Background Information for Library Materials in Review

Book Title: *Skin*	**Synopsis** Sixteen-year-old Sep, a gifted young lady who likes to investigate the mysteries of animal biology, finds that she has developed a skin disease, and when Joshua, a boy she has always liked, makes a flirty advance, Sep decides to grab pleasure while she can and prove that she is deeper than her skin. Source: Follett Titlewave
Book Author Napoli, Donna Jo	
Copyright Year: 2013	

Professional Reviews of *Skin*

Source: Follett Titlewave

Booklist (August 2013 (Vol. 109, No. 22))
Grades 9-12. The morning of the first day of her junior year, Sep is startled to find that her lips are pure white. With her olive complexion, it's very noticeable. Her simple solution to slather on lipstick until results from the doctor come in have unintended consequences: a cute boy from her past resurfaces, and she finds a confidant in a cosmetics salesgirl where she shops. When she finally has a name for her predicament—vitiligo—she is full of anger, lashing out at friends and family as she struggles to live out her explicit romantic desires before her condition is undeniable. Sep's ups and downs feel human, but at times forced. Still, Napoli has created a direct, internal, intelligent, not always likable but thoroughly sympathetic hero with a medical condition rarely found in YA. Those searching for skin-centered self-acceptance reads would do well to start here, and also try Renee Rosen's Every Crooked Pot (2007) or Justina Chen Headley's North of Beautiful (2009).

Kirkus Reviews (June 15, 2013)
Sixteen-year-old Sep (short for Giuseppina) wakes up on the first day of school to find that her lips are completely white. With some lipstick on, she hopes for a miracle to restore her natural lip color. Her doctor confirms the beginnings of the skin condition vitiligo. Horrified by her blotchy body, Sep is unable to tell her friends, even as she draws the flirtatious attention of Joshua, captain of the football team. Napoli, known for her retellings of legends that explore female power and budding sexuality (Hush, 2007; Bound, 2004; etc.), develops those themes here in a contemporary setting. Sep is intelligent, old-fashioned and cautious, but she begins to change. She finds herself soliciting advice from the wiser, slightly older girl at the makeup counter. She talks to her mother in a way she never has before, telling her "I'm a fucking train wreck." Within a few weeks, Sep goes from sweet 16 and never-been-kissed to straddling Joshua's face in order to find out what sexual pleasure is. Rather than re-telling a specific, identifiable folktale, Napoli looks at the sexual transformation wrought by adolescence using Sep's skin as a focus, awkwardly braiding in folkloric tropes--the makeup-counter girl as witch stand-in, for instance. Though the end refutes happily-ever-after in a satisfying way, the sketchy plot, heavy on dialogue, is unconvincing. Like Sep's decisions, this story feels rushed. (Fiction. 14-17)

Publishers Weekly (June 10, 2013)
Sixteen-year-old Sep is alarmed when her lips suddenly turn white, forcing her to pull out some long-buried pink lipstick to disguise them. Just as unexpectedly, Sep starts getting the attention of popular football captain Joshua, a former childhood friend, and learns that she has vitiligo, a disorder that will turn patches of her olive skin white. As Sep's vitiligo and her relationship with Joshua quickly progress, she decides to keep her condition hidden through brightly colored lipstick, hand-drawn tattoos, and creative fashion statements. Readers will empathize with Sep's growing panic and inner turmoil as Napoli (Lights on the Nile) deftly maneuvers them through this rare disease's effect on a teenage psyche. However, Sep's rapid intimacy with Joshua, including a graphically erotic sex scene, feels at odds with her lack of trust in how he will react to her vitiligo. Although there are dark moments as Sep faces who she is and what she looks like, her rebound at the end, after a hastily cobbled-together "coming out," is abrupt. Ages 14-up. Agent: Brenda Bowen, Sanford J. Greenburger Associates. (Aug.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

