

Religion and Spirituality Books

YA Fiction



Does my head look big in this? by Randa Abdel-Fattah

YA F ABD

Year Eleven at an exclusive prep school in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, would be tough enough, but it is further complicated for Amal when she decides to wear the hijab, the Muslim head scarf, full-time as a badge of her faith--without losing her identity or sense of style.



Faking Faith by Josie Bloss

YA F BLO

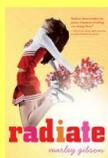
Forced to attend a Catholic middle school because of her conduct, Abigail discovers a talent for theater and develops a true religious faith



The possibilities of sainthood by Donna Freitas

YA F FRE

While regularly petitioning the Vatican to make her the first living saint, fifteen-year-old Antonia Labella prays to assorted patron saints for everything from help with preparing the family's fig trees for a Rhode Island winter to getting her first kiss from the right boy.



Radiate by Marley Gibson

YA F GIB

Just after making the varsity cheerleading squad the summer before her senior year of high school in Maxwell, Alabama, Hayley Matthews learns she has an aggressive form of cancer in her leg, and she turns to her family, her cheerleading, and her Christian faith to sustain her through her treatment.



Losing Faith by Denise Jaden

YA F JAD

Brie tries to cope with her grief over her older sister Faith's sudden death by trying to learn more about the religious "home group" Faith secretly joined and never talked about with Brie or her parents.



Thou Shalt not Road Trip by Antony John

YA F JOH

Sixteen-year-old Luke Dorsey is sent on a cross-country tour to promote his bestselling spiritual self-help guide accompanied by his agnostic older brother and former girlfriend Fran, from whom he learns some things about salvation.



In the name of God by Paula Jolin

YA F JOL

Determined to follow the laws set down in the Qur'an, seventeen-year-old Nadia becomes involved in a violent revolutionary movement aimed at supporting Muslim rule in Syria and opposing the Western politics and materialism that increasingly affect her family.



The Book of Trees by Leanne Lieberman

YA F LIE

When Mia, a Jewish teenager from Toronto, goes to Jerusalem to spend the summer studying at a yeshiva, or seminary, she expects to connect with the land and deepen her understanding of Judaism. Instead she gets a crash course in both the politics of the Middle East and the intricacies of the human heart, and discovers a whole new way of looking at the world.



Pure by Terra Elan McVoy

YA F MCV

Fifteen-year-old Tabitha and her four best friends all wear purity rings to symbolize their pledge to remain virgins until they marry, but when one admits that she has broken the pledge each girl must reexamine her faith, friendships, and what it means to be pure.



When We Were Saints by Han Nolan

YA F NOL

Inspired by his grandfather's last words and guided by a girl who believes they are saints, fourteen-year-old Archie sets out on a spiritual quest that takes him from southern Appalachia to the Cloisters Museum in New York City.



Bestest Ramadan Ever by Medeia Sharif

YA F SHA

Not allowed to eat from sunrise to sunset during Ramadan and forbidden to date, fifteen-year-old Almira finds that temptation comes in many forms during the Muslim holy month, as she longs to feel like a typical American girl.



Donut days by Lara Zielin

YA F ZIE

During a camp-out promoting the opening of a donut shop in a small Minnesota town, sixteen-year-old Emma, an aspiring journalist, begins to connect an ongoing pollution investigation with the turmoil in the evangelical Christian church where her parents are pastors.

YA Fantasy/Sci-Fi



Star Crossed by Elizabeth Bunce

Fant/SciFi YA F BUN

In a kingdom dominated by religious intolerance, sixteen-year-old Digger, a street thief, has always avoided attention, when she learns that her friends are plotting against the throne she must decide whether to join them or turn them in.



Poisoned honey: a story of Mary Magdalene by Beatrice Gormley

Fant/SciFI YA F

GOR

Relates events from the life of a girl who would grow up to be a close follower of Jesus Christ, interspersed with stories of the Apostle Matthew. Includes author's note distinguishing what Scripture says of Mary Magdalene from later traditions.

YA Oldies



Monkey Town: the summer of the Scopes Trial by Ronald Kidd

Oldies YA F KID

When her father hatches a plan to bring publicity to their small Tennessee town by arresting a local high school teacher for teaching about evolution, the resulting 1925 Scopes trial prompts fifteen-year-old Frances to rethink many of her beliefs about religion and truth, as well as her relationship with her father.



The Humming of Numbers by Joni Sensel

Oldies YA F SEN

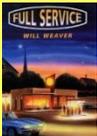
Aiden, a novice about to take monastic vows in tenth century Ireland, meets Lana, a girl who understands his ability to hear the sounds of numbers humming from all living things, and just as he is beginning to question his religious calling, the two of them are thrown together in a mission to save their village from invading Vikings.



