Talking Book Topics for Teens

March and April 2023

Here are all of the books for junior and/or senior high school readers listed in the March-April issue of *Talking Book Topics*.

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# Fiction

## Family

*The Color of the Sky Is the Shape of the Heart*

**DB109443** 3 hours 36 minutes

by Chesil

read by Greta Jung

"The story of a one-girl revolution that broke literary ground in Japan—now in English translation for the first time. Seventeen-year-old Ginny Park is about to get expelled from high school—again. Stephanie, the picture book author who took Ginny into her Oregon home after she was kicked out of school in Hawaii, isn't upset: she only wants to know why. But Ginny has always been in-between. She can't bring herself to open up to anyone about her past, or about what prompted her to flee her native Japan. Then, Ginny finds a mysterious scrawl among Stephanie's scraps of paper and storybook drawings that changes everything: The sky is about to fall. Where do you go? Ginny sets off on the road in search of an answer, with only her journal as a confidante. In witty and brutally honest vignettes, and interspersed with old letters from her expatriated family in North Korea, Ginny recounts her adolescence growing up Zainichi, an ethnic Korean born in Japan, and the incident that forced her to leave years prior. Inspired by her own childhood, author Chesil creates a portrait of a girl who has been fighting alone against barriers of prejudice, nationality, and injustice all her life—and one searching for a place to belong." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

## Fantasy

*A Magic Steeped in Poison*

**DB109863** 11 hours 14 minutes

by Judy I. Lin

read by Carolyn Kang

"Ning enters a cutthroat magical competition to find the kingdom's greatest master of the art of brewing tea, but political schemes and secrets make her goal of gaining access to royal physicians to cure her dying sister far more dangerous than she imagined." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

## Human Relationships

*Archie: Volume 1*

**DB109437** 2 hours 18 minutes

by Annie Wu and Fiona Staples

read by Rose Elizabeth Supan

"Meet America's favorite teenager Archie Andrews, his oddball, food-loving best friend Jughead, girl-next-door Betty and well-to-do snob Veronica Lodge as they embark on a modern reimagining of the beloved Archie world. It's all here: the love triangle, friendship, humor, charm, and lots of fun—but with a decidedly modern twist! If classic Archie is a Saturday morning cartoon, this new series is prime time! Adapted from Archie issues #1-6 and produced with a full cast of actors, immersive sound effects and cinematic music." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

## LGBTQ+

*Heat Wave*

**DB109505** 12 hours 52 minutes

by TJ Klune

read by Michael Lesley

"An unexpected hero returns to Nova City and crash lands into Nick's home, upturning his life, his family, and his understanding of what it means to be a hero." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

## Mystery and Detective

*Bad Things Happen Here*

**DB109439** 8 hours 11 minutes

by Rebecca Barrow

read by Carolina Hoyos

"Seventeen-year-old Luca lives on Parris, an idyllic but cursed island with a history of unsolved deaths, but when Luca's sister becomes the latest victim, she is determined to find the murderer and soon comes face to face with the curse she has been running from her whole life." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

## Occult and Horror

*The Undead Truth of Us*

**DB110010** 9 hours 52 minutes

by Britney S. Lewis

read by Phaedra Eason

"After her mother's sudden death, sixteen-year-old dancer Zharie Young begins seeing zombies, and when she meets an undead boy, he helps her understand how love can change someone—for good or for dead." — Provided by publisher. Strong language, some violence and some descriptions of sex. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

## Fiction in Spanish/Ficción en Español

*Respira*

**DB109128** 15 horas 38 minutos

por Alina Not

leído por Cecilia Anaya

"El mundo de Ashley Bennet se ha vuelto completamente del revés. Ella, que por fin pensaba que había conseguido al chico perfecto.. renunció a lo que tanto había deseado porque se enamoró sin haberlo planeado. Y ahora está sola. Y va a tener que descubrir quién es ella realmente. Tal vez, en los últimos años, olvidara que lo más importante siempre fue quererse a sí misma. Cameron Parker ha perdido esa seguridad que derrochaba a cada paso. Tiene que hacer frente a las consecuencias de sus actos, y asegurarse de que no hiere a nadie más por el camino...aunque quien acabe con el corazón roto sea él. ¿Lograrán Ash y Cam reconciliarse con ellos mismos para poder encontrarse de nuevó" — Proporcionada por la editorial. Contiene lenguaje ofensivo y algunas descripciones explícitas de índole sexual. Para lectores de alta secundaria y mayores. ("Ashley Bennet's world has been turned completely upside down. Just when she thought she'd finally landed the perfect guy, she gave up what she'd wanted so badly because she fell in love without planning to. And now she's alone. And she's going to have to find out who she really is. Maybe, in the last few years, she forgot that the most important thing was always to love herself. Cameron Parker has lost that confidence he exuded at every turn. He has to face the consequences of his actions, and make sure he doesn't hurt anyone else along the way...even if the one who ends up heartbroken is him. Will Ash and Cam manage to reconcile with themselves so they can find each other again?" — Provided by publisher and translated by NLS. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. For senior high and older readers.) 2022.

# Nonfiction

## Computers

*The History of the Computer: People, Inventions, and Technology That Changed Our World*

**DB108983** 5 hours 5 minutes

by Rachel Ignotofsky

read by Mark Ashby

"Computers are everywhere and have impacted our lives in so many ways. But who created them, and why? How have they transformed the way that we interact with our surroundings and each other? Packed with accessible information, fun facts, and discussion starters, this charming and art-filled book takes you from the ancient world to the modern day, focusing on important inventions, from the earliest known counting systems to the sophisticated algorithms behind AI. *The History of the Computer* also profiles a diverse range of key players and creators—from An Wang and Margaret Hamilton to Steve Jobs and Sir Tim Berners-Lee—and illuminates their goals, their intentions, and the impact of their inventions on our everyday lives. This entertaining and educational journey will help you understand our most important machines and how we can use them to enhance the way we live. You'll never look at your phone the same way again!" — Provided by publisher. For junior and senior high and older readers. 2022.

## Psychology and Self-Help

*Grief: Insights and Tips for Teenagers*

**DB108731** 5 hours 46 minutes

by Joe Jansen

read by Mark Ashby

"This book is a valuable resource for teenagers who may be experiencing grief due to the loss of a friend or family member. It provides insights to help them understand what they are going through and includes tips and resources from both experts and young adults on how to cope with their grief." — Provided by publisher. For junior and senior high readers. 2020.

## Social Sciences

*Coming Out: Insights and Tips for Teenagers*

**DB108730** 3 hours 58 minutes

by Kezia Endsley

read by Mark Ashby

"This book addresses the hows and whys of coming out, as well as potential concerns teenagers may have—including how to know when you're ready to come out, who to tell first, and how to deal with unsupportive people. First-hand accounts from teenagers provide personal insight throughout." — Provided by publisher. For junior and senior high readers. 2021.