



Simon & Schuster

First-Year and Common Reading Catalog

2025–2026



Simon & Schuster



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We are delighted to present the 2025–2026 First-Year and Common Reading catalog from Simon & Schuster.

Simon & Schuster publishes a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction titles that align with the core purpose of college and university programs across the country—to support students in transition, promote engaging conversations, explore diverse perspectives, and foster community during the college experience.

Visit FirstYearReading.com for additional titles, author videos, and more information. To request a review copy or for information on bringing an author to your campus, please email us at Common.Reading@SimonandSchuster.com.

For a roster of authors represented by the Simon & Schuster Speakers Bureau, visit SimonSpeakers.com or contact them at (866) 248-3049 or Info@SimonSpeakers.com.

Best,

Andrea Gochnauer
Senior Academic Marketing Manager

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Audiobook
Available

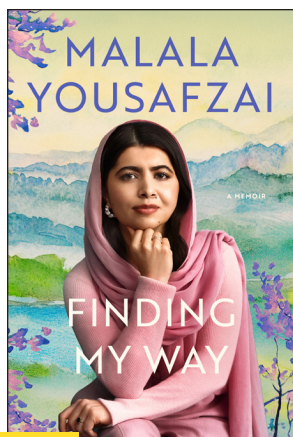
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ACADEMIC

Simon & Schuster First Year Reading

FEATURED TITLES



New Title

MEMOIR AND BIOGRAPHY

Finding My Way

A Memoir

Malala Yousafzai

9781668054277 | Hardcover | 320 pages | \$30.00 | Atria Books



Read by the author

When Malala Yousafzai was thrust onto the public stage, she was just fifteen years old. Forced to leave her home in Pakistan after the Taliban's brutal attack on her life, she became an international icon—a young woman who embodied resilience, activism, and hope. But underneath that outward-facing persona was a survivor grappling with how to move forward after having her life categorically and inalterably changed, set on a path that she never would have before predicted.

Touching on the raw reality of her survival, *Finding My Way* is a story of friendship and first love, of mental illness and self discovery, of trying to stay true to yourself when the world insists on telling you who you are. In it, Malala traces her path from high school loner to reckless college student to a young woman finally at peace with herself. Along the way, she offers surprising and profound meditations on her struggles with anxiety and PTSD, and the tightrope she walked to balance the weight of her public role with the private need to heal and rediscover herself.

Told with humor, fierce vulnerability, and piercing candidness, Malala reintroduces herself to the world, sharing how she navigated life as someone whose survival seemed to define her narrative—while seeking the freedom to find out who she truly is.

Themes: Coming of Age, Belonging, Connection, Activism, Mental Health

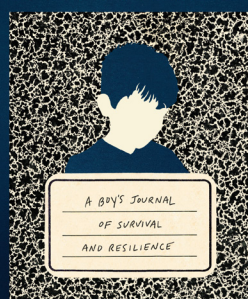


Author Photo © Rinaldo Sata

Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest-ever Nobel Prize laureate. She is known mainly for human rights advocacy for education and for women in her native Swat Valley in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of northwest Pakistan, where the local Taliban had at times banned girls from attending school. Yousafzai's advocacy has since grown into an international movement.

MEMOIR AND BIOGRAPHY

DETAINED



D. ESPERANZA
and Gerardo Iván Morales

New Title

Detained

A Boy's Journal of Survival and Resilience

D. Esperanza and Gerardo Iván Morales

9781668033777 | Hardcover | 256 pages | \$28.00 | Primero Sueno Press 

D Esperanza was just thirteen years old when he lost his caregivers, his beloved grandmother and uncle. Since both of his parents were working and living in the United States, D was left on his own in a small town in Honduras. He quickly realized he simply could not make enough money to survive so he made the difficult decision to head north with his cousins and hopefully reunite with his parents in el norte.

Together, the boys struggled to survive a long and treacherous journey through Central America and Mexico. Along the way, D and his cousins formed a deep bond, only for the four to be brutally separated at the border of the United States. When he is captured and processed at a facility, neither D nor his family are given an update on when he will be released or where he'll go next. Over the next five months, he kept a journal of his experience. The pages tell a story of pain, cruelty, friendship, and resilience, a living testament to the reality of the border. Amidst the senseless inhumanity and violence of US immigration policy, D found hope in the friendship he and his fellow companions forged, and mentorship from one intrepid advocate who fought on his behalf named Gerardo Iván Morales.

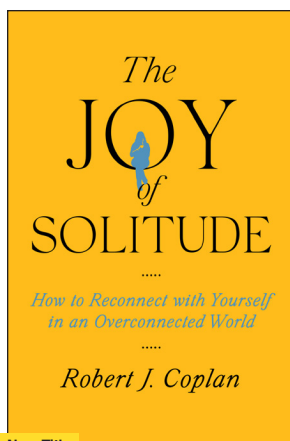
Timely, powerful, and unforgettable, *Detained* brings the border crisis to vivid life.

"A shocking and moving read. A brutally honest account of the impact of family separation at the US border." —Kirkus Reviews

Themes: Immigration, Resilience

D Esperanza was born in Honduras. When he was a baby, his parents migrated to the United States so they could provide him with a better life. At the age of thirteen, he and three cousins began traveling north to seek asylum in the United States. When they arrived at the border in 2018, at the height of the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" policy, he was separated from his cousins and sent to a child detention center in Tornillo, Texas. After five months of excruciating uncertainty, he was released and reunited with his father. He is now the proud father of a baby boy.

Gerardo Iván Morales was born in Irapuato, Guanajuato, Mexico, and immigrated to the United States of America in 2000 when he was five. He is passionate about advocating for human rights and immigration. In 2018, Iván dedicated six months inside an American child detention center providing aid and support to detained asylum seeking children. On his first day, he met D Esperanza and the two forged a bond like brothers that lasts to this day.



New Title

HEALTH AND MENTAL WELLNESS

The Joy of Solitude*How to Reconnect with Yourself in an Overconnected World***Robert J. Coplan**9781668053423 | Hardcover | 272 pages | \$27.00 | Simon & Schuster 

Solitude is part of the human experience. But just like other relationships, your relationship with solitude can be satisfying, intimate, and enhance your well-being, or it can leave you wanting, stuck in a cycle of sadness, anxiety, or anger. Regardless of whether you're starved for "me time" or struggling with loneliness, most of us have never thought carefully about how to get the most out of the time we spend by ourselves. As a result, we're missing out on what could be a deeply enriching aspect of our lives. But how can we unlock the positive power of solitude?

In *The Joy of Solitude*, Robert Coplan draws from diverse fields including psychology, neuroscience, literature, and sociology to guide readers through solitude's many dimensions and its profound effects on mental health and well-being. In this enlightening book, you will discover:

- The many different types of solitude, ranging from enjoyable to challenging, each influencing personal experiences in unique ways.
- Why choosing to spend even fifteen minutes alone each day can help stabilize your mood, recharge your battery, and spark creativity.
- What alone time looks like in a world where social connection is always a click away.
- Groundbreaking scientific insights into the effects of both loneliness and "aloneliness."
- The surprising ways that time alone can enhance relationships with others.
- Practical strategies for harmonizing moments of social engagement and solitude, crucial for achieving optimal life satisfaction.

The Joy of Solitude is a vital resource for those who wish to understand the complexities of solitude and its potential to enhance mental health, creativity, and self-discovery.

Themes: Mental Health, Creativity, Personal Growth



Author Photo © Elenora Luberto

Robert J. Coplan, PhD, is a psychologist, researcher, teacher, and author who has been studying solitude for more than thirty years. He is a chancellor's professor in the Department of Psychology at Carleton University. Over the course of his career, he has extensively explored the costs and benefits of spending time alone among children, adolescents, and adults.

MEMOIR AND BIOGRAPHY

NOTHING MORE
OF THIS LANDCommunity Power and
the Search for
Indigenous Identity

JOSEPH LEE

New Title

Nothing More of This Land

Community, Power, and the Search for Indigenous Identity

Joseph Lee

9781668087251 | Hardcover | 256 pages | \$28.99 | One Signal Publishers 

Before Martha's Vineyard became one of the most iconic vacation destinations in the country, it was home to the Wampanoag people. Today, as tourists flock to the idyllic beaches, the island has become increasingly unaffordable for tribal members, with nearly three-quarters now living off-island. Growing up Aquinnah Wampanoag, journalist Joseph Lee grappled with what this situation meant for his tribe, how the community can continue to grow, and more broadly, what it means to be Indigenous.

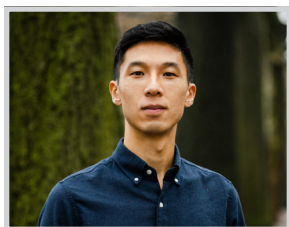
In *Nothing More of This Land*, Lee weaves his own story and that of his family into a panoramic narrative of Indigenous life around the world. He takes us from the beaches of Martha's Vineyard to the icy Alaskan tundra, the smoky forests of Northern California to the halls of the United Nations, and beyond. Along the way he meets activists fighting to protect their land, families clashing with their own tribal leaders, and communities working to reclaim tradition.

Nothing More of This Land is a sweeping, personal exploration of Indigenous identity and the challenges facing Indigenous people around the world.

"Nothing More of This Land is a stark, beautifully rendered reminder of all that had to occur for the happening of our existences to take place, and all who lived and fought against their own erasure to maintain a semblance of a legacy. This is a profound, and moving book, a powerful indictment of the colonial mindset that firmly balances an ode to people, to place, to remaining." —Hanif Abdurraqib, author of *There's Always This Year*

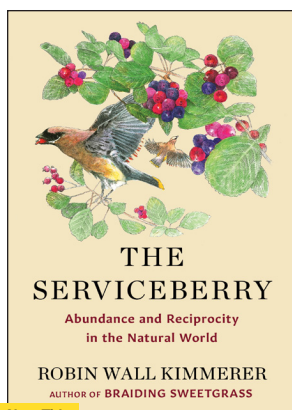
"A forcefully illuminating and utterly compelling blend of personal narrative and vivid reportage, Joseph Lee's *Nothing More of This Land* is a triumph of complexity and insight. We follow Lee from the red clay cliffs of Aquinnah to the halls of the UN, from the Klamath River basin to a feast of muktuk and tundra greens in Bethel, Alaska; and very early on I realized I'd follow him anywhere. Lee has given us a timely reckoning with Native sovereignty and community that is adroitly committed to the mess and nuance of lived experience, rather than sentimentalized accounts of victimhood or resilience. *Nothing More of This Land* is tender, ferocious, surprising, and tenaciously thoughtful; its existence makes the world a bigger and truer place." —Leslie Jamison, bestselling author of *The Empathy Exams*

Themes: Indigenous Voices, History, Identity, Community, Connection, Diversity, Belonging



Author Photo © Aslan Chalom

Joseph Lee is an Aquinnah Wampanoag writer based in New York City. He has an MFA from Columbia University and teaches creative writing at Mercy University. His writing has been published in *The Guardian*, *BuzzFeed News*, *Vox*, *Electric Literature*, *High Country News*, and more. He was a Margins Fellow at the Asian American Writers Workshop and a Senior Indigenous Affairs Fellow at Grist. He has won multiple awards from the Indigenous Journalists Association for environmental coverage, health coverage, and beat reporting and this book was awarded a 2024 Silvers Grant for Work in Progress.



NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Serviceberry*Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World***Robin Wall Kimmerer**

9781668072240 | Hardcover | 128 pages | \$20.00 | Scribner



Read by the author

As Indigenous scientist and author of *Braiding Sweetgrass* Robin Wall Kimmerer harvests serviceberries alongside the birds, she considers the ethic of reciprocity that lies at the heart of the gift economy. How, she asks, can we learn from Indigenous wisdom and the plant world to reimagine what we value most? Our economy is rooted in scarcity, competition, and the hoarding of resources, and we have surrendered our values to a system that actively harms what we love. Meanwhile, the serviceberry's relationship with the natural world is an embodiment of reciprocity, interconnectedness, and gratitude. The tree distributes its wealth—its abundance of sweet, juicy berries—to meet the needs of its natural community. And this distribution ensures its own survival. As Kimmerer explains, “Serviceberries show us another model, one based upon reciprocity, where wealth comes from the quality of your relationships, not from the illusion of self-sufficiency.”

The Serviceberry is an antidote to the broken relationships and misguided goals of our times, and a reminder that “hoarding won’t save us, all flourishing is mutual.”