School Library Journal (August 1, 2013)
Gr 9 Up-Sixteen-year-old Sep wakes up for her first day of school and discovers that her lips are white. There is no explanation for this sudden lack of pigment so she finds some old lipstick to cover it up. She has developed vitiligo, a condition in which white patches form on the skin. It starts with her lips but is spreading rapidly, and she begins finding spots on other parts of her body. She is appalled and frustrated by what is happening to her and decides that the only thing to do is to hide it from everyone, including her best friend. This change happens at the worst possible time because the captain of the football team has just taken an interest in her. At times, Sep's moods and actions can be frustrating, but she is going through a lot and teens will relate to her feelings of betrayal toward her body. Napoli captures the stresses of adolescence in a fresh, believable way. Readers will watch Sep grow from an angry and at times selfish girl into a strong and confident woman. There is a romance involved, but it is not the story. This is truly a novel about personal growth and the power of loving and believing in yourself. Great for general purchase, but there are some descriptive sexual scenes.-Kristyn Dorfman, The Packer Collegiate Institute, Brooklyn, NY (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Horn Book Guide starred (Spring 2014)
Sixteen-year-old Sep wakes up with white lips, and her pediatrician diagnoses her condition as vitiligo. The rapid progression of the disease is aligned with her developing relationship with classmate Joshua--the vitiligo an impetus for the relationship's whirlwind pace, and her love for Joshua a force that ratchets up Sep's anxiety. Sep's turmoil is poignant, and readers will empathize with her fears and feelings.

Awards/Distinctions Awarded to *Skin*

Source: n/a

Background Information for Library Materials in Review

Book Title: *A Lesson in Vengeance*	**Synopsis** While helping the eccentric new girl research the Dalloway Five, five students who died mysteriously and were said to be witches, Felicity finds history repeating itself, forcing her to face the darkness in Dalloway--and in herself. Source: Novelist Plus - accessed via SCDiscus
Book Author Lee, Victoria	
Copyright Year: 2021	

Professional Reviews of *A Lesson in Vengeance*

Source: Follett Titlewave

Booklist starred (June 1, 2021 (Vol. 117, No. 19))

Grades 10-12. Felicity is haunted by the ghost of her dead girlfriend, Alex. She's equally haunted by her research on the Dalloway Five, students of Dalloway School who mysteriously died in impossible circumstances on the grounds of Godwin House, where Felicity has returned to finish senior year—amid rumors that she murdered Alex. Felicity captures the attention of writing prodigy Ellis Haley, who is working on a novel inspired by the Five. Ellis wants Felicity's help; she's a strict method writer interested in proving to Felicity that murder is the work of a psychopath, not the dark magic Felicity believes is woven into the fabric of Dalloway. This novel explores how we are defined by the choices we make, even unintentionally or in harrowing situations. With a cast of morally ambiguous characters, it makes the reader want to look away from the truth, as Felicity often does, but cuts to the bone in such a way that the pages keep turning. Lee paints a sharp picture of what happens when intelligent women are painted as witches and when women's anger is viewed as hysteria and psychopathy. Felicity is an unreliable narrator who compels readers to empathize as she grieves Alex and tries to find her way back to herself. This twisty, immersive thriller is about the fine line between passion and drowning in the darkness of obsession.

Kirkus Reviews (June 15, 2021)

A young woman's return to her monied boarding school is haunted by the trauma of her girlfriend's recent death and the school's rumored history involving witchcraft in this contemporary thriller. Felicity Morrow's senior year was cut short after her girlfriend Alex died, and her decision to return to the Dalloway School because "being friendless at Dalloway was better than being friendless anywhere else" makes clear her feelings of isolation. It's seemingly inevitable that she'll be drawn into the orbit of infamous new student Ellis Haley, who, despite her young age, has already written a Pulitzer-winning novel. Amid a fantastical, darkly atmospheric haze of cigarette smoke and hard alcohol, Felicity agrees to assist Ellis in her research about the Dalloway Five, girls whose gruesome deaths centuries earlier at the school are shrouded in mystery and who were the subject of her own abandoned senior thesis. Richly imagined queer characters, including Ellis' older nonbinary sibling, Quinn, are the stars of this story, which incrementally reveals truths about Alex's death as it winds the bond between Felicity and Ellis ever tighter, spinning a tale rife with literary references, magnetic romance, and occasionally melodramatic but menacing gothic tropes out to its end. The protagonists are cued White; there is ethnic diversity in secondary and background characters. A layered, stylized, brooding mystery that will draw readers in. (Thriller. 14-18)

