

# THE VOICE OF THE DEAD

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“We all know that something is eternal – and it ain’t houses, and it ain’t names, and it ain’t the Earth, and it ain’t even the stars, but everybody knows in their bones that something is eternal. And that something has to do with human beings. All the greatest people that ever lived have been telling us that for 5,000 years, yet you’d be surprised how people are always letting go of that fact. There’s something way down deep that’s eternal about every human being.” – Stage Manager, *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder (1938)

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## DEAD NARRATOR

*The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold (2002)\*

*Remember Me* by Christopher Pike (1989)

*Restless* by Rich Wallace (2003)

*A Certain Slant of Light* by Laura Whitcomb (2005)

*Elsewhere* by Gabrielle Zevin (2005)

*Everlost* by Neal Shusterman (2006)

*Heaven Looks a lot like the Mall* by Wendy Mass (2007)

*You Had Me at Halo* by Amanda Ashby (2007)\*

*Ghostgirl* by Tonya Hurley (2008)

*The Everafter* by Amy Huntley (2009)

*My Name is Memory* by Ann Brashares (2010)\*

*Before I Fall* by Lauren Oliver (2010)

*Don’t Fear the Reaper* by Michelle Muto (2011)

*My Beating Teenage Heart* by C.K. Kelly Martin (2011)

*Between* by Jessica Warman (2011)

*The Catastrophic History of You and Me* by Jess Rothenberg (2012)

“These were the lovely bones that had grown around my absence: the connections – sometimes tenuous, sometimes made at great cost, but often magnificent – that happened after I was gone. And I began to see things in a way that let me hold the world without me in it.

The events that my death wrought were merely the bones of a body that would become whole at some unpredictable time in the future. The price of what I came to see as this miraculous body had been my life.”

(Alice Sebold,

*The Lovely Bones*)

## DEAD SUPPORTING ROLE

*13 Reasons Why* by Jay Asher (2007)

*I Heart You, You Haunt Me* by Lisa Schroeder (2008)

*Her Fearful Symmetry* by Audrey Niffenegger (2009)\*

*Wintergirls* by Laurie Anderson Halse (2009)

*The Lying Game* by Sara Shepard (2010)

*Amelia Anne is Dead and Gone* by Kat Rosenfield (2012)

## DYING NARRATOR

*Before I Die* by Jenny Downham (2007)

*If I Stay* by Gayle Forman (2009)

*The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green (2012)

*By the Time You Read This, I'll be Dead* by Julie Anne Peters (2012)

## DEADLY START

*My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult (2004)\*

*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak (2006)

*Drowning Instinct* by Ilsa Bick (2012)

\*These books are not consistently classified as Young Adult fiction, but revolve around young narrators and are good for older/mature readers.

“Even on earth, it’s difficult to ever go back to the same places or people. You turn away, even for a moment, and when you turn back around, everything’s changed.”

(Gabrielle Zevin, *Elsewhere*)

“Those other moments that I’ve been re-returning to seem to fade a bit every time I go to them. It’s kind of like reading the same book over and over. You keep trying to capture what you felt when you first read it, but the feelings just aren’t ever as ... magical.”

(Amy Huntley, *The Everafter*)

“What if people knew they were recycled? Would that change anything?”

(Ann Brashares, *My Name is Memory*)

“Maybe you can afford to wait. Maybe for you there’s a tomorrow. Maybe for you there’s one thousand tomorrows, or three thousand, or ten, so much time you can bathe in it, roll around in it, let it slide like coins through your fingers. So much time you can waste it. But for some of us there’s only today. And the truth is, you never really know.”

(Lauren Oliver, *Before I Fall*)

“Teenagers, as everyone knows, tend to believe they are immortal.”

(Jessica Warman, *Between*)

“You can obsess and obsess over how things ended – what you did wrong or could have done differently – but there’s not much of a point. It’s not like it’ll change anything. So really, why worry?”

(Jess Rothenberg, *The Catastrophic History of You and Me*)