“Kimmerer, drawing from her Potawatomi heritage, uses the abundant serviceberry to demonstrate the gifts that the natural world provides. This portrait is startling in its simplicity, resulting in a masterful reflection on ecology and culture. The book seamlessly blends science, inherited wisdom, and philosophy...[Kimmerer’s] beautiful and hopeful prose leaves readers feeling sated, galvanized, and keenly aware of the world around them. A welcome meditation on living in harmony with the earth and fostering deeper connections with one another.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“A story of decisions; right, wrong, and everything in between, with characters so perfectly rendered that you’ll want to hug them or give them a shake. An immersive and exciting debut.” —Amanda Peters, author of *The Berry Pickers*

“*The Serviceberry* is a gem of a book. it invites us to think again about economics, and imagine another way of relating to one another based on generosity, kindness, interconnectedness, and restraint. The book reminds us that how we think, and the stories we tell, shape how we live—and it’s high time we thought and lived differently, with new stories, about our place in nature.” —James Rebanks

SELECTED BY University of Alabama Honors College

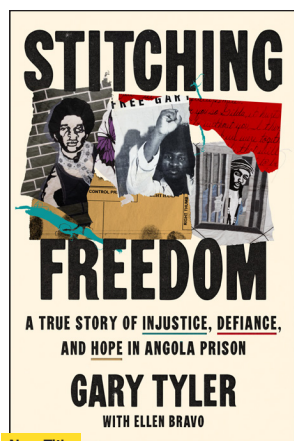
Themes: Indigenous Studies, Nature, Community



Robin Wall Kimmerer is a mother, scientist, professor, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She is the author of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Braiding Sweetgrass* as well as *Gathering Moss*. Kimmerer is a 2022 MacArthur Fellow. She lives in Syracuse, New York, where she is a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental Biology, and the founder of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment.

Author Photo © John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

TOPICS OF TODAY



New Title

Stitching Freedom*A True Story of Injustice, Defiance, and Hope in Angola Prison***Gary Tyler** with Ellen Bravo9781668097328 | Hardcover | 288 pages | \$29.00 | One Signal Publishers 

In 1975, seventeen-year-old Gary Tyler was sent to Angola prison to die. A year earlier, he had been wrongfully charged with the killing of a white teenager and found guilty by an all-white jury, making Gary the youngest prisoner on death row in the country.

Following his conviction, Amnesty International and investigative reporters documented the brutal treatment, fabricated evidence, recanted testimony, and repeated injustices that led to his sentencing. Three times Gary was recommended for a pardon; three times Louisiana governors refused to accept the political risk. After more than four decades in prison, Tyler was released in 2016—but he was never exonerated.

This is not a story of mistaken identity or circumstantial evidence, but one of systemic injustice from an institution hard-wired into a legacy of slavery—in effect, this was a legal lynching. It is precisely this harsh reality that makes this memoir a remarkable celebration of life and justice, a story of pride, forgiveness, community, and triumph. With insight and heart, Gary shows how he learned to reject bitterness and survive with the help and mentorship from activists such as Albert Woodfox and Herman Wallace on the inside, and the relentless support from people on the outside. *Stitching Freedom* is the page-turning chance for Gary to reclaim his power and exonerate himself at last.

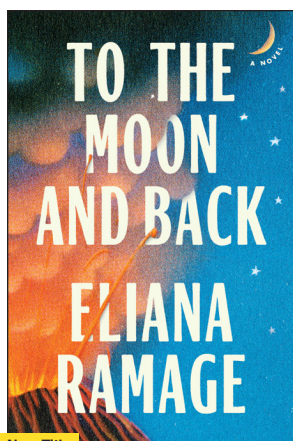
“Some people do become extraordinary beings, but we are rarely witness to this alchemy. In *Stitching Freedom*, Gary Tyler has offered us a record of such an evolution of consciousness. Having suffered monstrous cruelty, he has emerged as an astute and resilient person of deep empathy and creativity. His story is devastating but ultimately triumphant. And we are so fortunate that he has chosen to share it with us.” —Carol Becker, Dean Emerita of the Columbia School of Arts

Themes: Social Justice, African American Voices and Stories, Community



Author Photo © Dorian Hill

Gary Tyler is an artist and a spokesperson for justice. During his years in prison, Tyler galvanized a movement that grew to have national and international support, one of the precursors to today's abolition and Black Lives Matter movements. He was recently awarded the 2024 Frieze LA Impact Prize, which recognizes artists who use their talents and abilities to address social justice issues.



New Title

FICTION

To the Moon and Back

A Novel

Eliana Ramage

9781668065853 | Hardcover | 448 pages | \$30.00 | Avid Reader Press 

Steph Harper is on the run. When she was six, her mother, Hannah, fled an abusive husband—with Steph and her younger sister, Kayla, in tow—to Cherokee Nation, where she hoped they might finally belong. In response, Steph sets her sights as far away from Oklahoma as she can get, vowing that she will let nothing get in the way of pursuing the rigorous physical and academic training she knows she will need to be accepted by NASA, and ultimately, to go to the moon.

Spanning three decades and several continents, *To the Moon and Back* encompasses Steph's turbulent journey, along with the multifaceted and intertwined lives of the three women closest to her: her sister Kayla, an artist who goes on to become an Indigenous social media influencer, and whose determination to appear good takes her life to unexpected places; Steph's college girlfriend Della Owens, who strives to reclaim her identity as an adult after being removed from her Cherokee family through a challenge to the Indian Child Welfare Act; and Hannah, Steph and Kayla's mother, who has held up her family's tribal history as a beacon of inspiration to her children, all the while keeping her own past a secret.

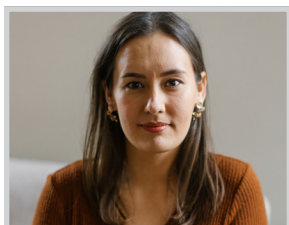
"Eliana Ramage's *To the Moon and Back* is a captivating debut about family, queer identity, love, career, and heritage. This novel has something for everyone." —De'Shawn Charles Winslow, author of *Decent People*

"A story of decisions; right, wrong, and everything in between, with characters so perfectly rendered that you'll want to hug them or give them a shake. An immersive and exciting debut." —Amanda Peters, author of *The Berry Pickers*

"Ramage will break your heart and take you to the stars. From painfully accurate depictions of adolescence to effortless jumps through time and space—I loved it all." —Kiley Reid, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Such a Fun Age*

[Reading Group Guide Available](#)

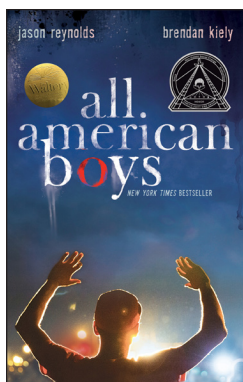
Themes: Coming of Age, Identity, Belonging, Indigenous Voices, Ambition



Author Photo © Leah Margulies

Eliana Ramage holds an MFA in fiction from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. She has received residencies and fellowships from the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center, Lambda Literary, Tin House, and Vermont Studio Center. A citizen of the Cherokee Nation, she lives in Nashville with her family.

FICTION



All American Boys

Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely

9781481463348 | Trade Paper | 336 pages | \$12.99 | Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books 

A bag of chips. That's all sixteen-year-old Rashad is looking for at the corner bodega. What he finds instead is a fist-happy cop, Paul Galluzzo, who mistakes Rashad for a shoplifter, mistakes Rashad's resistance to leave the bodega as resisting arrest, mistakes Rashad's every flinch at every punch the cop throws as further resistance.

There were witnesses: Quinn—a varsity basketball player and Rashad's classmate who has been raised by Paul since his own father died in Afghanistan—and a video camera. Soon the beating is all over the news and Paul is getting threatened with accusations of prejudice and racial brutality. Quinn refuses to believe that the man who has basically been his savior could possibly be guilty. But then Rashad is absent. And absent again. And the basketball team starts to take sides. As does the school. And the town. Simmering tensions threaten to explode as Rashad and Quinn are forced to face decisions and consequences they had never considered before.

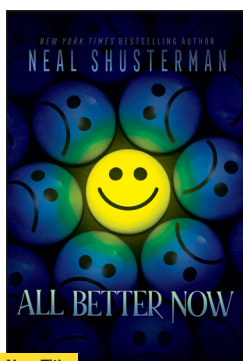
Written in tandem by two award-winning authors, this tour de force shares the alternating perspectives of Rashad and Quinn as the complications from that single violent moment, the type taken directly from today's headlines, unfold and reverberate to highlight an unwelcome truth.

“Diverse perspectives are presented in a manner that feels organic to the narrative, further emphasizing the tension created when privilege and racism cannot be ignored. Timely and powerful, this novel promises to have an impact long after the pages stop turning.” —School Library Journal (starred review)

ALA Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book | *New York Times* Bestseller
Walter Dean Myers Award for Outstanding Children's Literature Recipient
Reading Group Guide Available

SELECTED BY Millersville University, Holy Names University

Themes: Social Justice, Racism, Diversity, Understanding Others, Sports, Reluctant Reader



New Title

All Better Now

Neal Shusterman

9781534432758 | Hardcover | 528 pages | \$21.99 | Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

 Read by the author and Greg Tremblay

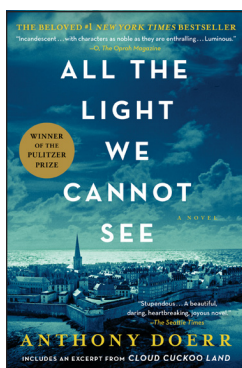
A deadly and unprecedented virus is spreading. But those who survive it experience long-term effects no one has ever seen before: utter contentment. Soon after infection, people find the stress, depression, greed, and other negative feelings that used to weigh them down are gone.

More and more people begin to revel in the mass unburdening. But not everyone. People in power—who depend on malcontents and prey on the insecure to sell their products, and convince others they need more, new, faster, better everything—know this new state of being is bad for business. Surely, without anger or jealousy as motivators, productivity will grind to a halt and the world will be thrown into chaos. Campaigns start up to convince people that being eternally happy is dangerous. The race to find a vaccine begins. Meanwhile, a growing movement of Recoverees plan ways to spread the virus as fast as they can, in the name of saving the world.

It's nearly impossible to determine the truth when everyone with a platform is pushing their agenda. Three teens from very different backgrounds who've had their lives upended in very different ways find themselves at the center of a power play that could change humanity forever.

New York Times Bestseller
Reading Group Guide Available

Themes: Action, Dystopian, Happiness



All the Light We Cannot See

A Novel

Anthony Doerr

9781501173219 | Trade Paper | 560 pages | \$18.99 | Scribner 

Marie-Laure lives with her father in Paris near the Museum of Natural History where he works as the master of its thousands of locks. When she is six, Marie-Laure goes blind and her father builds a perfect miniature of their neighborhood so she can memorize it by touch and navigate her way home. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris, and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel.

In a mining town in Germany, the orphan Werner grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments, a talent that wins him a place at a brutal academy for Hitler Youth, then a special assignment to track the Resistance. More and more aware of the human cost of his intelligence, Werner travels through the heart of the war and, finally, into Saint-Malo, where his story and Marie-Laure's converge.

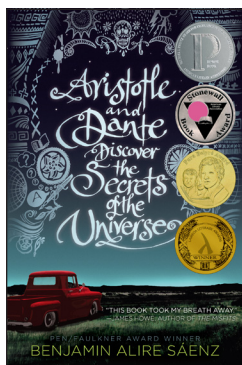
Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another.

"Gorgeous...moves with the pace of a thriller...Doerr imagines the unseen grace, the unseen light that, occasionally, surprisingly, breaks to the surface even in the worst of times." —Dan Cryer, *San Francisco Chronicle*

**Pulitzer Prize for Fiction Winner | *New York Times* Bestseller | ALA Alex Award
ALA Notable Book | ALA Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction
Reading Group Guide Available | Netflix Limited Series**

**SELECTED BY The University of Idaho, Case Western Reserve University,
Carroll College, University of Dallas, Baylor University—Honors Program,
US Air Force Academy**

Themes: Coming of Age, Overcoming Life's Challenges, Historical



Other Title in this series:
9781534496200

Aristotle and Dante Dive into the Waters of the World

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe

Benjamin Alire Sáenz

9781442408937 | Trade Paper | 384 pages | \$14.99 | Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

 Read by Lin-Manuel Miranda

Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When they meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the two loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special kind of friendship—the kind of friendship that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through their friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves—and about the kind of people they want to be.

