

Canadian

The 25 Pains of Kennedy Baines

By Dede Crane

For 15-year-old Kennedy Baines, life is a series of pains: her boyfriend Jordan is nice but lacks passion; she thinks her mother might have had an affair; she feels responsible for her little sister's broken ankle; and now she's being creeped out by a cyber-stalker who's lurking on her chat line. Why can't life just be full of romance, like in her favourite book, *Pride and Prejudice*?

101 Ways to Dance

By Kathy Stinson

What if you lusted after someone that you shouldn't? What if you wanted to touch someone that you couldn't? and then...what if... you *did*? These are just some of the questions the teens in these short stories have to deal with, showing there are just as many ways to desire as there are to dance – not to mention about a thousand million trillion more!

The Beckoners

By Carrie Mac

When her mother suddenly moves them to a new town, Zoe is unhappy about leaving behind what passes for a normal life. And when the first person she meets turns out to be Beck, who rules her new school with a mixture of intimidation and outright violence, she is dismayed. But she has no idea how bad things will get. Unsure of herself and merely trying to fit in, Zoe is initiated, painfully, into the Beckoners, a twisted group of girls whose main purpose is to stay on top by whatever means necessary.

The Book of Living and Dying

By Natale Ghent

Sarah Wagner can tell her brother is there before she even sees him. There is the lingering odour of earth and rain, and then he appears, sitting at the foot of her bed, as if everything was perfectly normal. Except John is dead.

Sarah is grieving—and scared. Desperately seeking help, she turns to her best friend, Donna, an angry girl on the fringe of society, and Michael, the dark and mysterious boy in her class, and is thrust on a journey into the mystical realm of the occult. But plagued by headaches and falling into a deepening chasm of drugs and alcohol, Sarah no longer knows what is real and what isn't.

The Canning Season  
By Polly Horvath

When her mother decides that she needs to devote her summer to gaining entrance into a prestigious country club, Ratchet Clark is shipped off from her native Pensacola, Florida, to live in rural Maine with her 91-year-old twin aunts, Tilly and Penpen. Though wildly eccentric, the aunts manage to make Ratchet feel loved for the first time in her life. Penpen's insistence that we must always admit whoever shows up at the door often results in visits from bothersome guests. But as Ratchet learns, an unwelcome visitor may have more to offer than it seems.

Chanda's Secrets  
By Allan Stratton

The statistics of the millions infected with HIV/AIDS in southern Africa find a human face in this gripping story of one teenager, Chanda Kabele, who sees the disease threaten her family and community. Chanda's stepfather and baby stepbrother died of the disease. Now Mama may have it. No one will talk about the cause. Is Chandra infected? Her best friend, driven to prostitution, does get AIDS, which is dormant. Should Chanda take her in?

Finding Cassidy  
By Laura Langston

Conception deception: When is your dad not your dad? "You were conceived under exceptional circumstances." Sixteen-year-old Cassidy can hardly believe it. Struggling to understand that she is the product of a 'clean and businesslike arrangement,' her biological father nothing more than an anonymous sperm donor, Cassidy is doubly devastated. Not only has her father just been diagnosed with a fatal disease, but he has also confessed that he's not really her father. Suddenly Cassidy's worries about holding on to her popular boyfriend and her geeky interest in birds no longer seem important. Worse, she gets drunk and blurts out the news of her conception at a party and must face some shocking consequences. On top of it all, Cassidy realizes she may never know who she really is.

Garbage Head  
By Christopher Willard

As technology erases the lines between reality and virtual reality, a boy nicknamed Garbage Head develops the ability to say what those on TV and radio will say before they say it. An appearance on The Fabulous Gigi Fandone Show rockets him to fame, but his troubles begin when he uses his ability to predict the numbers of a multi-million dollar lotto. The FBI deems him to be a national threat and Garbage Head is arrested and taken to a president more consumed with watching reruns and learning street slang than in leading a nation.