Publishers Weekly starred (June 7, 2021)
In Lee's (the Feverwake series) deliciously unsettling standalone thriller, 18-year-old Felicity Morrow, who is white, is reattempting her senior year at Dalloway, a small prep school in the Catskills. The year before, her obsession with the Dalloway Five-purported witches who were brutally murdered in and around Felicity's residence hall 300 years ago-led, she suspects, to the mysterious death of her girlfriend Alex. Though she's determined to abandon magic following the previous year's events, she's soon drawn into the orbit of eccentric white, gray-eyed novelist Ellis Haley, 17, a fellow Godwin House denizen who persuades Felicity to help her research the murders for Ellis's next book. As the girls grow closer, forming a coven with their housemates, Felicity, haunted perhaps literally by both Alex and the Five's leader, begins to realize that everything is not as it seems-not within her own mind, and not within Godwin House. Lee touches on abusive familial and romantic relationships, classism, mental health stigma, racism, and sexism while providing clever commentary on-and near-constant references to-women in the genre of horror. With queer primary characters, an irresistible gothic atmosphere, and unrelenting creeping dread, this propulsive work of dark academia is both thrilling and thought-provoking. Ages 14-up. Agent: Holly Root, Root Literary. (Aug.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

School Library Journal starred (August 1, 2021)
Gr 9 Up-Eighteen-year-old Felicity Morrow has returned to Dalloway School after time away recovering from the trauma of her exgirlfriend's death. The blonde teen is determined to finish her thesis and break her obsession with the witchcraft rooted deep in the school's history. But Dalloway's occult past is everywhere, and Felicity's first obstacle appears in the form of 17-year-old writing prodigy Ellis; Felicity's other new housemates--Kajal, Clara, and Leonie- fall under Ellis's spell as quickly as Felicity. Felicity is certain she's being haunted. Is it the ghost of her ex-girlfriend back for revenge? The spirit they let loose last term? Or is it the contradictory Ellis, who ensures magic and witchcraft are never far from Felicity's mind? Through a multilayered plot described in devastatingly poetic prose, Lee crafts a dark academic environment of secrets and shadows. As Felicity unravels, she instinctively turns to tarot, candles, and herbs, and Ellis encourages and discourages Felicity in turn. Felicity's trauma and mental illness and Ellis's manipulation are intensified by substance abuse, violence, and death. Social issues such as class privilege, sexuality, and racism are also touched upon. With two unreliable main characters in a story rich in uncertainty and suspense, readers will rush along the work's twisty path to a very satisfying ending. Kajal has brown skin; Leonie is Black. Everyone else is presumed white. VERDICT Teens will be as haunted by this narrative as the characters within its pages.-Maggie Mason Smith, Clemson Univ., SC © Copyright 2021. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Awards/Distinctions Awarded to *A Lesson in Vengeance*

Source: https://www.goodreads.com/award/show/6252-rainbow-award

Goodreads Rainbow Award for LGBTA Young Adult: 2021

Background Information for Library Materials in Review

Book Title: *A Court of Frost and Starlight*	**Synopsis** Feyre, Rhysand, and their friends are still busy rebuilding the Night Court and the vastly altered world beyond, recovering from the war that changed everything. But Winter Solstice is finally approaching, and with it, the joy of a hard-earned reprieve. Yet even the festive atmosphere can't keep the shadows of the past from looming. As Feyre navigates her first Winter Solstice as High Lady, her concern for those dearest to her deepens. They have more wounds than she anticipated-scars that will have a far-reaching impact on the future of their court. Source: Publisher
Book Author Maas, Sarah J.	
Copyright Year: 2020	

Professional Reviews of *A Court of Frost and Starlight*

Source: Follett Titlewave

Kirkus Reviews (June 1, 2018)