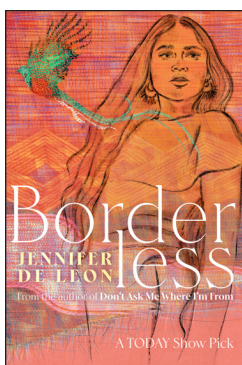
"A tender, honest exploration of identity and sexuality, and a passionate reminder that love—whether romantic or familial—should be open, free, and without shame." —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

"Sáenz has written the greater love story, for his is the story of loving one's self, of love between parents and children, and of the love that builds communities, in addition to the deepening love between two friends." —VOYA

"Benjamin Alire Sáenz is a writer with a sidwinder punch. Spare sentences connect resonant moments, and then he knocks you down with emotional truth. The story of Ari and Dante's friendship widens and twists like a river, revealing truths about how hard love is, how family supports us, and how painfully deep you have to go to uncover an authentic self." —Judy Blundell, National Book Award-winning author of *What I Saw and How I Lied*

**ALA Michael L. Printz Award Honor Book | A *Time* Best YA Book of All Time
Reading Group Guide Available | Now a Major Motion Picture
SELECTED BY Colorado Mountain College**

Themes: Coming of Age, Friendship, Latinx Representation, Reluctant Reader



Borderless

Jennifer De Leon

9781665904179 | Trade Paper | 352 pages | \$12.99 | Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books 

For seventeen-year-old Maya, trashion is her passion, and her talent for making clothing out of unusual objects landed her a scholarship to Guatemala City's most prestigious design school and a finalist spot in the school's fashion show. Mamá is her biggest supporter, taking on extra jobs to pay for what the scholarship doesn't cover, and she might be even more excited than Maya about what the fashion show could do for her future career.

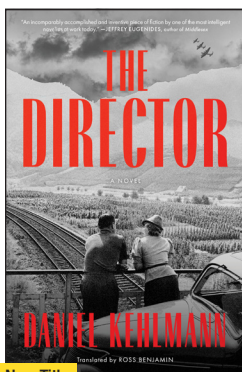
So when Mamá doesn't come to the show, Maya doesn't know what to think. But the truth is worse than she could have imagined. The gang threats in their neighborhood have walked in their front door—with a boy Maya considered a friend, or maybe even more, among them. After barely making their escape, Maya and her mom have no choice but to continue their desperate flight all the way through Guatemala and Mexico in hopes of crossing the US border.

"De Leon tackles stereotypes and thoroughly unravels reductive narratives about immigration in this excellent work. Maya has hopes and dreams of a career in fashion design... She attends a well-funded 21st-century private school, has deep generational ties to her community, and a best friend she loves like a sister... But when Maya witnesses a murder, she and her mother must flee their beloved country to save their lives, and the rest of the novel becomes a fast-paced race to the US border. This is an important work that provides readers a nuanced look at a community that is often spoken of with disparaging clichés: illegal, poor, illiterate. Seamlessly woven elements result in a poignant, coming-of-age novel."

—*School Library Journal* (starred review)

Reading Group Guide Available

Themes: Immigrant Experience, Coming of Age, Overcoming Difficulty, Latinx Representation



New Title

The Director

A Novel

Daniel Kehlmann, translated by Ross Benjamin

9781668087794 | Hardcover | 352 pages | \$28.99 | Summit Books 

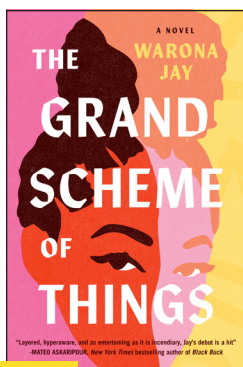
G.W. Pabst, one of cinema's greatest directors of the 20th century, was filming in France when the Nazis seized power. To escape the horrors of the new and unrecognizable Germany, he fled to Hollywood. But now, under the blinding California sun, the world-famous director suddenly looks like a nobody.

When he receives word that his elderly mother is ill, he finds himself back in his homeland of Austria. Pabst, his wife, and his young son are suddenly confronted with the barbaric nature of the regime. So, when Joseph Goebbels—the minister of propaganda in Berlin—sees the potential for using the European film icon for his directorial genius and makes big promises to Pabst and his family, Pabst must consider Goebbels's thinly veiled order. While Pabst still believes that he will be able to resist these advances, that he will not submit to any dictatorship other than art, he has already taken the first steps into a hopeless entanglement.

"Daniel Kehlmann, the finest German writer of his generation, takes on the life of the eminent film director G.W. Pabst to weave a tragicomic historical fantasia that stretches from Hollywood to Nazi Germany, from Garbo to Goebbels, to show how even a great artist can make, and be undone by, moral compromises with evil. A dazzling performance and a real page turner." —Salman Rushdie, author of *Knife*

"At times absurdist, at times horrifyingly realist, *The Director* asks where the moral duty of the artist resides, and how the narcissism of the artistic project can bleed into complicity." —Lauren Groff, author of *The Vaster Wilds*

Themes: Historical, Power



New Title

The Grand Scheme of Things

A Novel

Warona Jay

9781668062371 | Trade Paper | 288 pages | \$18.00 | Washington Square Press 

Meet Relebogile Naledi Mpho Moruakgomo. Or, for short, Eddie: an aspiring playwright who dreams of making it big in London's theater world. But after repeated rejections from white talent agents, Eddie suspects her non-white sounding name might be the problem.

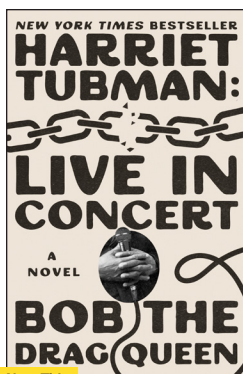
Enter Hugo Lawrence Smith: good looking, well-connected, charismatic and... very white. Stifled by his law degree and looking for a way out of the corporate world, he finds a kindred spirit in Eddie after a chance encounter at a cafe.

Together they devise a plan, one which will see Eddie's play on stage and Hugo's name in lights. They send out her script under his name and vow to keep the play's origins a secret until it reaches critical levels of success. Then they can expose the theater world for its racism and hollow clout-chasing. But as their plan spins wildly out of control, Eddie and Hugo find themselves wondering if their reputations, and their friendship, can survive.

"With a combination of wit and compassion, Jay offers a trenchant examination of systemic racism in the arts from the POVs of survivors, unwitting contributors and intentional participants, while at the same time shining a light on the drives that bind us all: the desire for love, success, and a sense of worth in our communities. Jay doesn't offer easy answers or simplistic characterizations: everyone is beautifully complicated—they keep you guessing from start to finish. What a fabulous debut novel!"

—Megan Campisi, author of *The Sin Eater*

Themes: Class, Racism, Redemption, Identity, Belonging



New Title

Harriet Tubman: Live in Concert

A Novel

Bob the Drag Queen

9781668061978 | Hardcover | 240 pages | \$27.99 | Gallery Books

 Read by the author

In an age of miracles where our greatest heroes from history have magically, unexplainably returned to shake us out of our confusion and hate, Harriet Tubman is back, and she has a lot to say.

Harriet Tubman and four of the enslaved persons she led to freedom want to tell their story in a unique way. Harriet wants to create a hip-hop album and live show about her life, and she needs a songwriter to help her.

She calls upon Darnell, a once successful hip-hop producer who was topping the charts before being outed on a BET talk show. Darnell has no idea what to expect when he steps into the studio with Harriet, only that they have a short period of time to write a legendary album she can take on the road. Over the course of their time together, they not only create music that will take the country by storm, but confront the horrors of both their pasts, and learn to find a way to a better future.

"The first novel from TV host and RuPaul's Drag Race winner Bob the Drag Queen vibes with energy and humor but never wavers in its focus on the resilience and power of Black Americans, 'made out of something stronger than steel and diamonds combined,' and the universal passion for liberation." —*Booklist* (starred review)

"Yes, it's true: that Bob the Drag Queen wrote a novel and it is about Harriet Tubman coming back to life and making a hip-hop album. You already know you're on board, as well you should be: the novel is funny and wild and sharp, about fame and race and creativity and America. Harriet's is a show not to be missed." —*LitHub*

Themes: Resilience, Black Voices, Historical, Race, Creativity



Home of the American Circus

A Novel

Allison Larkin

9781668008416 | Hardcover | 432 pages | \$29.99 | Gallery Books



Read by Julia Whelan

After an emergency leaves her short on rent, thirty-year-old Freya Arnalds bails on her lackluster life as bartender in Maine and returns to her suburban hometown of Somers, New York, to live in the house she inherited from her estranged parents. Despite attempts to lay low, Freya encounters childhood friends, familial enemies, and old flames—as well as her fifteen-year-old niece, Aubrey, who is secretly living in the derelict home. As they reconnect, Freya and Aubrey lean on each other, working to restore the house and come to terms with the devastating events that pulled them apart years ago.

Set in the birthplace of the American circus, this deeply moving novel is an exploration of broken families, the weight of the past, and the complicated journey of finding home.

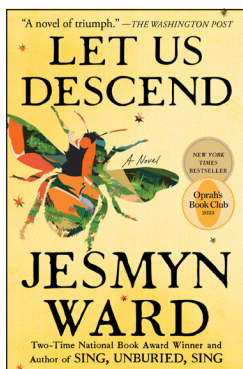
“Allison Larkin has penned another beautiful story in *Home of the American Circus*, illuminating universal truths about returning home and the impact of family. Freya feels as authentic as your own friend, and you will cheer as she works to reclaim her life in the face of loss and personal challenge.”

—Shilpi Somaya Gowda, *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Great Country*

“Told with compassion, humor, and honesty, Allison Larkin’s stunning *Home of the American Circus* is a poignant tale of estrangement, redefining family, reckoning with the past, and healing through challenging but ultimately empowering circumstances. Readers will fall in love with Larkin’s cast of vivid characters and won’t want to say goodbye at the end of the book.”

—Cassandra Dunn, author of *The Art of Adapting*

Themes: Coming of Age, Family, Bullying, Belonging



Let Us Descend

A Novel

Jesmyn Ward

9781982104504 | Trade Paper | 336 pages | \$17.99 | Scribner

Let Us Descend describes a journey from the rice fields of the Carolinas to the slave markets of New Orleans and into the fearsome heart of a Louisiana sugar plantation. A journey that is as beautifully rendered as it is heart-wrenching, the novel is “[t]he literary equivalent of an open wound from which poetry pours” (NPR).

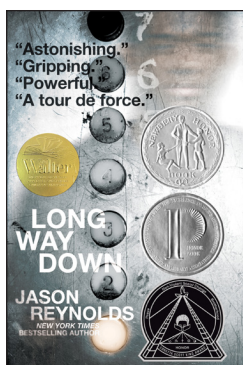
Annis, sold south by the white enslaver who fathered her, is the reader’s guide. As she struggles through the miles-long march, Annis turns inward, seeking comfort from memories of her mother and stories of her African warrior grandmother. Throughout, she opens herself to a world beyond this world, one teeming with spirits: of earth and water, of myth and history; spirits who nurture and give, and those who manipulate and take. While Annis leads readers through the descent, hers is ultimately a story of rebirth and reclamation.

