

## Teens

# The Rosies Are Ready for Some Football



August means back to school, the first touch of a chill in the morning air, and football, of course! This year, three of the Rosie Award nominees are about or related to football in very special and different ways. Geoff Herbach's novel *Stupid Fast* is set in the exciting and bewildering world of high school football, where Felton Reinstein has gone from being a bullied failure of a stand-up comedian to a seriously fast, seriously *gigantic* football player in his sophomore year. There's a decent amount of football action (including off-season training) and a bit of romance, but Herbach's strong point is how he balances a story about a neglectful mother with Felton's often hilarious struggles to control his newly grown-up body and the popularity it brings. Fans of [Carl Deuker](#) or [Paul Volponi's](#) sports novels will enjoy this one. [Read more](#)

Posted by Chris H. on August 15, 2013

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# Rosie Nominations Clean and Bitter End



What I like about the [Rosie nominations](#), is that there are books that cover a wide

variety of subjects and vary in feel from light to pretty dark. Two books on the list deal realistically with the tough topics of dating violence and drug addiction.

In *Bitter End*, Alex is a typical teenager. She struggles with family issues, works a job she mostly enjoys and hangs out with her two best friends Zach and Bethany. Things change when the new boy at school, Cole, begins to show interest. Things are rosy at the beginning, but then Cole's interest becomes increasingly demanding, jealous and violent.

The path from rosy to violent is the crux of this story and is often difficult to read. Early on in the relationship, they becoming very close very quickly and share their deepest secrets. Alex feels that Cole loves her and is able to initially overlook some of Cole's dark moods. The transition from overlooking the dark moods to blaming herself for them is gradual and terrifying. And even when the moods switch from being petty and sarcastic to physical violence Alex still is able to forgive Cole and the cycle continues. [Read more](#)

Posted by sbowman on July 30, 2013

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## Geeking Out on the 80s



The decade was only roughly ten years gone when the BBC (and then US network VH1) brought nostalgia for the 1980s to TV with *I Love the '80s* in 2001. America has long been fascinated with looking back on its pop-culture history, but the decade that saw PCs, video games, cable TV, and a variety of musical sub-genres explode maintains a hold on our imaginations. Two of this year's [Rosie Award nominees](#) focus on the decade, centered on what has become our true national pastime ? gaming. [Read more](#)

Posted by Chris H. on July 18, 2013

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## Rosie Nominations and Romance Books



In a traditional romance, the heroine meets the hero and sparks fly. And often even though there is attraction, the hero and heroine don't always like each other very much at first. Of course in a romance, they are able to work out their differences and end up happily ever after. While in many ways *Love and Leftovers* was a traditional romance, the hero and heroine are already dating when you first meet them! Marcie and Lionel are dating but there aren't any sparks. Marcie's family falls apart and she is forced to move across country with her mother. She struggles to keep her relationship going long distance, but is distracted by her mother's depression and making friends at her new school. When sparks start to fly with a new local boy, Marcie gets even more confused. [Read more](#)

Posted by sbowman on July 2, 2013

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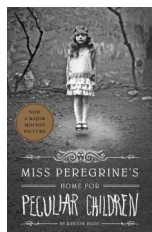
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## Rosie Nominees and Supernatural Fiction



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If you are one of the few people who haven't read [this Rosie nominated book](#) yet, do so as soon as possible! Filled with creepy black and white photos, this mesmerizing story centers on sixteen-year old-Jacob Portman and the events following the mysterious death of his grandfather. To help him overcome his grief, Jacob travels with his father to a remote island off the coast of Wales to find answers about his grandfather's childhood. He discovers much more than he bargained for when he finds a "time loop" from 1940 where the children from his grandfather's stories hide from the rest of the world. These children are not ordinary children; each has a unique special talent that makes them a target for a group of monsters intent of world domination. Soon enough, Jacob learns about his grandfather's past and discovers that he has inherited his own special talent that has placed him and his new friends in grave danger.

If you read the book and are interested in looking at some more bizarre photographs; the author, Ransom Riggs published a collection of vintage photographs called [Talking Pictures: Images and Messages rescued from the past](#). [Read more](#)

Posted by tcastleb on June 18, 2013

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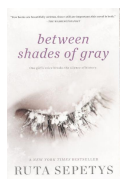
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## Rosie Nominations and Historical YA Fiction



Quick! Name one thing you know about the Crimean War! Nothing? Florence

Nightingale maybe?