The Isabel Factor  
By Gayle Friesen

When the fearless Zoe breaks her arm in a fall, Anna must brave summer camp -- and her debut as a Counselor In Training -- without her best friend. Going it alone is not something Anna is ready for. Cruising along in Zoe's shadow had been comfortable, but now Anna is out in the full glare of the sun. There's no hiding from harsh truths and plenty of people to point them out. Take Karim, the swim instructor, who has suddenly turned gorgeous but obviously hates Anna. And Anna's new friend and cabinmate Isabel - - rainbow hair, sharp tongue and no boundaries. Sooner or later Anna will have to face another hard truth: things have changed between her and Zoe and there's no going back into the shadows. But where can Anna hide when just being herself isn't nearly enough?

Johnny Kellock Died Today  
By Hadley Dyer

Rosalie Norman is the afterthought in an already grown-up family. Even though Rosalie is only 11, this novel is definitely for older readers. Confronted with a mother who's not only old but also a no-nonsense authoritarian, Rosalie retreats into the long, hot Halifax summer of 1959 with her drawings. But because of Rosalie's carelessness, her mom falls and breaks her leg. Now, to help out, the family has hired the strange new neighbour, a boy named David—or "the Gravedigger," as other kids cruelly call him. Even worse, Rosalie's favourite cousin, Johnny, has suddenly disappeared. What are all the family secrets Rosalie will unravel?

Me and the Blondes  
By Teresa Toten

Sophie Kandinsky has spent the last six years trying to keep her crazy family life secret. The devil *is* in the details. The first detail is her larger-than-life, eccentric, Bulgarian mother. The slightly larger detail is the fact that her gentle, poet-father has been charged with murder. All Sophie wants is to be adored *and* invincible, which is really hard once people find out her father's in prison.

But this time, after yet another move to another new school, and another opportunity to wipe the slate clean, Sophie has devised a plan. On her first day of school, she will locate The Blondes—that clique of perfect, confident girls who are beyond gossip and

reproach—and she will make them her friends. This time, no one will find out the truth. *This time, everything will be brilliant.*

Megiddo's Shadow  
By Arthur Slade

Fueled by anger at the death of his two brothers in World War I, 16-year-old Edward abandons his ailing father on their farm and leaves Canada to enlist. After proving that he can tame any wild horse, he's sent to Jordan to fight with the Cavalry.

Luckily, his horse is the extraordinary Buke; in battle, a trooper's horse is the key to life and death, and his true companion. In the harsh desert, Edward is grateful for the camaraderie of his tent mates, Cheevers and Blackburn, and letters from Emily, a nurse he met at base camp. As they close in on the enemy Edward finds that the glory and noble vengeance he seeks is replaced by the horror of war and the realization that he must fight not only to survive, but also, to kill.

Skinnybones and the Wrinkle Queen  
By Glen Huser

What happens when two tough chicks – a ninety-year-old former schoolteacher and a teenaged foster-home reject – take the road trip of a lifetime? Will the brandy-swiggling Miss Barclay and aspiring model Tamara fill their very different dreams? Or will they throttle each other first?

The Smell of Paint  
By Sheryl McFarlane

Jess is a natural born runner. When she's chosen for the city track team her two best friends assure her that she has what it takes. Unfortunately, her mother doesn't share her excitement, nor does she understand Jess' interest in track and field, especially with Jess' older sister about to win a scholarship to a prestigious music school! When her mom signs Jess up for an art class that conflicts with track practise, Jess loses it. She loves her mom, but she is determined to be an athlete. Of course it doesn't hurt that Brendan is a javelin thrower on the same track team, but Jess won't let even him distract her from her goal to be the best. Her mother's sudden cancer diagnosis changes everything. Anger, denial, bargaining and isolation fuel Jess's track season as she runs her way to the provincials. But will her mother even be around to watch her win?

Smoke and Mirrors  
By Leslie Choyce

Sixteen-year-old Simon has always been considered odd. Three years ago, a skateboarding accident caused some minor brain damage and made him a little stranger. His career-driven parents mostly leave him alone, and he spends much of his time living in his imagination. When Andrea, whom no one else can see, appears to Simon in class, he is fascinated by her and strikes up a friendship, even though he knows she may be pure hallucination - he's had imaginary friends before. Andrea says she is there to "help" him, but before the story ends, Simon discovers that it is he who needs to help Andrea, not the other way around.