No shame, no fear by Ann Turnbull

Oldies YA F TUR

In England in 1662, a time of religious persecution, fifteen-year-old Susanna, a poor country girl and a Quaker, and seventeen-year-old William, a wealthy Anglican, meet and fall in love against all odds

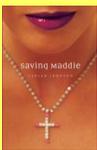


Full service by Will Weaver

Oldies YA F WEA

The summer of 1965, teenager Paul Sutton, a northern Minnesota farm boy, takes a job at a gas station in town, where his strict religious upbringing is challenged by new people and experiences.

YA True Love



Saving Maddie by Varian Johnson

True Love YA F

JOH

Preacher's son Joshua Wynn faces some difficult decisions when the girl he had a crush on, Madeline Smith, comes back to town changed in unexpected ways.

Series:



It's all about us by Shelly Adina

YA SER ALL

Titles: It's all about us, Be strong and curvaceous, The chi shall inherit the earth, The fruit of my lipstick, Tidings of great boys, Who made you a princess?

Tall, blonde Lissa Mansfield is used to being one of the "in" crowd--but being accepted by the popular girls at posh Spencer Academy boarding school in San Francisco is turning out to be harder than she thought. And then there's her New-York-loudmouth roommate, Gillian Chang, who's not just happy to be a Christian herself--she's determined to out Lissa, too! If Lissa can just keep her faith under wraps long enough to hook Callum McCloud, the hottest guy in school, she'll be golden.



Angel's in Pink by Lurlene McDaniel

YA SER ANG

Titles: Holly's Story, Kathleen's Story, Raina's Story

With the support of her two best friends, high school senior Holly tries to deal with the murder of her brother and her anger at God for allowing the crime to happen.



Becoming Beka by Sarah Anne Sumpolec

YA SER BEC

Titles: The Masquerade, The Alliance, The Passage, The Reveal, The Encore

When she moves to a new school Beka only pretends to be a Christian, but when she learns that truth brings freedom, she gains peace, faith, and friends.



Carter house girls by Melody Carlson

YA SER CAR

Titles: Mixed bags, Stealing Bradford, Homecoming queen, Viva Vermont, lost in Las Vegas, New York debut, Spring breakdown, Last Dance

DJ's efforts to make sense of Christianity, prayer, and the Bible only seem to make it harder for her to deal with the inability of the girls in her grandmother's boardinghouse to get along, especially after Taylor begins flirting with Rhiannon's boyfriend.

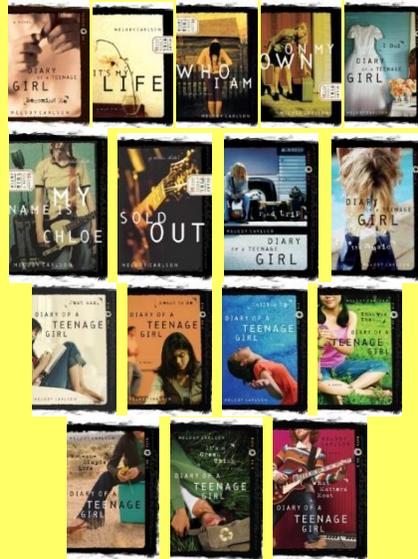


Christy Miller by Robin Jones Gunn

YA SER CHR

Titles: Vol. 1, 2,3, 4

A collection of previously published books featuring Wisconsin farm girl Christy Miller as she learns about Christianity and life.



Diary of a teenage girl by Melody Carlson

YA SER DIA

Titles: Catlin: Becoming me, It's my life, Who I am, On my own, I do

Sixteen-year-old Caitlin O'Conner keeps a six-month diary in which she records the day-to-day events of her life as well as her struggles to understand herself and God's plan for her future.

Chloe: My name is Chloe, Sold out, Road trip, Face the music

An intelligent but insecure fifteen-year-old aspiring musician, who sports off-beat clothes, spiked hair, and multiple piercings, questions the existence of God until she meets Him head-on in a graveyard.

Kim: Just ask, Meant to be, Falling up, That was then

Sixteen-year-old Kim Peterson learns more about herself and her friends, and practices her new commitment to God, by writing a teen advice column for the newspaper on which her father is managing editor.

Maya: Not so simple life, It's a green thing, What matters most

Maya keeps a journal the year following her aunt's death, in which she records her thoughts about her alcoholic and drug-addicted mother and her own feelings of depression, until she decides to give her heart to God.



Friends for a Season by Sandra Byrd

YA SER FRI

Titles: Island Girl, Chopstick, Red Velvet

During her annual summer visit to the berry fields of her grandparents' farm on Sauvie's Island, Oregon, thirteen-year-old Meg deepens her understanding of her unique characteristics and God's plan for her life.