Brief history lesson: The Crimean War was fought between Russia and an alliance of France and England over the declining Ottoman Empire in what is now part of the Ukraine. This war predates World War I, and is often considered as the first modern war. It is also famous for Florence Nightingale who drastically improved nursing practices while caring for wounded British soldiers. Sounds exciting, right? Ok, maybe not the most promising backdrop for a YA book, but *In the Shadow of the Lamp* has enough to keep you turning pages. Molly has been framed for theft and fired from her job as a parlor maid at a fancy London home. She decides to sneak her way onto a ship headed east when she hears that Miss Nightingale is looking for nurses. Even though she doesn't have any training, Molly is headstrong and is willing to work hard. She is found out by Miss Nightingale, but her hard work and natural inclinations at nursing and caring for people proves her worthy. In fact, Molly's abilities are even a bit magical. The magical elements aren't played up too much and Molly is a likeable character as she struggles with defining her future, both professionally and personally. Whether during the Crimean War or now, trying to figure your way in the world is a timeless endeavor. [Read more](#)

Posted by sbowman on June 4, 2013

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## Shine by Lauren Myracle



Warning: this book contains Serious Issues. You've also been warned that there aren't

any angels, zombies, vampires, demons, or changelings. No one has supernatural superhero powers. It isn't set in the future and there has not been an apocalypse. Still interested? Yes! I loved this. *Shine* by Lauren Myracle is a realistic, gritty and powerful coming of age story that is raw and emotional but also completely worthwhile.

After Cat's friend Patrick is brutally assaulted, marked with a gay slur, and left for dead at a gas station in their hometown of Black Creek, NC she decides to figure out who could have done something so horrible. The sheriff is investigating, but seems sure that it was outsiders - just someone passing through. At face value, this book is a mystery. Cat sets out to interview people who were with Patrick the night of the attack to establish a timeline and she tries to determine motive. Patrick was friends with many people in town who were also uncomfortable to some degree with his homosexuality.

But really the heart of this book isn't so much figuring out who did it, but how the characters come to terms with the resolution. Cat also has to face her own demons in this process. I liked that she wasn't a superhero, but a girl who got kind of messed up and is really trying to do the right thing. [Read more](#)

Posted by sbowman on May 6, 2013

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## Sparkle in the Wreckage



Is there any going back once a world has become a dystopia? That's what I kept wondering as I read my first two books from the new batch of [Rosie Award nominees](#). Libba Bray's *Beauty Queens* is set in the near future and concerns thirteen survivors of a plane crash on a tropical island. They also just happen to be contestants in the Miss Teen Dream beauty contest, sponsored by The Corporation, a company whose ubiquity in media and the marketplace make them a not-unfamiliar behind-the-scenes corporate dictatorship. *Divergent*, by Veronica Roth, is set in a much less-familiar future Chicago. [Read more](#)

Posted by Chris H. on May 3, 2013

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## Anna and the French Kiss



Despite being short, Etienne St. Clair not only has amazing hair and slightly crooked-

cute bottom teeth, but also is a perfect combination of French maturity and American goofiness - with a British accent! Does it get any better? Anna doesn't think so. But it could get worse. St. Clair (as everyone calls him) is taken.

*Anna and the French Kiss*, a recent [Rosie Award](#) nominee, begins with Anna's move for her senior year in high school from Atlanta to Paris. Anna's dad thinks it would be a good experience for her to attend the School for Americans in Paris and pulls some strings to get her into this exclusive school. It is tricky at first, because the school is small and Anna is the only new student (aaaand doesn't speak any French). Despite feeling homesick for her best friend, a new romance from her old job at the movie theater, and her little brother all back in Atlanta, Anna makes friends with her neighbor in the dormitory and starts hanging out with her and St. Clair's circle of friends. [Read more](#)

Posted by sbowman on May 2, 2013

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## New Rosie Award Nominees announced



Each year, high school students across the state of Indiana read from a list of around 20 nominees for the Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award (or the Rosie, as it's known). These books are rated by the students, who then vote through their high schools. With voting winding down for the 2012-2013 award, many people are looking forward to spending some time this summer getting to know the new nominees for the upcoming 2013-2014 award.

This new batch of nominees has something for just about everyone. Veronica Roth's *Divergent* is a dystopian take on Chicago in the near future, where teens are forced to choose one of five factions to spend the rest of their life in and face a deadly initiation. Romantic titles are well represented in Stephanie Perkins' *Anna and the French Kiss* and Sarah Tregay's *Love and Leftovers*, a novel-in-verse. Fantasy (Rae Carson's *The Girl of Fire and Thorns*), historical fiction (*Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys and *In the Shadow of the Lamp* by Susanne Dunlap), and inspirational fiction (*There You'll Find Me* by Jenny B. Jones) also make appearances on the list. [Read more](#)

Posted by Chris H. on April 24, 2013

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