A glimpse of the characters dealing with rebuilding and fallout after A Court of Wings and Ruin (2017). In a change of pace from the usual epic struggle against powerful forces, this slimmer-than-usual volume follows the cast during the festive Winter Solstice holiday. Nods to trouble on the horizon (dissent in the Illyrian ranks, Fae courts eyeing for expansion, and a politically fraught situation among humans) remain distant, the lack of progress at times resulting in frustrating repetition. Cassian's and Mor's backstories are explored, and prickly Amren's low-key relationship storyline is supplemented by her High Fae adjustments (including bodily humor). While Elain is becoming more comfortable, she still wants nothing to do with Lucien (who feels like an outsider nearly everywhere and has his hands full with a self-destructive Tamlin). Severely struggling Nesta self-medicates through alcohol, meaningless sex, pushing everyone away, and finding every last seedy corner of the otherwise utopian Velaris. While Rhys handles politics, Feyre's storyline revolves around Solstice shopping and art's potential for healing trauma—when the lovers aren't telepathically sexting or craving each other. Aside from occasional minor characters, most of the inhuman cast seem white. Several plotlines are predictably resolved. With introspection replacing battles, this extended epilogue gives breathing room between dramatic arcs but is best for readers who'd prefer downtime with the characters over high stakes. (map, preview of next title) (Fantasy. 16-adult)

Awards/Distinctions Awarded to *A Court of Frost and Starlight*

Source: https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/50659471-a-court-of-frost-and-starlight

Goodreads Choice Award Nominee - Young Adult Fantasy and Science Fiction: 2018

Background Information for Library Materials in Review

Book Title: *A Court of Wings and Ruin*	**Synopsis** Feyre has returned to the Spring Court, determined to gather information on Tamlin's maneuverings and the invading king threatening to bring Prythian to its knees.
Book Author Maas, Sarah J.	
Copyright Year: 2017	Source: Library of Congress Catalog

Professional Reviews of *A Court of Wings and Ruin*

Source: Follett Titlewave

Booklist (July 2017 (Online))

Grades 10-12. It's the end of a trilogy, if not an era: Feyre and Rhysand's story comes to a thunderous close, even as Maas promises more novels from their world. In the Spring Court—where she resides after the events of A Court of Mist and Fury (2016), planted to spy on Tamlin, her former lover—Feyre must hide her true self. War is coming, and the seven faerie courts form tense, uneasy alliances. Feyre longs to return to her true love, Rhysand, and the rest of her family in the Night Court, but as long as Tamlin remains inscrutable, she must keep up a subterfuge that grows more dangerous by the day. Though it would have been better served by another round of copyediting, this fast-paced and explosively action-packed finale will certainly grab audiences. There's more gore than sex this time—although there's plenty of both—and Maas ventures farther into the world of Prythian than ever before. Die-hard fans will eagerly follow the conclusion to Feyre's story while looking forward to the next crop of stories from Prythian.

Kirkus Reviews (June 1, 2017)

Feyre and her friends must stop the evil Hybern king's conquering schemes.Following A Court of Mist and Fury (2016), pale-skinned Feyre has been returned to the Spring Court in the wake of an alliance between Tamlin and Hybern. She deceives them, actually serving as a spy and saboteur for Rhysand and his court. But right before she can sneak back to the Night Court (and her loving, quite physical relationship with Rhys), her careful plan is torpedoed. She and Lucien make a far more dangerous than expected voyage back to Velaris and to Feyre's friends and family, her two sisters suffering from their forcible Fae transformations. To counter Hybern's machinations, Feyre and Rhys must rally their own allies, but the Fae courts are still fractured and reeling from Amarantha's cruelties, and they distrust Night for its reputation. To repair the rifts, the heroes must weigh the pros and cons of dropping their protective masks and showing their true selves, part of the reoccurring themes of self-acceptance and forgiveness. But some alliances are still dangerous—recruiting monsters to fight the monstrous is always a dicey proposition—and double agents abound. Side characters' romantic storylines are interwoven with the strategizing and even the war, pairing the expanded world with extended action sequences and character revelations, and the conclusion's ramifications will be felt in the next installments. Nifty romantic escapism enhanced by expansion of worldbuilding and development of secondary characters. (Fantasy. 14-adult)

