

Fort Collins Regional Library District
The Nitty Gritty: Raw Reality

Bauer. **Best Foot Forward.** Jenna must help her employer, Mrs. Gladstone, cope with the escalating problems that result from the merger of Gladstone Shoes with Shoe Warehouse Corporation, while also managing a new employee with a shoplifting record.

Brooks. **Candy.** When Joe meets Candy, it seems like a regular boy-meets-girl scenario. They chat over coffee and she gives him her number. But then Joe is drawn into Candy's world --- a world of drugs, violence, and desperation.

Brugman. **Walking Naked.** Megan and her friends are smart, funny, and pretty. When Megan ends up in detention with the high school pariah, Perdita, she learns that the Freak has something the members of her clique lack. Their surreptitious friendship creates escalating tension with tragic results.

Conly. **In the Night, on Lanvale Street.** While helping a stranger solve the murder of a neighbor, Charlie and her younger brother are endangered by what they learn about gangs and drugs in their neighborhood.

Flake. **Bang!** A teenage boy must face the harsh realities of inner city life, a disintegrating family, and destructive temptations as he struggles to find his identity as a young man.

Fredericks. **Crunch Time.** Four students, who have formed a study group to prepare for the SAT exam, sustain each other through the emotional highs and lows of their junior year in high school.

Harteringer. **Last Chance Texaco.** Troubled teen Lucy Pitt struggles to fit in as a new tenant at a last-chance foster home.

Hurwin. **Farther You Run.** When Samantha's best friend is dying, she wonders what life will be like without her. Nothing can prepare her for the reality of grief and loss.

Jacobson. **Stained.** In 1975 New Hampshire, Jocelyn looks for answers when her lifelong friend Gabe turns up missing. Then she learns that Gabe has been keeping terrible secrets.

Johnson. **Keys to the Golden Firebird.** As three sisters struggle to cope with their father's sudden death, they find they must reexamine friendships and their relationships with each other.

Johnson. **13 Little Blue Envelopes.** This whirl-wind adventure begins as Ginny reads a letter from her unpredictable Aunt Peg who has recently passed away. She is given several destinations and tasks, four rules, and the instruction to open one envelope upon her arrival at each place.

Kantor. **Confessions of a Not It Girl.** Jan is convinced that she is an utter failure at romance. Her current crush is trying to set her up with his geeky friend and her former crush is a drunk. Jan also struggles with anxiety about her best friend who is trying to seduce an older man.

Leitch. **Catch.** The summer before college can be a stressful one, especially if you have a brainless summer job and you are in love with an older woman. Tim has these exact problems, as well as a reputation as a ladies' man. His golden-boy brother has also just returned home without explanation.

Lynch. **Inexcusable.** High school senior and football player Keir sets out to enjoy himself on graduation night. When he attempts to comfort a friend whose date has left her stranded, things go terribly wrong.

Marino. **Dough Boy.** Overweight Tristan, who lives happily with his mother and her boyfriend, finds that he must deal with intensified criticism about his weight and other aspects of his life when Frank's troubled, nutrition-obsessed daughter moves in.

McGhee. **All Rivers Flow to the Sea.** After a car accident leaves her older sister Ivy brain-dead, Rose struggles with her guilt as she learns to let her sister go.

Minchin. **Beat Goes On.** Leyla must keep her cousin's secret: Emma is HIV positive and only her own mother and Leyla know. The secret becomes a huge burden in Leyla's life.

Moore. **Caught in the Act.** Everyone believes that Ethan is a great guy. Then a new student helps Ethan discover that he is just acting a role, even as she reveals her own mental instability.

Myers. **Autobiography of My Dead Brother.** Jesse uses his sketchbook to make sense of the loss of a close friendship and the harsh realities of his Harlem neighborhood.

Newman. **Jailbait.** In 1971, unpopular and lonely Andi--teased at school for her large breasts and ignored at home by her parents--builds a fantasy romantic life around a sexual relationship with a man in his thirties.

Pena. **Ball Don't Lie.** Sticky lives to play basketball. He is headed for the pros but he is unaware of the many dangers--including his past--that threaten his dream.