

Teen & Adult Deaf/HoH Book List (updated 2023)



This starter list is compiled by an audiologist/author. Not an exhaustive list. Free download at: www.rieneal.com.

KEY:

- ♥ Author or Illustrator is Deaf/HoH
- 👂 Amplification used by character(s)—(HAs = hearing aids; CIs = cochlear implants; BAHA = bone anchored HA)
- 👋 Signed Language used by character(s)—(ASL, unless otherwise stated)

Young Adult (ages 12+) (each section alphabetized by author last name)



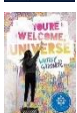
The Whispering Dark, by Kelly Andrew ♥. Scholastic Press (2022). A deaf 18yo is eager to prove herself at the exclusive Godbole University, where students are taught to slip between parallel worlds. 👂 —CIs



The Words in My Hands, by Asphyxia ♥. Annick Press (2021). In a near-future world where food is scarce, 16yo Piper trades her hearing aids for sign as she embraces an organic lifestyle & community. 👂 —HAs 👋 —Auslan



A Quiet Kind of Thunder, by Sara Barnard. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (2018). A teen girl with selective mutism and a teen boy who is Deaf befriend one another and fall in love. 👋 —BSL



You're Welcome, Universe, by Whitney Gardner. Knopf Books for Young Readers (2017). A teen graffiti artist struggles to fit in at a mainstream school after being expelled from her beloved Deaf school. 👋



The Silence Between Us, by Alison Gervais ♥. Blink (2019). When a Deaf teen is forced to mainstream with an interpreter, she worries about whether her dream of becoming a cystic fibrosis therapist is realistic. 👋 👂 —HAs



Unravel, by Amelia Loken ♥. Sword & Silk (2022). In a fantasy kingdom, a deaf teen witch attempts to overthrow her tyrannical uncle, who kept her from learning sign and executes witches. 👋



A Song Below Water (2-book series), by Bethany C. Morrow. Tor Teen (2020). Tavia and Effie, sisters, must hide Tavia's siren song to stay safe in modern-day Portland, Oregon. (No Deaf/HoH characters, but ASL used)



Give Me a Sign, by Anna Sortino ♥. Putnam (2023). A hard-of-hearing teen accepts a counselor job at a summer camp for the d/Deaf & blind to brush up on her ASL and finds love in the process. 👋 👂 —HAs, CIs



Impossible Music, by Sean Williams. Clarion Books (2019). A teen musician loses his hearing and refuses help until he meets a newly-deafened girl who helps him realize that he can still enjoy music. 👋 —Auslan

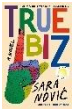
Adult Fiction



The Sign for Home, by Blair Fell. Atria/Emily Bestler (2022). A DeafBlind man escapes his overbearing caretaker to rescue the Deaf girl he fell in love with at school, with help from his new interpreter. 👋 —ASL, Tactile ASL



Deaf Republic, by Ilya Kaminsky ♥. Graywolf (2019). A parable told in poems. After a soldier kills a young deaf boy, the entire town is struck deaf, forcing them to organize their dissent with sign language. 👋 —fictional SL



True Biz, by Sara Novic ❤️ . RH (2022). A CODA headmistress of a school for the Deaf struggles to keep the doors open and the kids out of trouble, while two teen students plan retribution against a CI manufacturer. 🙋💡 —CIs



The Dolphin House, by Audrey Schulman. Europa Editions (2022). Based on a true story from 1965, a hard-of-hearing woman shares a home with dolphins in captivity in an attempt to teach them English.

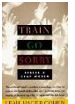
Adult Nonfiction/Memoir



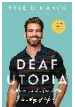
Through Deaf Eyes: A Photographic History of the American Community, by Douglas Baynton, Jack R. Gannon ❤️ , & Jean Lindquist Bergey. Gallaudet University Press (2007). A photo history of Deaf America. 🙋



Rebuilt: My Journey Back to the Hearing World, by Michael Chorost ❤️ . Mariner Books (2006). A memoir of a mostly deaf man who loses the rest of his hearing and becomes an early CI recipient. 💡 —HAs, CIs



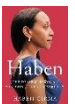
Train Go Sorry: Inside a Deaf World, by Leah Hager Cohen. Vintage Books (1994). A portrait of life on campus at Lexington School for the Deaf, as well as a memoir of a hearing woman who grew up there. 🙋



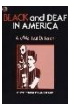
Deaf Utopia: A Memoir and a Love Letter to a Way of Life, by Nyle DiMarco ❤️ . William Morrow (2022). A memoir of model & actor Nyle DiMarco, who is Deaf, queer, and from a multi-generational Deaf family. 🙋



Mean Little deaf Queer: A Memoir, by Terry Galloway ❤️ . Beacon Press (2009). A memoir of a woman who became deaf at age 9 and has gone on to become a successful comedian. 💡 —HAs



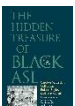
Haben: The DeafBlind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law, by Haben Girma ❤️ . Twelve (2019). A memoir of a deaf-blind woman, from her youth in the U.S. and Eritrea, to Harvard Law School, to disability rights advocacy.



Black and Deaf in America, by Ernest Hairston ❤️ & Linwood Smith ❤️ . TJ Pub Inc (1983). An exploration of the 'double whammy' it is to be a part of two marginalized groups in society, Blackness and deafness. (Out of print.)



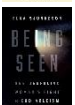
I'll Scream Later, by Marlee Matlin ❤️ . Gallery Books (2009). A memoir of the Deaf actress Marlee Matlin, where she discusses the challenges of being a role model, as well as her struggles with addiction and abuse. 🙋



The Hidden Treasure of Black ASL: Its History and Structure, by Carolyn McCaskill ❤️ , Ceil Lucas, et al. Gallaudet University Press (2011). A detailed history of the language of Black ASL. (Includes companion DVD.) 🙋 —BASL



On Being Human, by Jennifer Pastiloff ❤️ . Dutton (2019). A memoir of a woman with hearing loss who discovered how to listen in a new way, through practicing yoga, gratitude, and empathy.



Being Seen: One DeafBlind Woman's Fight to End Ableism, by Elsa Sjunneson ❤️ . S&S/Simon Element (2021). A DeafBlind professor examines the misrepresentation of disabled people in the media. 💡 —HAs



Sounds Like Home: Growing Up Black & Deaf in the South, by Mary Herring Wright ❤️ . Gallaudet University Press (1999, 2019). Memoir of a woman who attended a segregated school for the Deaf in the 1930s. 🙋 —BASL