Awards/Distinctions Awarded to *A Court of Wings and Ruin*
Source: https://www.goodreads.com/choiceawards/best-young-adult-fantasy-books-2017; https://www.goodreads.com/choiceawards/best-of-the-best-2018
Goodreads Choice Award Winner - Best Young Adult Fantasy and Science Fiction: 2017 Goodreads Choice Award Nominee - Best of the Best: 2018

Background Information for Library Materials in Review

Book Title: *Felix Ever After*	**Synopsis** Felix Love, a transgender seventeen-year-old, attempts to get revenge by catfishing his anonymous bully, but lands in a quasi-love triangle with his former enemy and his best friend.
Book Author Callender, Kacen	
Copyright Year: 2020	Source: Novelist Plus - accessed via SCDiscus

Professional Reviews of *Felix Ever After*

Source: Follett Titlewave

Booklist starred (May 15, 2020 (Vol. 116, No. 18))

Grades 8-12. Seventeen-year-old Felix is Black, queer, and trans. He's had a rough start to the new semester, between feeling neglected by his best friend and being targeted by a transphobic bully who has deadnamed him and hung up old photos from his childhood in the lobby of the school for all to see. In the process of pursuing revenge, Felix also questions whether or not he feels comfortable identifying as a boy, searching for a label that better suits him. And to top it all off, he's still processing feelings of abandonment from when his mother left him and his father. With each passing day, Felix makes new discoveries about himself—finding the descriptor demiboy is a game-changer, for instance—and the people closest to him, including one or two he never thought he'd ever get close to. Callender (This Is Kind of an Epic Love Story, 2018) populates Felix's world with a cast of queer, trans, and racially diverse individuals, genuinely reflecting the lives of many who work hard to build a supportive chosen family. From its stunning cover art to the rich, messy, nuanced narrative at its heart, this is an unforgettable story of friendship, heartbreak, forgiveness, and self-discovery, crafted by an author whose obvious respect for teen readers radiates from every page.

Kirkus Reviews (May 1, 2020)

Jealousies and deceit resolve into affirmation and artistic self-love. Seventeen-year-old black trans boy narrator Felix Love wants romance but lacks self-understanding. No longer a girl, he thinks "boy" doesn't always fit either. Felix's dad deadnames him despite supporting his top surgery and hormone therapy, and he hates his mom for leaving when he was 10. Felix's self-image shatters when his pre-transition photos and name appear in the school gallery—followed by relentless transphobic texts. A talented visual artist, Felix dreams of an art scholarship to Brown. His uber-rich, down-to-earth best friend, Ezra Patel, helps him navigate contentious relationships at their private art school's summer intensive and shares copious pot and booze with Felix. But this friendship falters when Ezra starts dating Austin, and Felix thinks he likes Declan—Ezra's ex and Felix's rival for the art scholarship. Felix's ethnicity seems to have no cultural richness, surfacing primarily when he's being marginalized for his race, poverty, and gender. Keeping up with his devastating episodes of self-doubt and anxiety along with the story's complicated plot details make this an exhausting read, and although Felix ultimately overcomes some oppressive transphobia, the barrage of blatant ignorance and bigotry he faces might haunt readers despite the book's ebullient ending. A trauma- and drama-filled demiboy's story that's not for the faint of heart. (author's note, resources) (Fiction. 14-18)

