

## Books Guaranteed to May You Cry

*My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult

How would you feel if you knew your parents conceived you so that you could be a blood donor for your older sister who has leukemia? This describes Anna. But one day she decides she doesn't want to do this anymore and gets a lawyer to take her case to court.

*My Best Friend's Girl* by Dorothy Koomson

Two best friends, Kamryn and Del, split up after Del gets pregnant by Kamryn's boyfriend. Years later Kamryn gets a letter from Del who is dying from leukemia.

*The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards

During a winter storm, David, a doctor, cannot get his pregnant wife to the hospital in time to deliver the baby. So he stops at a medical clinic and delivers their son Paul. But unexpectedly a twin, a girl, is born, and it is obvious that she has Down syndrome. He turns the baby over to the nurse with an address of a home to take the baby, and he tells his wife the girl, Phoebe, died.

*Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell

A classic love story set during the Civil War.

*Love Story* by Erich Segal

Oliver is a rich jock and Jenny is a wisecracking beauty from the working class. They are opposites in almost every way, but manage to fall in love. "Love means never having to say you're sorry."

*Alex: The Life of a Child* by Frank Defore

Alexandra was just 8 years old when she died of cystic fibrosis, This is the true and uplifting story of her struggle which has touched the lives of many readers.

*Message in a Bottle* by Nicholas Sparks

Three years after a divorce, Theresa is vacationing on Cape Cod where she finds a bottle washed up on the shore. Inside, a message begins: "My Dearest Catherine, I miss you." She decides to find out who the writer is and finds him at a sleepy North Carolina port, working on his beloved sailboat. From there, a romance buds and blossoms.

*Candle in the Wind* by Maureen Wartski

Terri Mizuno, a Japanese American, grapples with the death of her brother, who is shot when an elderly man mistakes him for an intruder. Adding to the family's pain and rage, a pack of white-supremacist hecklers appears at Harris's funeral

*Brian Piccolo: A Short Season* by Jeannie Morris

A Chicago Bear running back struggles with cancer with the help of his friend and teammate, Gale Sayers. This is the story of love, of enduring, of battling.

*The Christmas Box* by Richard Paul Evans

The story tells how a young couple, Richard and Keri, accept a position to care for a lonely widow, Mary Parkin, in her spacious Victorian mansion. As Christmas draws near, Mary becomes anxious about Richard's obsession with success and his failure to make time for his family. She urges him to reconsider his priorities, but he is always too busy to take her advice.

*The Color of Absence: 12 Stories About Loss and Hope*

"One of the things that interests me most about loss is that often, while we are being swept away by losing something, we are gaining something else that totally surprises us." Several young adult authors look at this paradox in all its views.

*A Solitary Blue* by Cynthia Voigt

Jeff was only seven when his mother left him with his unaffectionate father. So when she reenters his life years later with an invitation to spend the summer with her, Jeff is captivated by her free spirit and warmth. He eagerly looks forward to returning for another visit the following year when he will gain deepening awareness of the unexpected and complicated ways of love and loss and of family and friendship.

*Weeping Willow* by Ruth White

Despite poverty and all the problems she faces at home, Tiny Lambert's experiences at Black Gap High School help her begin to feel good about herself -- until the day that she is raped by her stepfather

*Baby Alicia is Dying* by Lurlene McDaniel

Desi feels unloved by her distant mother, who worships Desi's athletic, popular older sister. Entering ninth grade and tired of living in her sister's shadow, she searches for something uniquely hers. She finds it at ChildCare, a house devoted to helping HIV-positive and AIDS babies.

*A Time for Dancing* by Davida Hurwin

Juliana and Samantha have been dance partners since they were nine years old. The summer before their senior year holds promises of good times and hard work at the studio. Then Jules is diagnosed with diffuse histiocytic lymphoma and needs massive doses of chemotherapy immediately.

*Imani All Mine* by Connie Porter

Balancing her honor-roll grades with the perils of surviving inner-city Buffalo, N.Y., Tasha gives birth to Imani, a child conceived in violence and given a name that means "faith."

*Going for the Record* by Julie Swanson

Leah is a promising soccer player with Olympic aspirations. The summer before senior year, she learns that her beloved father has pancreatic cancer and only three months to live. Soccer, friends, school, and even the college coaches' calls gradually cease to be important.

*Comfort* by Carolee Dean

This story begins with Kenny applying for a hardship driver's license. He's only 14, but his mother has doctored his birth certificate to make him 15, the legal age. She needs Kenny to drive his daddy, soon to be home from the penitentiary, to AA meetings since he had 23 DUIs before he robbed the liquor store.

*America* by E.R. Frank

America is a fifteen-year-old biracial boy who has gotten lost in the system. When the novel starts, he has just been transferred to Ridgeway Hospital because he attempted to [hang himself](#) from a tree, using a rope made of [shoelaces](#).

*Hanging on to Max* by Margaret Bechard

Sam Pettigrew never dreamed he'd spend his senior year pushing a stroller. But when his former girlfriend, Brittany, decided that she couldn't handle being a parent, Sam knew he had to try.