“In *Let Us Descend*, Jesmyn Ward resurrects an enslaved girl out of the lost folds of the antebellum South, twists magic through every raindrop, mushroom, and stalk of sugar cane, and drops you into the middle of her harrowing, unendurable, magnificent song. This is a gripping, mythic, bone-pulverizing descent into the grim darkness of American slavery—and yet somehow this novel simultaneously leaves you in awe of the human capacity to not only endure, but to ascend back to the light. A spectacular achievement.” —Anthony Doerr, author of *Cloud Cuckoo Land* and *All The Light We Cannot See*

New York Times Bestseller | Carnegie Medal Honor Book

Reading Group Guide Available

Themes: Literary, African American Voices, Historical



Long Way Down

Jason Reynolds

9781481438261 | Trade Paper | 336 pages | \$13.99 | Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books



Read by the author

“Spanning a mere one minute and seven seconds, Reynolds’ new free-verse novel is an intense snapshot of the chain reaction caused by pulling a trigger. First, fifteen-year-old Will Holloman sets the scene by relating his brother’s, Shawn’s, murder two days prior—gunned down while buying soap for their mother. Next, he lays out *The Rules*: don’t cry, don’t snitch, always get revenge. Now that the reader is up to speed, Will tucks Shawn’s gun into his waistband and steps into an elevator, steeled to execute rule number three and shoot his brother’s killer. Yet, the simple seven-floor descent becomes a revelatory trip. At each floor, the doors open to admit someone killed by the same cycle of violence that Will’s about to enter. He’s properly freaked out, but as the seconds tick by and floors count down, each new occupant drops some knowledge and pushes Will to examine his plans for that gun. Reynolds’ concise verses echo like shots against the white space of the page, their impact resounding. He peels back the individual stories that led to this moment in the elevator and exposes a culture inured to violence because poverty, gang life, or injustice has left them with no other option. In this all too real portrait of survival, Reynolds goes toe-to-toe with where, or even if, love and choice are allowed to exist.” —*Booklist* (starred review)

National Book Award for Young People’s Literature Longlist
Newbery Honor Book | Coretta Scott King Honor Book | Printz Honor Book
Los Angeles Times Book Prize Winner for Young Adult Literature
Walter Dean Myers Award Winner | Parents’ Choice Gold Award Winner
Edgar Award Winner for Best Young Adult Fiction
Reading Group Guide Available | Graphic Novel Adaptation Available

SELECTED BY Northern Vermont University–Johnson

Themes: Family, Society, Injustice



More or Less Maddy

A Novel

Lisa Genova

9781668026106 | Trade Paper | 368 pages | \$19.00 | Scout Press



Read by Tessa Albertson

Maddy Banks is just like any other stressed-out freshman at NYU. Between schoolwork, exams, navigating life in the city, and a recent breakup, it’s normal to be feeling overwhelmed. But Maddy’s latest low is devastatingly low, and she goes on an antidepressant. She begins to feel good, dazzling in fact, and she soon spirals high into a wild and terrifying mania that culminates in a diagnosis of bipolar disorder.

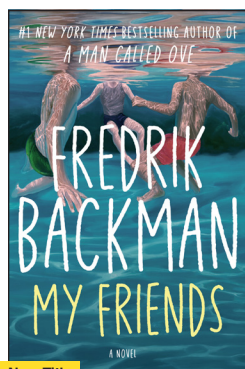
As she struggles to find her way in this new reality, navigating the complex effects bipolar has on her identity, her relationships, and her life dreams, Maddy will have to figure out how to manage being both too much and not enough.

With her signature “deep empathy and insight” (*Booklist*), Harvard-trained neuroscientist and *New York Times* bestselling author Lisa Genova has crafted an “affecting, harrowing, beautiful, and enlightening” (*Shelf Awareness*) novel that makes complicated mental health issues accessible and human.

“Genova paints a realistic and often painful picture of the toll mental illness takes on both the affected person and loved ones, making for a visceral, harrowing, and undeniably powerful read.” —*Booklist*

“Quite simply, there is no one like Lisa Genova when it comes to exploring the mysteries of a human brain in a way that allows you to feel like you’re living through the experience with the character. In her latest foray into what makes our minds tick, she dives into what it means to have bipolar disorder, by brilliantly allowing us to empathize with a young up-and-coming comedian who—like all of us—is trying to understand what makes us normal, what makes us special, and what makes life worth living.” —Jodi Picoult, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author

Themes: Mental Health, Overcoming Adversity, Coming of Age



New Title

My Friends

A Novel

Fredrik Backman

9781982112820 | Hardcover | 448 pages | \$29.99 | Atria Books

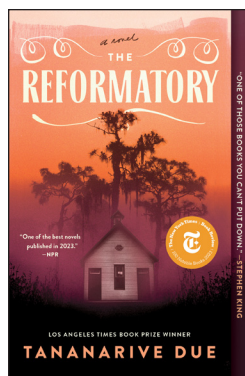
Read by Marin Ireland

Most people don't even notice them—three tiny figures sitting at the end of a long pier in the corner of one of the most famous paintings in the world. Most people think it's just a depiction of the sea. But Louisa, an aspiring artist herself, knows otherwise, and she is determined to find out the story of these three enigmatic figures.

Twenty-five years earlier, in a distant seaside town, a group of teenagers find refuge from their bruising home lives by spending long summer days on an abandoned pier, telling silly jokes, sharing secrets, and committing small acts of rebellion. These lost souls find in each other a reason to get up each morning, a reason to dream, a reason to love.

Out of that summer emerges a transcendent work of art, a painting that will unexpectedly be placed into eighteen-year-old Louisa's care. She embarks on a surprise-filled cross-country journey to learn how the painting came to be and to decide what to do with it. The closer she gets to the painting's birthplace, the more nervous she becomes about what she'll find. Louisa is proof that happy endings don't always take the form we expect in this stunning testament to the transformative, timeless power of friendship and art.

"This is Fredrik Backman at the height of his empathy and resonance... I frequently paused to marvel at the way Backman captured the rebellion of joy, the ferocity of devotion, and the cruelty of indifference. Every Backman book should come with the warning that your heart will be split in two, but also, more importantly, with the assurance that it will be repaired with restored faith in the small miracles of being human."—NPR, Favorite Fiction Reads of 2025

[Reading Group Guide Available](#)
Themes: Friendship, Coming of Age, Resilience, Class, Creativity


The Reformatory

A Novel

Tananarive Due

9781982188351 | Trade Paper | 576 pages | \$19.99 | Saga Press

Gracetown, Florida. June 1950.

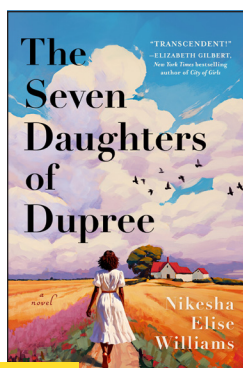
Twelve-year-old Robbie Stephens Jr. is sentenced to six months at the Gracetown School for Boys, a reformatory, for kicking the son of the largest landowner in town in defense of his older sister, Gloria. So begins Robbie's journey further into the terrors of the Jim Crow South and the very real horror of the school they call The Reformatory.

Robbie has a talent for seeing ghosts, or haints. But what was once a comfort to him after the loss of his mother has become a window to the truth of what happens at the reformatory. Boys forced to work to remediate their so-called crimes have gone missing, but the haints Robbie sees hint at worse things. Through his friends Redbone and Blue, Robbie is learning not just the rules, but how to survive. Meanwhile, Gloria is rallying every family member and connection in Florida to find a way to get Robbie out before it's too late.

The Reformatory is a work of historical fiction written as only American Book Award-winning author Tananarive Due could, by piecing together the life of the relative her family never spoke of and bringing his tragedy and those of so many others at the infamous Dozier School for Boys to the light in this riveting novel.

"A vividly realized page-turner, which is at once an ingenious ghost story, a white-knuckle adventure, and an illuminating if infuriating look back at a shameful period in American jurisprudence."—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

**ALA Notable Book | Los Angeles Times Book Prize Winner
Bram Stoker Award Winner | Shirley Jackson Award Winner**
[Reading Group Guide Available](#)
Themes: African American, Historical, Regional: The South, Supernatural



New Title

The Seven Daughters of Dupree

Nikesha Elise Williams

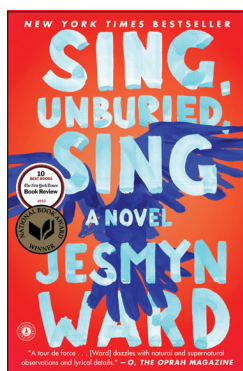
9781668051948 | Hardcover | 336 pages | \$30.00 | Scout Press 

From the two-time Emmy Award-winning producer and host of the *Black and Published* podcast comes a sweeping multi-generational epic following seven generations of Dupree women as they navigate love, loss, and the unyielding ties of family in the tradition of *Homegoing* and *The Love Songs of W.E.B. DuBois*.

It's 1995, and fourteen-year-old Tati is determined to uncover the identity of her father. But her mother, Nadia, keeps her secrets close, while her grandmother Gladys remains silent about the family's past, including why she left Land's End, Alabama, in 1953. As Tati digs deeper, she uncovers a legacy of family secrets, where every generation of Dupree women has posed more questions than answers.

From Jubi in 1917, whose attempt to pass for white ends when she gives birth to Ruby; to Ruby's fiery lust for Sampson in 1934 that leads to a baby of her own; to the night in 1980 that changed Nadia's future forever, the Dupree women carry the weight of their heritage. Bound by a mysterious malediction that means they will only give birth to daughters, the Dupree women confront a legacy of pain, resilience, and survival that began with an enslaved ancestor who risked everything for freedom.

Themes: Resilience, Black Stories, Family



Sing, Unburied, Sing

A Novel

Jesmyn Ward

9781501126079 | Trade Paper | 320 pages | \$18.00 | Scribner 

Jojo is thirteen years old and trying to understand what it means to be a man. He doesn't lack in fathers to study, chief among them his Black grandfather, Pop. But there are other men who complicate his understanding: his absent White father, Michael, who is being released from prison; his absent White grandfather, Big Joseph, who won't acknowledge his existence; and the memories of his dead uncle, Given, who died as a teenager.

His mother, Leonie, is an inconsistent presence in his and his toddler sister's lives. She is an imperfect mother in constant conflict with herself and those around her. She wants to be a better mother but can't put her children above her own needs, especially her drug use.

When the children's father is released from prison, Leonie packs her kids and a friend into her car and drives north to the heart of Mississippi and Parchman Farm, the State Penitentiary. At Parchman, there is another thirteen-year-old boy, the ghost of a dead inmate who carries all of the ugly history of the South with him in his wandering. He too has something to teach Jojo about fathers and sons, about legacies, about violence, about love.

"*Sing, Unburied, Sing* is many things: a road novel, a slender epic of three generations and the ghosts that haunt them, and a portrait of what ordinary folk in dire circumstances cleave to as well as what they—and perhaps we all—are trying to outrun." —*New York Times Book Review*

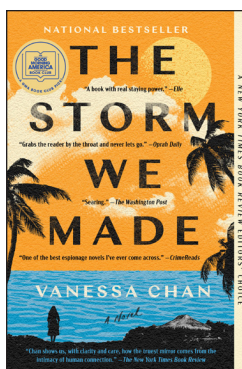
National Book Award Winner | BCALA Literary Award Honor

A *New York Times* Best Book of the 21st Century

Reading Group Guide Available

SELECTED BY Duke University, Williams College, The University of Michigan–Flint, Xavier University

Themes: Coming of Age, African American, Regional: The South



The Storm We Made

A Novel

Vanessa Chan

9781668015155 | Trade Paper | 368 pages | \$18.99 | Marysue Rucci Books

Read by Samantha Tan

Malaya, 1945. Cecily Alcantara's family is in terrible danger: her fifteen-year-old son, Abel, has disappeared, and her youngest daughter, Jasmin, is confined in a basement to prevent being pressed into service at the comfort stations. Her eldest daughter Jujube, who works at a tea house frequented by drunk Japanese soldiers, becomes angrier by the day.

Cecily knows two things: that this is all her fault; and that her family must never learn the truth.

A decade prior, Cecily had been desperate to be more than a housewife to a low-level bureaucrat in British-colonized Malaya. A chance meeting with the charismatic General Fujiwara lured her into a life of espionage, pursuing dreams of an "Asia for Asians." Ten years later as the war reaches its apex, her actions have caught up with her. Now her family is on the brink of destruction—and she will do anything to save them.

"This ambitious and sweeping debut novel explores the fallout of a Malayan woman's decision to become a spy for Japanese forces during World War II. Seduced by promises of an 'Asia for Asians,' she instead helps usher in a brutal occupation with devastating costs for her family." —The New York Times

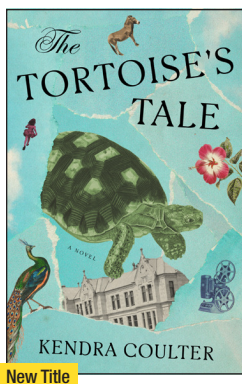
"Vanessa Chan's espionage-laden family epic, which takes place in Malaya under British and Japanese occupation, dissects the moral complexity of decisions made under duress." —Vanity Fair

"Chan shows us, with clarity and care, how the truest mirror comes from the intimacy of human connection." —NPR

Longlisted for the Center for Fiction 2024 First Novel Prize

Reading Group Guide Available

Themes: Global Perspective, Family, Community, Resilience



The Tortoise's Tale

A Novel

Kendra Coulter

9781668068625 | Hardcover | 256 pages | \$28.00 | Simon & Schuster

Snatched from her ancestral lands, a giant tortoise finds herself in an exclusive estate in southern California where she becomes an astute observer of societal change. Her journey is one of discovery, as she learns to embrace the music of jazz and the warmth of human connection.