Publishers Weekly (March 30, 2020)
Black trans artist Felix Love, 17, has never been in love. His mostly supportive single father still struggles to call him by his name and pronouns, and Felix is convinced that nobody except his ride-or-die bestie, wealthy Ezra Patel, can appreciate him for who he is. Felix is attending an ultracompetitive arts summer program to have a better shot at a full scholarship to Brown when someone posts Felix's dead name beside photos of him, pre-transition, in the school's lobby. As Ezra begins dating a new guy and the competition for Brown heats up, Felix's plot to get revenge throws him onto the path of love and self-discovery-concepts he's been anxious about for as long as he can remember. Callender (King and the Dragonflies) excels, producing an exhilarating cast of queer characters, many of whom are people of color, who are as relatable as they are realistic, and a whodunit that will keep readers guessing to the last twist. Protagonist Felix is like the story itself-boldly empathic, hopeful, and full of love. This top-notch depiction of a messy, complicated, romantic young artist navigating the bumpy road to self-love and self-determination sticks its landing at every turn. Ages 14-up. Agent: Beth Phelan, Gallt & Zacker Literary. (May) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

School Library Journal (March 1, 2020)
Gr 9 Up-Black, queer, and trans Felix explores love, friendship, and possibly retribution in this powerful #OwnVoices story of identity and self-worth. Seventeen-year-old Felix Love hopes the summer art program he's attending will help raise his grades and increase his chances of getting a full scholarship to attend Brown. Surrounded by a diverse and mostly queer group of artist friends, Felix navigates complicated relationships, including transphobia and harassment from his own friends, from his loving but still learning father, and from an anonymous bully. Bent on revenge, Felix begins catfishing his top suspect, only to encounter some uncomfortable and surprising revelations about not just his potential tormentor, but his own feelings. Coping with the abandonment of his mother and feeling like he isn't worthy of love, Felix also grapples with the unsettling feeling that his identity still isn't the best fit. It's only after a lot of research that he discovers the label "demiboy" and begins to feel a sense of comfort that extends to how he works through and untangles his various complex relationships, both romantic and platonic. Immensely readable, the narration and the dialogue are honest, smart, and at times, bitingly vicious. Felix and friends are complicated characters, constantly fighting, messing up, and making up. Felix is achingly relatable, both vulnerable and guarded, often on the sidelines but wanting so much more. His explorations address privilege, marginalization, and intersectionality while he learns about what and who get to define a person. VERDICT Full of warmth, love, and support, this is an important story and an essential purchase.-Amanda MacGregor, Parkview Elementary School, Rosemount, MN © Copyright 2020. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Horn Book Magazine (July/August, 2020)
At seventeen, Felix Love feels marginalized as a Black teen, an aspiring artist, and a trans male. His mom left the family when he was ten, and although his dad tries hard to be supportive, he still calls Felix by his deadname and struggles to âçœunderstandâç his child. Felix is attending his prestigious prep school's summer program to better his chances of winning a coveted art scholarship to Brown University, but he has difficulty focusing on his all-important portfolio. When someone hacks archived pre-transition images of him from Instagram and mounts them in the school's gallery, Felix's already fragile self-image is shaken to the core. His initial thirst for revenge leads him to dig deep, open himself to others, and learn to accept and affirm who he really is as a person (a demiboy) and an artist. Meanwhile, his safe friendship with classmate Ezra Patel becomes a source of conflict -- and then a new relationship altogether. The writing is smart and engaging, and #OwnVoices author Callender includes sound information and responsible psychological guidance without bogging down the storytelling. Felix does ultimately find love in this sweet and tender trans romance, but his hardest-won victory is in the fight to validate his self-worth. Luann Toth July/August 2020

Awards/Distinctions Awarded to *Felix Ever After*
Source: NovelistPlus
American Library Association Rainbow List - Young Adult Fiction: 2021
YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults: 2021
YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers: 2021

Background Information for Library Materials in Review

Book Title: *The Fixer*	**Synopsis** A Jew in Tsarist Russia is accused of murdering a Catholic boy and suffers from mistreatment in prison.
Book Author Malamud, Bernard	
Copyright Year: 1966	Source: Novelist Plus - accessed via SCDiscus

Professional Reviews of *The Fixer*

Source: Follett Titlewave

Booklist - Reviewed October 15, 1966
Readers of Samuel's Blood accusation, will find in Malamud's novel the actuality of the Beiliss case transformed into the poetry of man's self-discovery and irreducible dignity in spite of the most cynical injustice and brutality. Beiliss' role here becomes that of Yakov Bok, a handyman, who grows from religious and political indifference to heroic realization of the necessity to stand firm against assaults on the freedom of the human spirit.

