

Finding Truth in YA Fiction

A panel with authors Caela Carter, Corey Ann Haydu, and Jessica Verdi



What comes to mind when you think about OCD? How about HIV/AIDS? Or teen pregnancy?

In this fun and educational program easily tailored to each school, library, or bookstore's individual needs, authors Caela Carter, Corey Ann Haydu, and Jessica Verdi engage students/participants in a discussion of the health, mind, and body issues facing teenagers today. We will focus in particular on the social stigmas, preconceived notions, and misconceptions surrounding teen sexuality and mental health. The characters in our books, like teens in real life, are facing tough choices and even tougher consequences, yet they must find a way to deal with these issues amidst their everyday high school lives, familial relationships, and complicated friendships. Through our fictional characters, we aim to put a face to each issue, and get participants thinking about what they would do in our characters' shoes.

Via an interactive dramatic reading of each author's work and an open Q&A session, we encourage participants to open their minds about the topics in our books as well as the overall informative and entertaining power of contemporary YA literature.

Northeast states preferred. Please contact us for rates and availability.

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Me, Him, Them, and It: When Evelyn set out to piss off her parents with a Bad Girl Rep, she wasn't planning to ruin her valedictorian status...or fall for Todd...or get pregnant. Now she needs to learn to rely on a distant mother, a cheating father, an angry best friend...and herself.

OCD Love Story: When Bea meets Beck, she knows instantly that he's her kind of crazy. But despite her feelings for Beck, Bea can't stop thinking about someone else. Some might even say she's obsessed. Bea tells herself she's got it all under control, but the truth is, this isn't a choice, this is a compulsion. She's breaking down...and she might end up breaking her own heart.

My Life After Now: Drama club star Lucy Moore is having a really bad week. Desperate to forget her troubles for a night, she does something completely out of character. One month later, she learns she has HIV. Now what? Off script and without a clue of where to go from here, Lucy must figure out how to live, and even embrace, her new life.

Caela Carter, Corey Ann Haydu, and Jessica Verdi met in the MFA Writing for Children program at The New School in New York, from which they all graduated in 2012. They bonded over a love of contemporary fiction, comedy, and Important Stuff Women Think About. You can catch them tweeting each other about television.