The tortoise's story is enriched by her bond with Takeo, the estate's gardener, who sees her as a being with thoughts and feelings, not just a creature to be observed. The tortoise's mind and heart are further expanded by Lucy, a young girl who names the tortoise Magic and shares a friendship that transcends species. Together, they witness the estate's transformation into a haven for industry titans, politicians, and rock stars, each leaving their mark on the world and on Magic's heart.

The tortoise embraces her role as a muse with gusto and witnesses how diverse human harmonies and the mighty winds of social change both uplift people and tear them apart. Over the course of her lifetime, the estate changes ownership, bringing raucous Hollywood parties, and animals both familiar and unexpected. There are also threats, as the estate's idyll is not immune to the ravages of a damaged planet. Through each era, the tortoise remains a refreshingly honest and endearing narrator whose unique vantage point illuminates the transcendent power of compassion, the unexpected connections that shape how we see ourselves and each other, and the wide-reaching effects of choice—or the lack thereof.

Themes: Resilience, Hope, Nature, Connection

BIG IDEAS

**Big Bets***How Large-Scale Change Really Happens***Rajiv Shah**

9781668004388 | Hardcover | 288 pages | \$28.99 | Simon Acumen

Read by the author

Rajiv J. Shah is no stranger to pulling off the impossible, from helping vaccinate 900 million children at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to a high-pressure race against the clock to stop the spread of Ebola. His secret? A big bets philosophy—the idea that seeking to solve problems rather than make incremental improvements can attract the unlikely partners with the power and know-how to achieve transformational change. Part career sweeping memoir, part inspirational playbook, *Big Bets* offers a master class in decision-making, leadership, and changing the world one bet at a time.

Shah animates his strategic insights with vivid behind-the-scenes stories, memorable conversations with household names that helped shape his approach to creating change, and his own personal growth as an Indian-American from an immigrant family looking for a way to belong. He distills his battle-tested strategies for creating change, arguing that big bets have a surprising advantage over cautious ones: a bold vision can attract support, collaborations, and fresh ideas from key players who might otherwise be resistant. Throughout the book, Shah traces his unlikely path to the Rockefeller Foundation across a changing world and through some of the most ambitious, dramatic global efforts to create a better world.

“Raj Shah has written a practical guide to making the world a better place. He knows what he’s talking about, because he’s done it himself. Anyone who wants to make a change in the world, or their own lives, will benefit from this book.”—Bill Gates, Co-Chair Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Themes: Leadership, Inspirational, Public Policy

**Calling In***How to Start Making Change with Those You'd Rather Cancel***Loretta J. Ross**

9781982190804 | Trade Paper | 288 pages | \$19.00 | Simon & Schuster

Read by the author

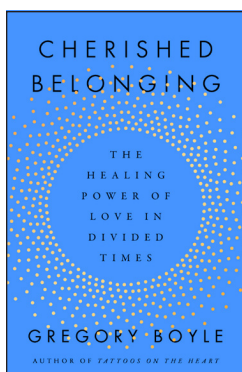
Calling In is at once a handbook, a manifesto, and a memoir—because the power of Loretta Ross’s message comes from who she is and what she’s lived through. She’s a Black woman who’s deprogrammed white supremacists, a survivor who’s taught convicted rapists the principles of feminism. With stories from her five remarkable decades in activism, she vividly illustrates why calling people in—inviting them into conversation instead of conflict by focusing on your shared values over a desire for punishment—is the more strategic choice if you want to make real change. And she shows you how to do so, whether in the workplace, on a college campus, or in your living room.

Courageous, awe-inspiring, and blisteringly authentic, *Calling In* is a practical new solution from one of our country’s most extraordinary change-makers—one anyone can learn to use to transform frustrating and divisive conflicts that stand in the way of real connection with the people in your life.

“This book is the ultimate antidote to cancel culture. It’s a master class in constructive confrontation, and Loretta Ross is the ideal teacher. Drawing on her extensive experience talking people out of hate, she offers profound insights about how to get through to others—and maintain your own dignity along the way. *Calling In* should be required reading for every student, activist, and social media user.”—Adam Grant, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Think Again*

SELECTED BY Smith College

Themes: Social Activism, Culture, Identity, Acceptance



Cherished Belonging

The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times

Gregory Boyle

9781668061855 | Hardcover | 224 pages | \$30.00 | Avid Reader Press

Read by the author

Over the past thirty years, Gregory Boyle has transformed tens of thousands of lives through his work as the founder of Homeboy Industries, the largest gang-intervention program in the world. The program runs on two unwavering principles:

- 1) We are all inherently good (no exceptions), and
- 2) we belong to each other (no exceptions).

Boyle believes that these two ideas allow all of us to cultivate a new way of seeing the world. Rather than the tribalism that excludes and punishes, this new narrative proposes a village that cherishes. Pooka, a former gang member, puts it plainly: “Here, love is our lens. It is how we see things.”

In *Cherished Belonging*, Boyle calls back to Christianity’s origins as a spiritual movement of equality, emancipation, and peace. Early Christianity was a way of life—not a set of beliefs. Boyle’s vision of community is a space for people to join together and heal one another in a new collective living, a world dedicated to kindness as a constant and radical act of defiance. As one homie, Marcus, told a classroom filled with inner-city teenagers, “If love was a place, it would be Homeboy.”

Cherished Belonging invites us to nurture the connections that are all around us and live with kindness. Boyle believes that “the answer to every question is, indeed, compassion.” Through colorful and profound stories brimming with wisdom, humor, and inspiration, we understand that love is the light inside everything.

SELECTED BY Boston College

Themes: Inspirational, Faith, Community, Compassion



New Title

When Everyone Knows That Everyone Knows...

Common Knowledge and the Mysteries of Money, Power, and Everyday Life

Steven Pinker

9781668011577 | Hardcover | 384 pages | \$30.00 | Scribner

Read by Fred Sanders

Common knowledge is necessary for coordination, for making arbitrary but complementary choices like driving on the right, and using paper currency. It’s also necessary for social coordination: everything from rendezvousing at a time and place to speaking the same language to forming enduring relationships of friendship, romance, or authority. Humans have a sixth sense for common knowledge, and we create it with signals like laughter, tears, blushing, eye contact, and blunt speech.

But people also go to great lengths to avoid common knowledge—to ensure that even if everyone knows something, they can’t know that everyone else knows they know it. And so we get rituals like benign hypocrisy, veiled bribes and threats, sexual innuendo, and pretending not to see the elephant in the room.

Pinker shows how the hidden logic of common knowledge can make sense of many of life’s enigmas: financial bubbles and crashes, revolutions that come out of nowhere, the posturing and pretense of diplomacy, the eruption of social media shaming mobs and academic cancel culture. Artists and humorists have long mined the intrigues of common knowledge, and Pinker liberally uses their novels, jokes, cartoons, films, and sitcom dialogues to illuminate social life’s tragedies and comedies.

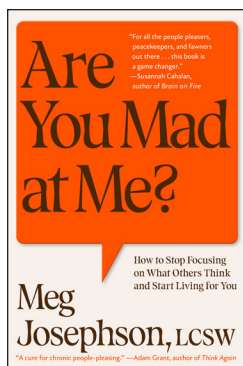
Consistently riveting in explaining the paradoxes of human behavior, *When Everyone Knows That Everyone Knows...* invites us to understand the ways we try to get into each other’s heads and the harmonies, hypocrisies, and outrages that result.

“When Everyone Knows That Everyone Knows... is one of the most insightful books I’ve read about what makes us human and how we understand each other. It changed how I think about the interactions I have, and I bet it will do the same for you.” —Bill Gates

Themes: Psychology, Human Nature

Simon & Schuster First Year Reading

HEALTH AND MENTAL WELLNESS

**Are You Mad at Me?***How to Stop Focusing on What Others Think and Start Living for You***Meg Josephson**

9781668082461 | Hardcover | 304 pages | \$30.00 | Gallery Books

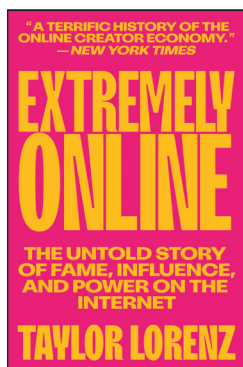
Read by the author

Psychotherapist Meg Josephson is here to show you that people-pleasing is not a personality trait. It's a common survival mechanism known as "fawning": an instinct often learned in childhood to become more appealing to a perceived threat in order to feel safe. Yet many people are stuck in this way of being for their whole lives. *Are You Mad at Me?* weaves Josephson's own moving story with that of fascinating client stories and thought-provoking exercises to show you how to:

- Identify all the roles you might play that keep you far from yourself.
- Stop fearing your thoughts and emotions, even if they're unpleasant.
- Rethink conflict and boundaries as an opening for deeper connection.
- Recognize when people-pleasing is actually necessary (with your chaotic boss) and when it's not (with your close friends) and stop self-loathing when you slip into old patterns.
- Shift away from the familiar chaos, anxiety, and resentment you're used to as you move closer to yourself and a life that no longer depletes you—but brings you joy.

With Josephson's "lucid prose and smart mix of clinical expertise, personal disclosure, and pertinent case studies" (*Publishers Weekly*), *Are You Mad at Me?* will help you shed the behaviors that are keeping you stuck in the past so that you can live in your most authentic present.

Themes: Psychology, Happiness, Personal Growth

**Extremely Online***The Untold Story of Fame, Influence, and Power on the Internet***By Taylor Lorenz**

9781982146870 | Trade Paper | 384 pages | \$19.99 | Simon & Schuster

Read by Emily Tremaine and the author

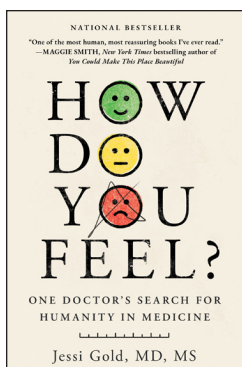
For over a decade, Taylor Lorenz has been the authority on internet culture, documenting its far-reaching effects on all corners of our lives. Her reporting is serious yet entertaining and illuminates deep truths about ourselves and the lives we create online. In her debut book, *Extremely Online*, she reveals how online influence came to upend the world, demolishing traditional barriers and creating whole new sectors of the economy. Lorenz shows this phenomenon to be one of the most disruptive changes in modern capitalism.

By tracing how the internet has changed what we want and how we go about getting it, Lorenz unearths how social platforms' power users radically altered our expectations of content, connection, purchasing, and power. Lorenz documents how moms who started blogging were among the first to monetize their personal brands online, how bored teens who began posting selfie videos reinvented fame as we know it, and how young creators on TikTok are leveraging opportunities to opt out of the traditional career pipeline. It's the real social history of the internet.

Emerging seemingly out of nowhere, these shifts in how we use the internet seem easy to dismiss as fads. However, these social and economic transformations have resulted in a digital dynamic so unappreciated and insurgent that it ultimately created new approaches to work, entertainment, fame, and ambition in the 21st century.

Extremely Online is the "terrific" (*The New York Times Book Review*) inside, untold story of what we have done to the internet, and what it has done to us.

Themes: Social Science, Popular Culture, Culture, Technology



How Do You Feel?

One Doctor's Search for Humanity in Medicine

Jessi Gold, MD, MS

9781982199784 | Trade Paper | 288 pages | \$19.00 | Simon Element

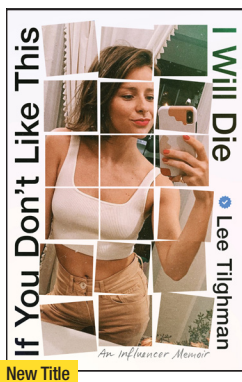
Read by Keylor Leigh

In *How Do You Feel?* Dr. Jessi Gold offers a deeply personal and poignant memoir that explores the hidden tolls of taking care of others. As an assistant professor, practicing psychiatrist, and university wellness leader, Dr. Gold was accustomed to a life of constant busyness, always putting the needs of her patients, colleagues, and loved ones before her own. But when an unthinkable error during a patient session forces her to confront her own mental health, she begins a journey of self-discovery and reevaluation of the medical system that trained her.