Kirkus Reviews - Reviewed September 1, 1966
/* Starred Review */ **"I'm Yakov Fixer... I'm the kind of man who finds it perilous to be alive." He is childless, as the Talmud said, alive but dead, and deserted by his wife. He leaves his native shtetl for Kiev to pass for a few months as a goyim. Then he is arrested for having counterfeited a name and is later accused of killing a child in a ritual murder. This is the Russia of Nicholas the Second, the increasing irrationale of anti-Semitism, the prophetic "stink of future evil"-- and there seems to be no question that this is Malamud's strongest book. There may be more question whether Yakov is one of his "saint-schlemiehls." He's a simple man, an ignorant man, but he reads a little (Spinoza) and he thinks. Even in his outraged innocence he knows that he is a "rational being and a man must try to reason." During these long months of interrogation and internment, he develops a certain philosophy of his own even though "it's all skin and bones." But speculate as he does, protest as he does, how accept the fact that he is one of the chosen people, chosen to represent the destiny and racial guilt of the Jews? As a Job, and several of Malamud's earlier characters have been termed Jobs, he repudiates suffering and eventually his hate is stronger than his fear... Anticipating all the inevitable comparisons to which the book is equal, Malamud's Fixer, less ideological than Koestler's Darkness at Noon, less symbolic than Kafka's Trial, has elements of each but a more exposed humanity than either of them. It is a work of commanding power.

Awards/Distinctions Awarded to *The Fixer*

Source: NoveList Plus

National Book Award Winner - Fiction: 1967
Pulitzer Prize - Fiction: 1967

Background Information for Library Materials in Review

Book Title: *Forever for a Year* **Book Author** Gottfred, B.T. **Copyright Year:** 2015	**Synopsis** When Carolina and Trevor meet on their first day of school, something draws them to each other. They gradually share first kisses, first touches, first everythings. When they're together, nothing else matters. But one of them will make a choice, and the other a mistake, that will break what they thought was unbreakable. Both will wish that they could fall in love again for the first time . . . but first love, by definition, can't happen twice. Told in Carolina and Trevor's alternating voices, Forever for a Year by B. T. Gottfred is an up-close-and-personal story of two teenagers falling in love for the first time, and discovering it might not last forever. Source: Publisher Website (Macmillan)

Professional Reviews of *Forever for a Year*

Source: Follett Titlewave

Booklist (May 1, 2015 (Online))

Grades 10-12. In this debut novel, two high-school freshmen experience their first emotional and sexual relationship. For Carolina, high school is a time to reinvent herself and leave behind her reputation as a babyish nerd. Trevor thinks school is pointless after moving from L.A. to small-town Riverbend, Illinois. They notice each other on the first day and, after confronting gossip-fueled misunderstandings, start dating and gradually begin having sex. Both have problems at home—a philandering dad, a suicidal mom—that color their relationship. Through it all, Carolina and Trevor idolize and idealize each other—until they can't anymore. Gottfred authentically depicts the intensity of first love and candidly portrays these teens' sex lives, from their first exploratory touching to a pregnancy scare, in scenes that range from sweet to rote to troubling. Structured in alternating first-person narratives, the confessional style of the interior monologues needs tightening, and the minutia of daily life makes for an overlong, shapeless story. Despite uneven writing and an ending that is pure saccharine, the overall journey is believable.

