

Fort Collins Regional Library District
Inside Out: Inner Journeys of Self-Discovery

Brugman. **Being Bindy.** Australian eighth grader Belinda is in for a very rough time. First, her best friend, Janey, dumps her for a supposedly cool, more mature girl. Janey's new crowd dresses provocatively, smokes pot, and is downright mean. As if the situation weren't difficult enough, Bindy's father begins to date Janey's mother, and, from this point on, things only get nastier between the two ex-friends. Bindy discovers some surprising inner strength when she begins to confront her problems.

Dessen. **Just Listen.** Annabel Greene seemingly has everything: cool friends, close family, good grades, and a part-time modeling career in town. But it all comes crashing down during the summer when a terrible thing happens to her and she finds herself dreading the new school term. The secrets behind the rifts are almost unbearable. Her solid family seems fragile-particularly in the wake of her middle sister's eating disorder. While struggling to face her devastating experience, Annabel finds comfort in an unlikely friendship with the school's most notorious loner.

James. **Dirty Liar.** Benji has a riveting story. Benji has moved from his alcoholic mother's trailer --but more important away from her abusive boyfriend --to live with his controlling father and his wife. Benji keeps a journal to try to name and define his demons; he calls Rianna, the new girl he clings to, his angel. He hopes that somehow they will save him. Benji has to save himself, but it is the open and gentle persistence of his stepmother, and the realization that Rianna, too, has demons to fight, that allow him to do so.

Murdock. **Dairy Queen.** D.J.'s family members don't talk much, especially about the fact that 15 -year-old D.J. does all the heavy work on their Wisconsin dairy farm since her father broke his hip and her two older brothers left for college. Nor do they talk about why D.J.'s mom, a teacher, is so busy filling in for the middle-school principal that she's never home. And they never discuss why her brothers haven't called home for more than six months. So when D.J. decides to try out for the Red Bend football team, even though she's been secretly training (and falling for) Brian Nelson, the cute quarterback from Hawley, Red Bend's rival, she becomes the talk of the town.