Expertly weaving her research expertise with unforgettable stories and raw emotions, Dr. Gold's memoir is at once deeply personal and utterly universal. *How Do You Feel?* demonstrates the unbridled capacity for connection, learning, and growth, reminding us all that in order to care for others, we must first remember to care for ourselves.

"In *How Do You Feel?* Jessi Gold, MD, opens a compassionate, intelligent portal into the lives of the healthcare workers struggling with their own mental health. Gold's deep-dive into the human psyches of those who serve others in the healthcare industry illuminates how difficult it is for the helpers among us to get help for themselves. With the perfect blend of stories from her practice, science, and personal narrative, Gold sheds light on the price healthcare workers pay for neglecting themselves and breaks through the stigma that keeps so many of them silent. This book is a salve for anyone facing burnout in any field, and Gold is the best kind of guide: warm, witty, and genuinely invested in other people's lives." —Christie Tate, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Group*

Themes: Mental Health, Compassion



If You Don't Like This, I Will Die

An Influencer Memoir

Lee Tilghman

9781668051504 | Hardcover | 240 pages | \$29.00 | Simon & Schuster

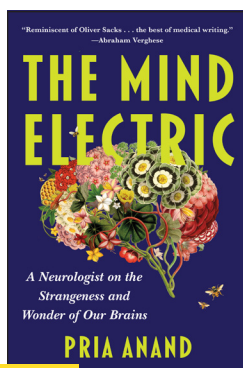
Read by the author

Lee Tilghman—also known as @LeeFromAmerica—was one of the very first wellness influencers. To her nearly 400,000 followers, she shared daily updates and advice on everything from skincare and sleep hacks to smoothie bowls, travel tips, and workout routines. On the grid, her life seemed perfect.

But behind her carefully curated posts, Tilghman was in crisis, suffocating from the unrelenting demand of keeping up her online facade. Her friendships frayed from an inability to enjoy any activity without taking hundreds of photos. She found herself viewing everything she did as potential content for Instagram. The more she shared, the more her followers craved. Her job's focus on food led her to develop a severe fixation on healthy eating. At her lowest point, she looked around her apartment to realize every item she owned had been given to her by brands in exchange for posting. After a stay in a mental health facility to address her disordered eating and psychological decline, Tilghman quit influencing as her primary career and set out to discover who she really was. *If You Don't Like This, I Will Die* is a sharp, self-aware look at life inside the influencer economy and a relatable story for anyone who has struggled with the unreasonableness of online expectations.

"Tilghman offers trenchant insights into the psychological toll of influencer culture." —Publishers Weekly

Themes: Social Media, Mental Health, Bullying



New Title

The Mind Electric

A Neurologist on the Strangeness and Wonder of Our Brains

Pria Anand

9781668064016 | Hardcover | 288 pages | \$28.99 | Washington Square Press

Read by the author

In *The Mind Electric*, neurologist Pria Anand reveals—through case study, history, fable, and memoir—all that the medical establishment has overlooked: the complexity and wonder of brains in health and in extremis, and the vast gray area between sanity and insanity, doctor and patient, and illness and wellness, each separated from the next by the thin veneer of a different story.

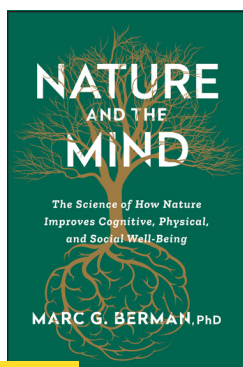
Moving from the Boston hospital where she treats her patients, to her childhood years in India, to Isla Providencia in the Caribbean and to the Republic of Guinea in West Africa, she demonstrates again and again the compelling paradox at the heart of neurology: that even the most peculiar symptoms can show us something universal about ourselves as humans.

“Neurologist Anand artfully stitches together memoir, medical history, neuroscience, and glimpses of people with neurological diseases to introduce readers to different types of wounded brains. Featured disorders include epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, fatal familial insomnia, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, cerebellar degeneration, metastatic breast cancer wrapping itself around the brain, and autoimmune encephalitis. The book excels in Anand’s ruminations on the art of clinical medicine and her insights into the physician experience. She startlingly confesses, ‘To become a doctor, I was becoming less of a human being.’ Fully charged...an undeniable grace and humanity permeate these pages that are sure to spark a response in readers.” —*Booklist* (starred review)

“*The Mind Electric* is stunning, full of wisdom, revelation, and poetry. I was continually awed by Dr. Pria Anand’s insight into the darkest shadows of the human experience. I loved every minute of this remarkable book, and I will never think of my brain and body in the same way again.”

—Susannah Cahalan, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Brain on Fire*

Themes: Medical Stories, Inequality, Health



New Title

Nature and the Mind

The Science of How Nature Improves Cognitive, Physical, and Social Well-Being

Marc G. Berman, PhD

9781668058770 | Hardcover | 336 pages | \$30.00 | Simon Element

Read by Sean Patrick Hopkins

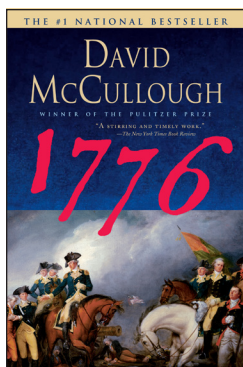
Dr. Marc Berman, the pioneering creator of the field of environmental neuroscience, has discovered the surprising connection between mind, body, and environment, with a special emphasis on the natural environment. He has devoted his life to studying it. If you sometimes feel drained, distracted, or depressed, Dr. Berman has identified the elements of a “nature prescription” that can boost your energy, sharpen your focus, change your mood, and improve your mental and physical health. He also reveals how central attention is to all of these functions, and how interactions with nature can restore it. *Nature and the Mind* is both an introduction to a revolutionary new scientific field and a helpful guide to better living.

With an engaging and approachable style, Dr. Berman offers the nature prescription for physical health, mental health, and social health. Importantly, you don’t have to pack up your house and move to the country to participate. The nature prescription includes practical ways to bring the outside indoors and to “natureize” our spaces, no matter where you live. The positive effects of nature don’t just end at the individual; contact with nature can make people more caring towards one another, promote economic and racial justice, encourage people to care more for the environment, and more.

This groundbreaking guide explains why and how nature is good for our brains and bodies and gives us a window into fundamental aspects of our psychology and physiology that can be improved through interactions with nature.

Themes: Nature, Psychology, Mental Health, Wellness

HISTORY



1776

David McCullough

9780743226721 | Trade Paper | 400 pages | \$19.99 | Simon & Schuster

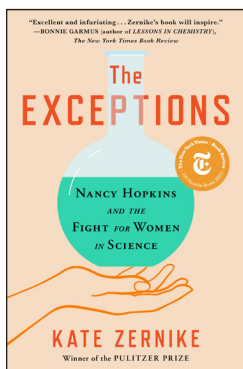


Read by the author

In this masterful book, David McCullough tells the intensely human story of those who marched with General George Washington in the year of the Declaration of Independence—when the whole American cause was riding on their success, without which all hope for independence would have been dashed and the noble ideals of the Declaration would have amounted to little more than words on paper.

Based on extensive research in both American and British archives, *1776* is a powerful drama written with extraordinary narrative vitality. It is the story of Americans in the ranks, men of every shape, size, and color; farmers, schoolteachers, shoemakers, no-accounts, and mere boys turned soldiers. And it is the story of the King's men, the British commander, William Howe, and his highly disciplined redcoats who looked on their rebel foes with contempt and fought with a valor too little known.

Written as a companion work to his celebrated biography of John Adams, David McCullough's *1776* is another landmark in the literature of American history.

[Teacher's Guide Available](#)
[Theme: US History](#)

[The Exceptions](#)

Nancy Hopkins and the Fight for Women in Science

Kate Zernike

9781982131845 | Trade Paper | 448 pages | \$21.00 | Scribner



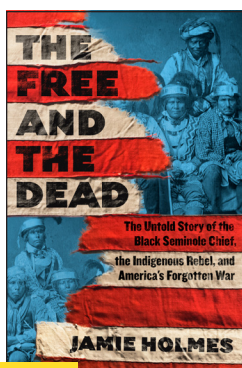
Read by Kathe Mazur

In 1999, Nancy Hopkins, a noted molecular geneticist and cancer researcher at MIT, divorced and childless, found herself underpaid and denied the credit and resources given to men of lesser rank. Galvanized by the flagrant favoritism, Hopkins led a group of sixteen women on the faculty in a campaign that prompted MIT to make the historic admission that it had long discriminated against its female scientists. The sixteen women were a formidable group: their work has advanced our understanding of everything from cancer to geology, from fossil fuels to the inner workings of the human brain. And their work to highlight what they called “21st-century discrimination”—a subtle, stubborn, often unconscious bias—set off a national reckoning with the pervasive sexism in science.

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who broke the story, *The Exceptions* chronicles groundbreaking science and a history-making fight for equal opportunity. It is the “excellent and infuriating” (*The New York Times*) story of how this group of determined, brilliant women used the power of the collective and the tools of science to inspire ongoing radical change. And it offers an intimate look at the passion that drives discovery, and a rare glimpse into the competitive, hierarchical world of elite science—and the women who dared to challenge it.

“A fascinating, heartening account of successful advocacy in the scientific and academic communities... A powerful story of sixteen women who ‘upset the usual assumptions about why there were so few women in science and math in the U.S.’” —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

[ALA Notable Book](#)
[Themes: History, Science and Technology, Women's Studies](#)



New Title

The Free and the Dead

The Untold Story of the Black Seminole Chief, the Indigenous Rebel, and America's Forgotten War

Jamie Holmes

9781668050613 | Hardcover | 384 pages | \$30.00 | One Signal Publishers 

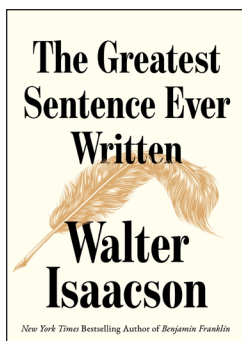
The page-turning and revelatory true story of America's disastrous 1835 attack on the Seminoles in pre-statehood Florida, and the two men—a Black American and a renowned Indigenous warrior—who fought back for their homes and freedom.

From 1817 to 1858, a series of conflicts known as the Seminole Wars took place between the United States and the tribes of Florida as they battled for the land.

Within this unconquered territory, formerly enslaved mothers and fathers and Seminole families had lived side by side for generations, building communities in the interior, beyond the reach of the growing United States. But in 1835, the young country took up arms against them, seeking to forcibly remove all Indigenous people and return their allies to slavery. In the face of this terror, tribes and bands came together across racial lines to preserve their freedom from federal interference. As the fight waged on, two men—Abraham, a free Black American, and the esteemed Creek warrior Osceola—worked together to save their lands and their people, against overwhelming odds, from America's formidable Army of the South.

A powerful and vivid exploration of an overlooked revolt and historical alliances between Afro-descendant families and Indigenous tribes, *The Free and the Dead* is a timeless work of history that sits alongside *Empire of the Summer Moon* and *The Demon of Unrest*.

Themes: American History, African American Stories



The Greatest Sentence Ever Written

Walter Isaacson

9781982181314 | Hardcover | 80 pages | \$20.00 | Simon & Schuster

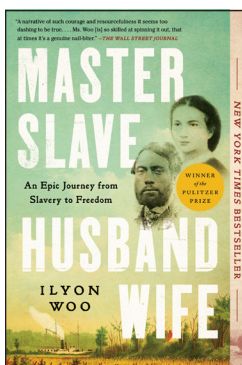
 Read by the author

To celebrate America's 250th anniversary, Walter Isaacson takes readers on a fascinating deep dive into the creation of one of history's most powerful sentences: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Drafted by Thomas Jefferson and edited by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, this line lays the foundation for the American Dream and defines the common ground we share as a nation.

Isaacson unpacks its genius, word by word, illuminating the then-radical concepts behind it. Readers will gain a fresh appreciation for how it was drafted to inspire unity, equality, and the enduring promise of America. With clarity and insight, he reveals not just the power of these words but describes how, in these polarized times, we can use them to restore an appreciation for our common values.