Kirkus Reviews (May 1, 2015)

Two teens experience an intense year of first love. Carolina and Trevor, a pair of emotionally intuitive, gifted athletes, are drawn to each other on the first day of high school and soon discover a heady physical chemistry. Debut novelist Gottfred alternates between Carolina's and Trevor's deeply earnest voices to tease out both the elation and the anguish of headlong first love. This technique is now almost cliched, but it works here thanks to the psychological heft and frankness of the protagonists' narration. Each longs for a romance based on total honesty, but as both struggle with mistrust in their relationships with their parents, neither fully trusts the other to accept their flaws, setting up future conflicts almost immediately. It's refreshing to see both male and female characters striving to sort out the messy, complex feelings of all kinds that go along with an active but secret sex life and to see how those experiences help them mature substantively (and age appropriately) in their relationships with both their peers and their parents--who are much better at parenting than they are at marriage. The downside of using alternating perspectives is length--this novel would have benefited from tighter editing--but Gottfred is plainly a talent to watch. Both emotionally satisfying and sure to be much discussed. (Fiction. 14-16)

Publishers Weekly (May 4, 2015)
Carolina Fisher is a newly minted high-school freshman with big hopes for the year ahead. Trevor Santos is a jaded transfer student from California, who isn't interested in anything his new Illinois school has to offer-until he meets Carolina. Writing in the teenagers' alternating perspectives, debut author Gottfred captures the starry-eyed exhilaration of first love (and nervous first explorations of sex) with tenderness and humor. Wearing her heart and her insecurities on her sleeve, Carolina is exuberant in her joy about Trevor ("I said I liked a boy to his face. And he said he liked me. What did this mean? I must know what this means or I will die"), while Trevor's self-delusion that he isn't falling hard for Carolina and his reflections on the looming family problems they both face are just as honest and realistic. In short, Gottfred's characters actually sound, think, and act like real people, not the polished, best versions of themselves. Readers will need hearts of steel not to fall for this love story and its two storytellers. Ages 14-up. Agent: Jill Grinberg, Jill Grinberg Literary Management. (July) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

School Library Journal (April 1, 2015)
Gr 9 Up-Carolina and Trevor meet on the first day of their freshman year when Carolina gives Trevor two sheets of paper and a pencil so he can take notes in class. For both, it is near love at first sight. For Carolina, her freshman year is a chance to start fresh and be one of the popular girls while getting over her dad's infidelity to her mom. For Trevor, it's his second time attempting a freshman year, but in a new city as his family tries to pick up the pieces of his mother's attempted suicide. The teens fall hard and fast, sharing just about every first love experience one could imagine. Like Rainbow Rowell's Eleanor and Park (St. Martin's, 2013), this work is a tale of first love from the protagonists' alternating points of view. Gottfried gives this concept a new spin by providing a detailed account of all aspects of this budding relationship, from every insecure thought to the last "I love you." The author captures the unhealthy codependency of crushes in a way that will be relatable to teens. Some graphic sex scenes makes this title appropriate for older readers. VERDICT Aá swoon-inducing and heartbreaking novel for most YA collections.-Adrienne L. Strock, Teen Library Manager, Nashville Public Library © Copyright 2014. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Horn Book Magazine (July/August, 2015)
“It’s like I used to be Carrie, this awkward eighth grader, but now I was going to be Carolina, this amazing freshman.” Nerdy and immature in junior high, Carolina and her best friend, Peggy (sorry, “Marguerite”), hit the ground running on their first day of high school; Carolina is ready to grow up -- right now. Trevor, new to town, has been rendered cynical and depressed by his mother’s recent suicide attempt and is dreading starting school. Carolina and Trevor meet in first period, and the rest is history, chronicled in alternating first-person narratives characterized by insecurities and excitement and near-hysterical inner monologues: “I MUST KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS OR I WILL DIE.” Debut author Gottfred’s accomplishments here are the truly realistic teen voices and the believable trajectory and fate of the relationship; readers won’t be surprised when the “soulmates” hit rough patches (though some of the subplots do contain surprises). Carolina does grow up, as does Trevor -- perhaps too quickly thanks to their intense relationship and respective family troubles, but teen readers will appreciate the couple’s newfound wisdom about high school friendships, parents, sexuality, and first love. A touching, relatable, and highly appealing coming-of-age romance à la Eleanor & Park (rev. 5/13) but with lots of sex. katrina hedeen

Awards/Distinctions Awarded to *Forever for a Year*

Source: n/a