Left Behind: Young Tribe Force by Jerry B. Jenkins

YA SER LEF

Titles: Taken, Pursued, Rescued

A compilation of four stories from the Left behind: the kids series in which four teens, left behind after the Rapture, battle the forces of evil.



Nama Beach High by Nancy Rue

YA SER NAM

Titles: New girl in town, Totally unfair, False friends and true strangers, Fault lines,

When her family moves from Missouri to Florida, sixteen-year-old Laura Duffy feels as if she will never fit in, but she learns coping skills, self-esteem, and reliance on God after joining a group led by Bayside High School counselor, Mrs. Isaacsen.



Real TV by Wendy Lawton

YA SER REA

Titles: Changing Faces, Dating do over, Flip flop, Less is more,

Seventeen-year-old Olivia, an "overscheduled" honor student who is trying to find time for friends, family, God, homework, and volunteering at a homeless shelter, receives the startling news that she has been chosen to receive a beauty makeover on the reality television show, "Changing Faces."



The secret life of Samantha McGregor by Melody Carlson

YA SER SEC

Titles: Bad connection, Beyond reach, Playing with fire, Payback

Samantha has a gift from God that makes her see visions of crimes and impending disasters, and she struggles to use this special ability to help people and to glorify God



Sierra Jensen by Robin Jones Gunn

YA SER SIE

Titles: Vol. 1, 2, 3, 4

Sierra Jensen is discovering that the plans she makes for herself do not always work out the way she expects them to. Though she struggles to hold onto all the pieces of her life, her friendships are always changing, she does not know what to expect from guys, and suddenly, decisions about the future loom in front of her. Through it all, Sierra is learning her faith will sustain her.



True colors by Melody Carlson

YA SER

TRU

Titles: Dark Blue: Color me lonely, Deep Green: Color me jealous, Torch Red: Color me torn, Pitch Black: Color me lost, Burnt Orange: Color me wasted, Fool's Gold: Color me consumed, Blade Sliver: Color me scarred, Bitter Rose: Color me crushed, Faded Denim: Color me trapped, Bright Purple: Color me confused, Moon White: Color me enchanted, Harsh Pink: Color me burned

When, at her stepmother's urging, Heather explores Wiccan spirituality, she not only becomes isolated from her Christian friends, she falls deeper and deeper into the occult and faces shocking betrayals and threats to her very life.

Non-Fiction:



Gay believers: homosexuality and religion by Emily Sanna YA Blue Star 200.866 SAN
Discusses the issues surrounding homosexuality and religion



What do I do when: answering your toughest questions about God by Kevin Moore

YA 231 MOO

Kevin Moore, pastor of the nationally known Oneighty youth ministry, gives teens powerful and scriptural answers to the questions they have about God including, Does He exist? Full of humor and candor, teens will hang on Moores every word.



What do I do when: answering your toughest questions about sex, love, and dating by Kevin Moore

YA 241.66 MOO

What do I do when: my parents won't let me date? -- I like someone who doesn't know I exist? -- I have a date? -- I think I'm in love? -- My date wants to get physical? -- I've gone too far? -- I've been dumped? -- I know I need to end the relationship? -- I want to set personal boundaries?



B4UD8: 7 things you need to know before your next date by Hayley DiMarco

YA 241.676 DIM

A guide for teens to the world of romantic relationships from a Christian perspective



Wisdom on-- friends, dating, and relationships by Mark Matlock

YA 241.676 MAT

A guide for Christian teenagers on friends, dating, and relationships



True: a teen devotional by Melody Carlson

YA 242.63 CAR

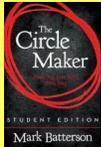
This 90-day devotional on the words of Jesus from bestselling author Carlson intends to help strengthen teens' faith by encouraging them to study the Bible



Random Thoughts: Get Real with God, Others, and Yourself by Steve Russo

YA 242.63 RUS

Get real with God, others, and yourself. . .and not only survive, but thrive! This brand-new book isn't your ordinary, run-of-the-mill daily devotional. Instead of a "do this," "don't do that" preachy style, you'll find the in-your-face honesty and the topics both relevant and refreshing.



The Circle Maker: Dream Big, Pray Hard, Think Long by Mark Batterson YA 248.32 BAT

Using the legend of Honi the circle maker, guides readers to help identify their dreams and future miracles in order to find the clearest and most valuable answers from God.



Undaunted: Daring to do What God Calls You to Do by Christine Caine YA 248.4

CHI

Christine Caine offers life-transforming insights about how not only to overcome the challenges, wrong turns, and often painful circumstances we all experience, but also to actually grow from those experiences and be equipped and empowered to help others.



What do I do when: answering your toughest questions about friends by Kevin Moore

YA 248.4 MOO

Kevin Moore, pastor of the nationally known Oneighty youth ministry, reveals to teens the ups and downs of their most influential associations, their friends, and how they can respond in the love of God to the challenges friends bring.