Themes: American History, Democracy



Master Slave Husband Wife

An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom

Ilyon Woo

9781501191060 | Trade Paper | 432 pages | \$19.99 | 37 Ink 

 Read by Janina Edwards and Leon Nixon

In 1848, a year of international democratic revolt, a young, enslaved couple, Ellen and William Craft, achieved one of the boldest feats of self-emancipation in American history. Posing as master and slave, while sustained by their love as husband and wife, they made their escape together across more than 1,000 miles, riding out in the open on steamboats, carriages, and trains that took them from bondage in Georgia to the free states of the North.

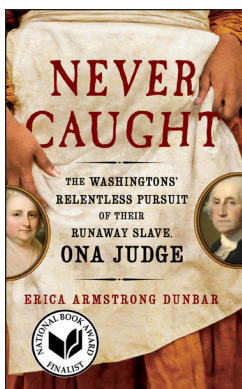
But even then, they were not out of danger. With the passage of an infamous new Fugitive Slave Act in 1850, all Americans became accountable for returning refugees like the Crafts to slavery. Then yet another adventure began, as slave hunters came up from Georgia, forcing the Crafts to flee once again—this time from the United States, their lives and thousands more on the line and the stakes never higher.

With three epic journeys compressed into one monumental bid for freedom, *Master Slave Husband Wife* is an American love story—one that would challenge the nation's core precepts of life, liberty, and justice for all—one that challenges us even now.

New York Times Bestseller | 2024 Pulitzer Prize in Biography Winner
ALA Notable Book

[Reading Group Guide Available](#)

Themes: American History, African American Stories



Never Caught

The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge

Erica Armstrong Dunbar

9781501126413 | Trade Paper | 288 pages | \$18.99 | 37 Ink

 Read by Robin Miles

When George Washington was elected president, he reluctantly left behind his beloved Mount Vernon to serve in Philadelphia, the temporary seat of the nation's capital. In setting up his household he brought along nine slaves, including Ona Judge. As the President grew accustomed to Northern ways, there was one change he couldn't abide: Pennsylvania law required enslaved people be set free after six months of residency in the state. Rather than comply, Washington decided to circumvent the law. Every six months he sent the slaves back down south just as the clock was about to expire.

Though Ona Judge lived a life of relative comfort, she was denied freedom. So, when the opportunity presented itself one clear and pleasant spring day in Philadelphia, Judge left everything she knew to escape to New England. Yet freedom would not come without its costs. At just twenty-two-years-old, Ona became the subject of an intense manhunt led by George Washington, who used his political and personal contacts to recapture his property.

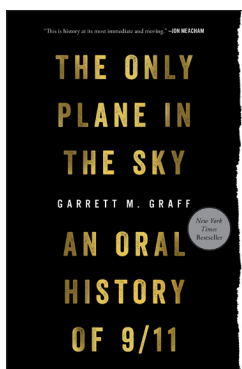
Historian and National Book Award finalist Erica Armstrong Dunbar weaves a powerful tale and offers fascinating new scholarship on how one young woman risked everything to gain freedom from the famous founding father and most powerful man in the United States at the time.

National Book Award Finalist

[Reading Group Guide Available](#) | [Young Readers Edition Available](#)

SELECTED BY: Franklin College, University of Missouri–Kansas City,
Southern Methodist University–University Honors Program, Marywood
University, Ramapo College

Themes: American History, Women's Studies, African American Stories



The Only Plane in the Sky

An Oral History of 9/11

Garrett M. Graff

9781501182211 | Trade Paper | 528 pages | \$22.00 | Avid Reader Press

 Read by a Full 45-Person Cast / With Holter Graham

In *The Only Plane in the Sky*, Garrett Graff tells the story of 9/11 as it was lived—in the words of those who lived it. Drawing on never-before-published transcripts, declassified documents, original interviews, and oral histories from nearly five hundred government officials, first responders, witnesses, survivors, friends, and family members, he paints the most vivid and human portrait of the September 11 attacks yet.

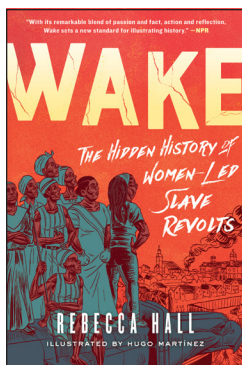
More than simply a collection of eyewitness testimonies, *The Only Plane in the Sky* is the historic narrative of how ordinary people grappled with extraordinary events in real time: the father and son caught on different ends of the impact zone; the firefighter searching for his wife who works at the World Trade Center; the operator of in-flight telephone calls who promises to share a passenger's last words with his family; the beloved FDNY chaplain who bravely performs last rites for the dying, losing his own life when the Towers collapse; and the generals at the Pentagon who break down and weep when they are barred from trying to rescue their colleagues.

At once a powerful tribute to the courage of everyday Americans and an essential addition to the literature of 9/11, *The Only Plane in the Sky* weaves together the unforgettable personal experiences of the men and women who found themselves caught at the center of an unprecedented human drama. The result is a unique, profound, and searing exploration of humanity on a day that changed the course of history, and all of our lives.

New York Times Bestseller

[Reading Group Guide](#)

Themes: Politics, Journalism



Wake

The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts

Written by Rebecca Hall; Illustrated by Hugo Martinez

9781982115197 | Trade Paper | 224 pages | \$19.99 | Simon & Schuster

Wake tells the “riveting” (Angela Y. Davis) story of Dr. Rebecca Hall, a historian, granddaughter of slaves, and a woman haunted by the legacy of slavery. The accepted history of slave revolts has always told her that enslaved women took a back seat. But Rebecca decides to look deeper, and her journey takes her through old court records, slave ship captain’s logs, crumbling correspondence, and even the forensic evidence from the bones of enslaved women from the “negro burying ground” uncovered in Manhattan. She finds women warriors everywhere.

Using a “remarkable blend of passion and fact, action and reflection” (NPR), Rebecca constructs the likely pasts of Adono and Alele, women rebels who fought for freedom during the Middle Passage, as well as the stories of women who led slave revolts in Colonial New York. We also follow Rebecca’s own story as the legacy of slavery shapes her life, both during her time as a successful attorney and later as a historian seeking the past that haunts her.

This story of a personal and national legacy is a powerful reminder that while the past is gone, we still live in its wake.

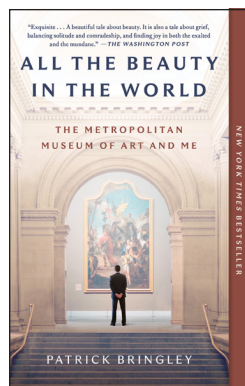
“A vividly illustrated account of Black women rebels that combines elements of memoir, archival research, and informed imaginings of its subjects’s lives...An urgent, brilliant work of historical excavation.” —Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

“Heartbreaking yet triumphant, Hall’s vivid reconstructions bore laser-like into a history long hidden. Her engaged scholarship adds back facts that have been stricken from many histories, and it empowers current lives and activism. Highly recommended for educators and for all adults and teens concerned about the United States’ promise, past, and future for its diverse peoples.” —Library Journal (starred review)

Themes: Graphic Novel, American History, Women’s Voices and Stories

Simon & Schuster First Year Reading

MEMOIR AND BIOGRAPHY

***All the Beauty in the World****The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Me***Patrick Bringley**

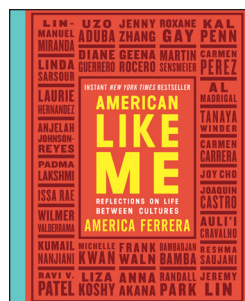
9781982163310 | Trade Paper | 240 pages | \$18.99 | Simon & Schuster

Read by the author

Millions of people climb the grand marble staircase to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art every year. But only a select few have unrestricted access to every nook and cranny. They're the guards who keep a watchful eye on the two million square foot treasure house. Caught up in his glamorous fledgling career at *The New Yorker*, Patrick Bringley never thought that he'd be one of them. Then his older brother was diagnosed with fatal cancer and he found himself needing to escape the mundane clamor of daily life. So he quit *The New Yorker* and sought solace in the most beautiful place he knew.

To his surprise and your delight, this temporary refuge becomes Bringley's home away from home for a decade. We follow him as he guards delicate treasures, strolls the labyrinths beneath the galleries, and marvels at the beautiful works in his care. As his bonds with his colleagues and the art grow, he comes to understand how fortunate he is to be walled off in this little world, and how much it resembles the best aspects of the larger world to which he gradually, gratefully returns.

"Exquisite...A beautiful tale about beauty. It is also a tale about grief, balancing solitude and comradeship, and finding joy in both the exalted and the mundane." —*The Washington Post Book World*

Themes: Art, Grief, Friendship***American Like Me****Reflections on Life Between Cultures***Edited by America Ferrera**

9781501180927 | Trade Paper | 336 pages | \$19.99 | Gallery Books

Read by the author with an ensemble cast

America Ferrera has always felt wholly American, and yet, her identity is inextricably linked to her parents' homeland and Honduran culture. Speaking Spanish at home, having Saturday-morning-salsa-dance-parties in the kitchen, and eating tamales alongside apple pie at Christmas never seemed at odds with her American identity.

Still, she yearned to see that identity reflected in the larger American narrative.

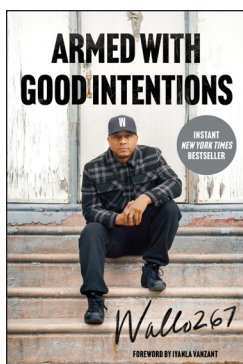
Now, in *American Like Me*, America invites thirty-one of her friends, peers, and heroes to share their stories about life between cultures. We know them as actors, comedians, athletes, politicians, artists, and writers. However, they are also immigrants, children or grandchildren of immigrants, indigenous people, or people who otherwise grew up with deep and personal connections to more than one culture. Each of them struggled to establish a sense of self, find belonging, and feel seen. And they call themselves American enthusiastically, reluctantly, or not at all.

Ranging from the heartfelt to the hilarious, their stories shine a light on a quintessentially American experience and will appeal to anyone with a complicated relationship to family, culture, and growing up.

New York Times Bestseller

SELECTED BY Chadbourne Residential College at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, University of Houston–Downtown, Texas State University at San Marcos, Polk State College, Sam Houston University, Texas State University, Georgie Gwinnett College, University of Colorado–Boulder

Themes: Coming of Age, Culture, Identity, Belonging



Armed with Good Intentions

Wallo267

9781668036266 | Trade Paper | 240 pages | \$19.00 | 13A



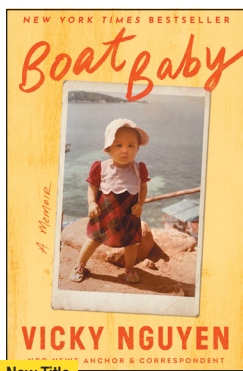
Read by the author

Named after his well-respected father who disappeared when he was two, Wallo grew up in North Philadelphia with his mom, brothers, and grandmother, feeling pressure to achieve the success and reputation his father had on the streets. He spent time in and out of juvenile detention centers, and school psychologists and counselors labeled him “criminal-minded.” His luck on the streets involving petty crimes would soon run out. After his involvement in an armed robbery, Wallo was arrested and received a prison sentence of nineteen to fifty-two years. Upon serving twenty years of his sentence, Wallo was released and returned home to Philadelphia.

This memoir traces the journey from Wallo’s youth and incarceration to his incredible success. In his time spent in prison, Wallo reckoned with the choices that put him there, accepted responsibility for his own actions, and vowed to arm himself with only good intentions upon his release.

Wallo’s reflection and newfound philosophy—which he now shares with you—formed the new trajectory of his life. Upon his release, Wallo moved back to Philly and committed himself to entrepreneurialism. His viral motivational content gained him over sixty-thousand Instagram followers on his first day of freedom. This would prove to only be the start of his continuously growing career utilizing his social influence as a motivational speaker, entrepreneur, and cultural changemaker.

Themes: Personal Growth, Success, Inspiration



New Title

Boat Baby

A Memoir

Vicky Nguyen

9781668025567 | Hardcover | 320 pages | \$29.99 | Simon & Schuster



Read by the author

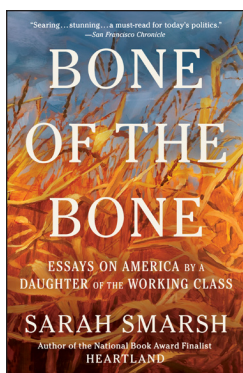
Boat Baby is Vicky’s memoir of growing up in America with unconventional Vietnamese parents who didn’t always know how to bridge the cultural gaps.

