

Urban Fiction

A Little Piece of Sky

by Nicole Bailey-Williams

After the murder of her alcoholic mother, Song Byrd must confront her past abuse and the incarceration of her brother.

Kendra

by Coe Booth

High schooler Kendra longs to live with her mother who, unprepared for motherhood at age fourteen, left Kendra in the care of her grandmother.

Tyrell

by Coe Booth

With his family at a homeless shelter and his father in jail, should Tyrell risk going the way his father has gone?

Manchild in the Promised Land

by Claude Brown

This classic novel is a fictional account of the author's street life in Harlem.

Upstate

by Kalisha Buckhanon

Can Natasha's love for Antonio survive after he is sent to prison for killing his father?

Conception

by Kalisha Buckhanon

15-year-old Shivana thinks she has only one choice when she gets pregnant, and her baby's father is in jail. Can she find the courage and hope to change her destiny?

16 on the Block

by Babygirl Daniels

When she is expected to pay back her sister's old debt, sixteen-year-old Summer must take to the streets, learning hard, fast lessons about survival, loyalty, and love.

Drama High: The Fight

by L. Devine

At a predominately white high school, can Jayd get through junior year drama free?

Romiette and Julio

by Sharon Draper

Can Julio's and Romiette's inter-racial relationship survive the pressures of their urban neighborhood?

Bang!

by Sharon Flake

Traumatized by the violent killing of her younger brother, Kee-Lee begins a healing process that goes terribly wrong.

Money Hungry

by Sharon Flake

Raspberry knows she can make the money that will keep her from having to return to life on the streets.

Who am I Without Him? Short Stories about Girls and the Boys in Their Lives

by Sharon Flake

Urban teen girls confront the difficulties of relationships with boys.

You Don't Even Know Me: Stories and Poems About Boys

by Sharon Flake

Teen boys describe the struggles and joys in their lives.

Something Like Hope

by Shawn Goodman

Shavonne has lived her life in abusive foster homes and detention centers, where she gave birth to her own daughter. But she despairs of ever getting out and having the chance to be a mother.

Bronx Masquerade

by Nikki Grimes

An open-mic poetry slam brings teens together in the Bronx as they share their experiences about growing up in the ghetto.

Two the Hard Way

by Travis Hunter

Star high-school quarterback Romeo has everything on the right track until his older brother Kwamé gets out of jail, their absentee mother returns to their lives, and Romeo's girlfriend Ngiai wants a serious relationship.

At the Crossroads

by Travis Hunter

Having escaped Hurricane Katrina and the criminal life, Franky struggles to succeed in a new town and a new school.

The First Part Last

by Angela Johnson

Bobby must face the challenges of being a single father.

Kimani Tru series

by various authors

Ride Wit' Me

by Katina King

Mercedes has always been her daddy's girl, until the day she falls in love with Dalvin. Romeo and Juliet on the streets of Chicago.

Teenage Bluez

edited by A. Jones

This book is a collection of stories about urban teens facing challenges of drugs and violence.

Bluford High series

Set in urban America, this ten volume series follows the lives of African-American teens at Bluford High School.

The Contender

by Robert Lipsyte

A high school dropout escapes the streets by learning how to box.

Chill Wind

by Janet McDonald

Now that Aisha has received a termination-of-welfare-benefits notice, how can she support herself and her two young children in New York City?

Harlem Hustle

by Janet McDonald

Eric "Hustle" Samson knows how to make it on the streets, but his dream of rap stardom is making him think twice.

Too Beautiful for Words

by Monique W. Morris

Can Peaches break away from life on the streets as a prostitute?

Autobiography of My Dead Brother

by Walter Dean Myers

After the shooting death of his best friend, Jesse finds an escape from the ghetto in his sketchbook.

Monster

by Walter Dean Myers

Steve writes a film script about his life and his trial for a botched robbery and murder of a store owner.

Slam!

by Walter Dean Myers

Slam is counting on basketball as his ticket out of the ghetto.

Street Love

by Walter Dean Myers

Does first love spell disaster for Damien and Junice? Read this free-verse story and find out.

Lockdown

by Walter Dean Myers

Teenage Reese, serving time at a juvenile detention facility, gets a lesson in making it through hard times from an unlikely friend with a harrowing past.

Imani All Mine

by Connie Porter

Tasha, 15, struggles with school and raising her baby in a neighborhood filled with violence.

Efrain's Secret

by Sofia Quintero

Ambitious high school senior and honor student Efrain Rodriguez makes some questionable choices in pursuit of his dream to escape the South Bronx and attend an Ivy League college.

Push

by Sapphire

Precious fights to reclaim her life after suffering years of sexual abuse by her parents.

If I Was Your Girl

by Ni-Ni Simone

A mother at 17, Toi has to reconcile her dreams of college and family with the realities of raising a child.

Hip-Hop High School

by Alan Lawrence Sitomer

Theresa finds an escape from the bad times of high school in the sounds of

hip-hop.

The Hoopster

by Alan Lawrence Sitomer

After being attacked in a hate crime, Andre questions everything he once believed in.

The Coldest Winter Ever

by Sister Souljah

Winter learns a brutal lesson about life after living with her drug dealer father and materialistic mother.

Like This and Like That

by Nia Stephens

On the court she's unstoppable, but when it comes to dating, Gemma can't find the guy to make a match.

The Dying Ground

by Nichelle D. Tramble

Maceo searches for the killer of his best friend on the drug filled streets of his Oakland neighborhood.

Flyy Girl

by Omar Tyree

Good girl no more, Tracey begins to live life with a sense of adventure.

Rikers High

by Paul Volponi

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.

Ballad of a Ghetto Poet

by A.J. White

Chico finds that poetry is his only escape from the inner-city neighborhood in which he lives.

When Kambia Elaine Flew in From Neptune

by Lori Aurelia Williams

Living in a poor section of Houston, Shayla tries to understand the problems that shape the life of her new neighbor.

Emako Blue

by Brenda Woods

Monterey, Savannah, Jamal, and Eddie have never had much to do with

each other until Emako Blue shows up at chorus practice, but just as the lives of the five Los Angeles high school students become intertwined, tragedy tears them apart.