Chicken soup for the soul presents teens talkin' faith

YA 248.83 CHI

From trial and tragedy to triumph and joy, teen contributors share personal, heartfelt testimonies about how God has given them strength and courage to deal with the tough times and love and comfort when they have felt alone.



Lose your cool: discovering a passion that changes you and the world by Zach Hunter

YA 248.83 HUN

Discusses finding one's passion and using that passion, along with a faith in God, to change the world, in a book that references examples of Christians around the world who sacrificed to make their passions a reality.



Wisdom on growing in Christ by Mark Matlock

YA 248.83 MAT

Inside Wisdom On...Growing in Christ, you'll find biblical principles and practical tips to help you grow in your relationship with Christ. You'll even be challenged to think about what it means to be a godly person, even if you decide to be something other than a missionary or a pastor when you grow up. You'll discover how wisdom can not only help keep your faith alive, but help it grow.



Wisdom on-- making good decisions by Mark Matlock

YA 248.83 MAT

Making Good Decisions examines how teens get to make a lot of decisions in their lives--- even decisions that can have a big impact on their future. There's no 'magic' formula to getting it right. Making good decisions takes wisdom, and in this book students will learn how to gain more wisdom and put it to use in the choices they make.



You are not alone: seeing your struggles through the eyes of God by Shirley Perich

YA 248.83 PER

You may even struggle with feeling unforgivable, tempted, or worthless. But you're not alone. In this book, you'll find that you're not the only one who has struggled with these feelings. Throughout the Bible are stories of people with the same questions, doubts, and issues you face. As you read, you'll discover that you're not alone (and you're perfectly normal!), and you'll also find your true identity in the God who created you.



God guy: becoming the man you're meant to be by Michael DiMarco

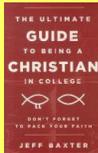
YA 248.832 DIM

In trademark, no-nonsense style, Hungry Planet challenges teen guys to be men of God offering practical advice on character, relationships, and spirituality.



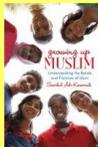
Confessions of a not-so-supermodel: faith, friends, and festival queens by Brooklyn Lindsey
YA 248.833 LIN

Who you are and who you want to be don't always match up. Like most teenage girls, you've probably spent lots of time in front of the mirror wondering what you'll be when you grow up---or dreaming of who you'll become. Is it a supermodel, an actress, a dancer, or is it a businesswoman, a mom, or even a pastor? Brooklyn Lindsey grew up dreaming of being a supermodel. She even had a chance to do some modeling and became a festival queen. Her experiences taught her a lot about what she did and didn't want in life. But it wasn't until she became a youth pastor that she realized God had already set her 'supermodel' dream in motion



The Ultimate Guide to Being a Christian in College by Jeff Baxter YA 248.834 BAX

Are You Ready for the Rest of Your Life? You got the high school diploma, received the college acceptance letter, and have your eye on that dorm fridge. Everything seems new and exciting---but with those positive feelings come huge questions about what awaits you once you're no longer home but sharing a small room with strangers instead. Don't fear! Here is your essential guide for everything you need to know to survive and thrive, with tips on: * Dorm life * Dealing with professors * Selecting classes * Balancing school and fun * Standing firm in your faith * Becoming who you're meant to be * And more!



Growing up Muslim: Understanding Islamic Beliefs and Practices by Sumbul Ali-Karamali
YA 297 ALI

Author Sumbul Ali-Karamali offers her personal account, discussing the many and varied questions she fielded from curious friends and schoolmates while growing up in Southern California—from diet, to dress, to prayer and holidays and everything in between. She also provides an academically reliable introduction to Islam, addressing its inception, development and current demographics.



Dateable: are you? are they? By Justin Lookadoo YA 306.708 LOO

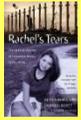
Reveals the facts about teen dating, including how to determine whether a relationship is worth pursuing, and shows how to redirect one's passion toward life goals and trust the Creator to bring one's true love.



What do I do when: answering your toughest questions about money by Kevin Moore

YA 332.024 MOO

What the Bible says about money -- What to do when-- I'm broke? -- I'm looking for a job? -- I have a job? -- I get my first check? -- I want a raise?



Rachel's tears: the spiritual journey of Columbine martyr Rachel Scott by Darrell Scott

YA B SCO

"Rachel's Tears" comes from a heartfelt need to celebrate this young girl's life, to work through the grief and the questions of a nation, and to comfort those who have been touched by violence in our schools today. Using excerpts and drawings from Rachel's own journals, her parents offer a spiritual perspective on the Columbine tragedy and provide a vision of hope for preventing youth violence across the nation.

Updated May 2014