memoir of Jaycee Dugard, who was kidnapped on June 10, 1991 from a school bus stop within sight of her home in Tahoe, California, when she was 11 years old. She was held prisoner by convicted sex offender Phillip Garrido and his wife, Nancy Garrido. She was held captive by the Garridos for over eighteen years, all the while living in a tent on the Garrido property. During her captivity she gave birth to two children fathered by Garrido. She reappeared in 2009, and now tells her story, speaking for the first time about her kidnapping and the life that was taken from her.
- **Three Little Words: a memoir** by Ashley Rhodes-Courter (362.733092 RHO)
"Sunshine, you're my baby and I'm your only mother. You must mind the one taking care of you, but she's not your mama." Ashley Rhodes-Courter spent nine years of her life in fourteen different foster homes, living by those words. As her mother spirals out of control, Ashley is left clinging to an unpredictable, dissolving relationship, all the while getting pulled deeper and deeper into the foster care system...where Ashley is juggled between caseworkers, shuffled from school to school, and forced to endure manipulative, humiliating treatment from a very abusive foster family.