

Teen/Adult Deaf* Book Character List (2026 update)



Starter list compiled by audiologist/author Rie Neal. Updated every September. Download free at: www.rieneal.com.

KEY:

- ♥ Author or Illustrator is Deaf*
 - 💰 Amplification used or discussed—(HAs = hearing aids; CIs = cochlear implants; BAHA = bone anchored HA)
 - 👉 Sign Language used or discussed—(ASL, unless otherwise stated)
- (* = deaf, Deaf, hard of hearing, DeafBlind, etc.)

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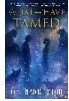
Young Adult (ages 12+) (alphabetized by author last name)



The Gravewood (2 books) by Kelly Andrew ♥. Scholastic (2026-2027). In the shadow of the Gravewood, Shea's deal with a vampire to obtain hearing aid batteries turns critical when her best friend disappears. 💰 —HAs



Deeplight, by Frances Hardinge. Abrams (2022). When 15yo Hark finds a god's heart in the sea, he must decide what he's willing to sacrifice to save his best friend. Prominent d/Deaf side characters. 👉 —fictional



What We Have Tamed, by G.S. Harrington. Slow Horse Press (2026). On a mission to establish the first Martian zoo, 16yo Alaina wrestles with who she can trust when sabotage is discovered. (Alaina's mentor is Deaf.) 👉



The Breakup Lists, by Adib Khorram. Dial Books (2025). A Deaf, love-averse, teen stage manager finds himself falling for the school swim captain, despite believing the boy is straight. 👉 💰 —HAs



Someone to Daydream About, by Sydney Langford ♥. Farrar, Straus, & Giroux (2026). A Deaf teen reluctantly takes a job teaching ASL to a spoiled boy band heartthrob ... but begins to catch feelings for him. 👉



Stops Along the Way, by Anna Sortino ♥. Putnam (2026). A deaf teen who may lose her vision falls in love with her board game rival while on a road trip. 💰 —HAs



Dust, by Alison Stine ♥. Wednesday Books (2024). After their family moves to a farm where nothing will grow, Thea escapes her father's religious fanaticism to get to know a boy who is hard-of-hearing like her. 👉

Adult Fiction



Hits Different, by Tasha Ghouri ♥ & Lizzie Huxley-Jones. Hot Key Books (2024). Cassie, a Deaf dancer, learns to choose herself as she breaks free from a toxic relationship and finds love while chasing her dream. 👉 💰 —CI



Only When It's Us, by Chloe Liese. Berkley (2023). When forced to work together, enemies Willa and Ryder (late deafened), trade pranks and accidentally catch feelings for each other. 👉 💰 —CI



Secrets Don't Stay Buried, by J. D. Mills ♥. Mills Media (2025). Lennon and her friends attempt to solve the murder of Lennon's roommate at a university for Deaf students. Sapphic love interest. 👉 💰 —HAs



Hear My Heart, by Tay Mo'Nae. Independently published (2025). While preparing for her wedding to her toxic fiancée, Nakyra (Deaf) is swept off her feet by another man. 👉 💰 —HAs



Celestial Bodies (2 books), by R.A. Moreau. Pleasure & Power Publishing (2023, 2026). An assassin princess and a (late deafened) demon prince she's tasked to kill fight their growing feelings for one another. 👉 —fictional



A Sign of Affection (12-book manga series), by Suu Morishita. Kodansha Comics (2021-2025). A Deaf college student falls for a hearing man she meets on the train. 👉 —JSL 💰 —HA



My Rogue to Ruin, by Erica Ridley. Forever (2023). An intrepid hard-of-hearing detective seeks to take down a roguish scoundrel before she falls in love in with him. Regency detective romance. Synesthesia rep.



Love in the Palm of His Hand (4-book manga series), by Rinteku. Square Enix Manga (2025-2027). Two young men, one Deaf and one hearing, fall in love through sign language and acting. 🖐️ —JSL 💰 —HAS



The Witch Collector (4-book series), by Charissa Weaks. Charissa Weaks (2021-2027). An assassin set on vengeance against her sister's captor is forced to work with him instead. MC is hearing and signs. 🖐️ —SEE



Fourth Wing (4+ books), by Rebecca Yarros. Entangled (2023-2026+). A scribe enrolls in a war college for dragon riders and questions everything she's ever known. Scribe friend (Jesinia) is nonspeaking and signs. 🖐️ —fictional

Adult Nonfiction/Memoir



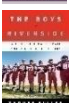
The Quiet Ear, by Raymond Antrobus ❤️. Hogarth (2025). A memoir exploring the author's upbringing and life as a poet at the intersections of deafness and race. 🖐️ —BSL 💰 —HAS



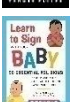
How to Communicate, by John Lee Clark ❤️. W.W. Norton (2022). A DeafBlind poet explores his life through the lenses of Braille, ASL, and Protactile, a language built on touch. 🖐️ —ASL, Protactile



That Deaf Kid, by Mark Drolsbaugh ❤️. Handwave Publications (2022). A parent's guide to raising d/Deaf and HoH kids, including mainstreaming, Deaf schools, hearing devices, sign language, etc. 🖐️ 💰 —various



The Boys of Riverside: A Deaf Football Team and a Quest for Glory, by Thomas Fuller. Doubleday (2024). A journalist tells the story of the historic winning seasons of 2021 & 2022 for CSD Riverside's football team. 🖐️



Learn to Sign with Your Baby: 50 Essential Signs to Help Your Child Communicate Their Needs, Wants, & Feelings, by Cecelia S. Grugan ❤️ (illus: Brittany Castle ❤️). Zeitgeist (2022). A guide to teach your baby ASL. 🖐️



Learn Black American Sign Language, by Franklin R. Jones, Jr. ❤️. Wellfleet Press (2026). Tells the history and current use of Black American Sign Language (BASL), as well as teaching over 200 BASL signs. 🖐️ —BASL



Radio Head Gal, by Rebecca Knill ❤️. JMT Press (2024). The memoir of a Deaf TED speaker, telling the story of her life before and after receiving CIs, her relationships with hearing family, etc. 🖐️ 💰 —CIs



Articulate: A Deaf Memoir of Voice, by Rachel Kolb ❤️. Ecco (2025). A memoir exploring the author's journey finding her voice through ASL, the written word, a CI, and speech therapy. 🖐️ 💰 —CI



Demystifying Disability, by Emily Ladau ❤️. Ten Speed Press (2021). An approachable guide to disability, how to talk about it, and how to be a better ally.



Mother Tongue, by Sara Novic ❤️. Random House (2026). A memoir of the author's journey out of the hearing world and into Deaf community; of self-acceptance, connection, and motherhood. 🖐️ 💰 —HAS, CIs



Becoming Hearing Empowered, by Katherine S. Rybak ❤️. Shine Press (2024). A guided journal for Deaf* adults to learn about their hearing loss, process the emotional aspects, and troubleshoot various situations. 💰 —HAS



Against Technoableism, by Ashley Shew ❤️. W.W. Norton & Co. (2023). A witty treatise in favor of making society more inclusive, and arguing against the ableist belief that technology can "fix" disability.