Vicky’s parents approached life with the attitude, “Why not us?” In the face of prejudice, they taught her to be gritty and resilient, skills Vicky used as she combatted stereotyping throughout her career, fending off the question “Aren’t you Connie Chung?” to become a leading Asian American journalist on television. She delivers a uniquely transparent account of her life, revealing how she negotiated her salary in a competitive industry, the challenges of starting a family, and the struggle to be a dutiful daughter.

Funny, nostalgic, and poignant, *Boat Baby* offers an optimistic story full of heart that illuminates the promise of what America can be.

“This moving story of dogged hard work, courage, and resilience will renew your appreciation for the American dream that Vicky so beautifully personifies.” —Savannah Guthrie, NBC’s *Today* show anchor

Themes: Grit, Community, Resilience, Coming of Age, Immigrant Story



Bone of the Bone

Essays on America by a Daughter of the Working Class

Sarah Smarsh

9781668061848 | Trade Paper | 352 pages | \$20.00 | Scribner

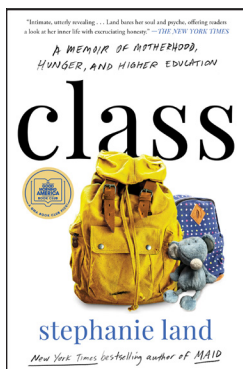
 Read by the author

In *Bone of the Bone*, Sarah Smarsh brings her graceful storytelling and incisive critique to the challenges that define our times—class division, political fissures, gender inequality, environmental crisis, media bias, the rural-urban gulf. Smarsh, a journalist who grew up on a wheat farm in Kansas and was the first in her family to graduate from college, has long focused on cultural dissonance that many in her industry neglected until recently. Now, this thought-provoking collection of more than thirty of her highly relevant, previously published essays from the past decade (2013–2024)—ranging from personal narratives to news commentary—demonstrates a life and a career steeped in the issues that affect our collective future.

“A compassionate look at working-class poverty in America” (*Time*), *Bone of the Bone* is a singular work covering one of the most tumultuous decades in civic life. Timely, filled with perspective-shifting observations, and a pleasure to read, Sarah Smarsh’s essays—on topics as varied as the socioeconomic significance of dentistry, laws criminalizing poverty, fallacies of the “red vs. blue” political framework, working as a Hooters Girl, and much more—are an important addition to any discussion on contemporary America.

“The author of *Heartland* returns with a collection of pieces that illuminate the plights and humanity of her working-class subjects. This collection’s impact is staggering, and [with] a distinct style, Smarsh’s voice is constant, studied, and compassionate. This powerful reckoning with the costs of being poor should be required short-form nonfiction reading.” —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

Themes: Class, Essays



Class

A Memoir of Motherhood, Hunger, and Higher Education

Stephanie Land

9781982151409 | Trade Paper | 288 pages | \$18.99 | One Signal Publishers

 Read by the author

Maid was a story about a housecleaner, but it was also a story about a woman with a dream. In *Class*, Stephanie Land takes us with her as she finishes college and pursues her writing career. Facing barriers at every turn including a byzantine loan system, food insecurity, the judgments of professors and fellow students who didn’t understand the demands of attending college while under the poverty line—Land finds a way to survive once again, finally graduating in her mid-thirties.

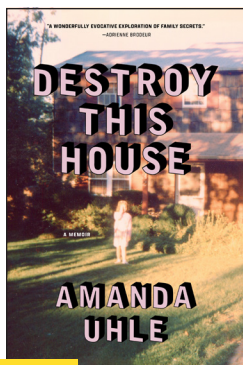
Class paints an intimate and heartbreaking portrait of motherhood as it converges and often conflicts with personal desire and professional ambition. Who has the right to create art? Who has the right to go to college? And what kind of work is valued in our culture? In clear, candid, and moving prose, *Class* grapples with these questions, offering a searing indictment of America’s educational system and an inspiring testimony of a mother’s triumph against all odds.

“Captivating...Eye-opening and heartrending, [*Class*] will provide succor for readers who’ve faced similar hardships and essential education for anyone who hasn’t. It’s another stirring personal history from one of the foremost chroniclers of 21st-century economic anxiety.” —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“An illuminating portrait of a part of the higher education experience that is often ignored...a powerful read.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

National Bestseller

Themes: Society, Identity, Overcoming Life’s Challenges



New Title

Destroy This House

A Memoir

Amanda Uhle

9781668083444 | Hardcover | 352 pages | \$29.99 | Summit Books 

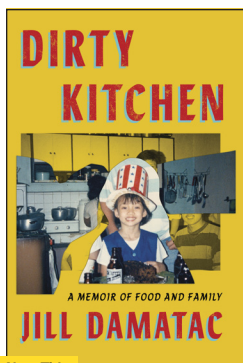
The Long family's love was fierce, their lifestyle bizarre, and their deceptions countless. Once her parents were gone, Amanda Uhle realized she was closer to them than anyone else, yet she found herself utterly confounded by the lives they had led.

Amanda's striving fashion designer mother and her charismatic wheeler-dealer father wove a complex life together that spanned ten different homes across five states over forty perplexing years. Throughout her childhood, as her mother's hoarding disorder flourished and her father's schemes crumbled, contradictions abounded. They bartered for dental surgery and drove their massive Lincoln Town Car to the food bank. When financial ruin struck, they abandoned their repossessed mansion for humble parish housing, and Amanda's father became a preacher. They swung between being filthy rich and dirt poor, devious and virtuous, lonely and loved, fake and real.

In *Destroy This House*, Amanda sets out to document her parents' unbelievable exploits and her own hard-won escape into independence. With humor and tenderness, Uhle has crafted a heartfelt and utterly unique memoir, capturing the raucousness, pain, joy, and ultimately, the boundless love that exists between all parents and children.

*"The American Dream turns pathological in Amanda Uhle's beautiful memoir, **Destroy This House**, as Uhle reckons with her parents' snarled identities and confounding lifestyles. Poignant, wryly funny, and exquisitely written, Uhle masterfully depicts the confluence of ambition and greed, pioneerism and narcissism, love and pain. I devoured every sentence."* —Erika Krouse, author of *Tell Me Everything: The Story of a Private Investigation*

Themes: Financial Insecurity, Coming of Age, Family, Mental Illness



New Title

Dirty Kitchen

A Memoir of Food and Family

Jill Damatac

9781668084632 | Hardcover | 256 pages | \$28.99 | One Signal Publishers



Read by the author

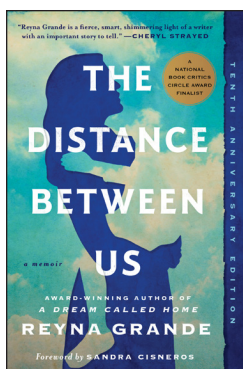
Jill Damatac left the United States in 2015 after living there as an undocumented immigrant with her family for twenty-two years. America was the only home she knew, where invisibility had become her identity and where poverty, domestic violence, ill health, and xenophobia were everyday experiences.

First traveling to her native Philippines, Damatac eventually settled in London, England, where she was free to pursue an education at the University of Cambridge, fully investigate her roots, and process what happened to her and her family. After nine years, she was granted British citizenship, and returned to the United States, for the first time without fear of deportation or retribution.

Damatac weaves together forgotten colonial history and long-buried Indigenous tradition, taking us through her time in America, and cooking her way through Filipino recipes in her kitchen as she searches for a sense of self and renewed possibility. With emotional intelligence, clarity, and grace, *Dirty Kitchen* explores fractured memories to ask questions of identity, colonialism, immigration, and belonging, and to find ways in which the ritual, tradition, and comfort of food can answer them.

"A hard journey to freedom. Damatac weaves history, mythology, and recipes into an affecting memoir of abuse, grief, longing, and frustration." —Kirkus Reviews

Themes: Belonging, Immigration, Identity, Family, Food, Culture, Tradition



The Distance Between Us

A Memoir

Reyna Grande

9781451661781 | Trade Paper | 368 pages | \$18.99 | Washington Square Press 

Reyna Grande vividly brings to life her tumultuous early years in this “compelling...unvarnished, resonant” (*BookPage*) story of a childhood spent torn between two parents and two countries. As her parents make the dangerous trek across the Mexican border to “El Otro Lado” (*The Other Side*) in pursuit of the American dream, Reyna and her siblings are forced into the already overburdened household of their stern grandmother. When their mother at last returns, Reyna prepares for her own journey to “El Otro Lado” to live with the man who has haunted her imagination for years, her long-absent father.

Funny, heartbreaking, and lyrical, *The Distance Between Us* poignantly captures the confusion and contradictions of childhood, reminding us that the joys and sorrows we experience are imprinted on the heart forever, calling out to us of those places we first called home.

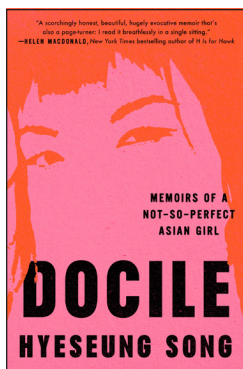
“In this poignant memoir about her childhood in Mexico, Reyna Grande skillfully depicts another side of the immigrant experience—the hardships and heartbreaks of the children who are left behind. Through her brutally honest firsthand account of growing up in Mexico without her parents, Grande sheds light on the often overlooked consequence of immigration—the disintegration of a family.” —Sonia Nazario, Pulitzer Prize winner, and author of *Enrique’s Journey*

National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist

Reading Group Guide Available | Young Readers Edition Available

SELECTED BY over 13, most recently at Marist College, University of North Carolina–Greensboro, Finger Lakes Community College, Russell Sage College, California State University–Bakersfield

Themes: Global Perspective, Coming of Age, Immigrant Voices and Stories



Docile

Memoirs of a Not-So-Perfect Asian Girl

Hyeseung Song

9781668003671 | Trade Paper | 304 pages | \$18.99 | Simon & Schuster

 Read by the author

A daughter of Korean immigrants, Hyeseung Song spends her earliest years in the cane fields of Texas where her loyalties are divided between a restless father in search of Big Money, and a beautiful yet domineering mother whose resentments about her own life compromises her relationship with her daughter. When the family's fake Gucci business lands them in bankruptcy, Song moves to a new elementary school.

Neither rich nor white, Song does what is necessary to be visible: she internalizes the model minority myth as well as her beloved mother's dreams to see her on a secure path. Song meets these expectations by attending the best Ivy League universities in the country. But when she wavers, in search of an artistic life on her own terms, her mother warns, “Happiness is what unexceptional people tell themselves when they don't have the talent and drive to go after real success.” Years of self-erasure take a toll on Song as she experiences recurring episodes of depression and mania. A thought repeats: I want to die. I want to die. Song enters a psychiatric hospital where she meets patients with similar struggles. So begins her sweeping journey to heal herself by losing everything.

“A celebration of resilience and a testament to the power of art to heal and transform” (Chloé Cooper Jones, two-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and author of *Easy Beauty*), *Docile* is one woman's story of subverting the model minority myth, contending with mental illness, and finding her self-worth by looking within.

Themes: Coming of Age, Family, Immigrant Experience, Family, Asian American, Mental Health Struggles



Easy Beauty

A Memoir

Chloé Cooper Jones

9781982152000 | Trade Paper | 304 pages | \$18.99 | Avid Reader Press

Read by the author

“I am in a bar in Brooklyn, listening to two men, my friends, discuss whether my life is worth living.”

So begins Chloé Cooper Jones's bold, revealing account of moving through the world in a body that looks different than most. Jones learned early on to factor “pain calculations” into every plan, every situation. Born with a rare congenital condition called sacral agenesis which affects both her stature and gait, her pain is physical. But there is also the pain of being judged and pitied for her appearance, of being dismissed as “less than.” The way she has been seen—or not seen—has informed her lens on the world her entire life. She resisted this reality by excelling academically and retreating to “the neutral room in her mind” until it passed. But after unexpectedly becoming a mother (in violation of unspoken social taboos about the disabled body), something in her shifts, and Jones sets off on a journey across the globe, reclaiming the spaces she'd been denied, and denied herself.

From the bars and domestic spaces of her life in Brooklyn to sculpture gardens in Rome; from film festivals in Utah to a Beyoncé concert in Milan; from a tennis tournament in California to the Killing Fields of Phnom Penh, Jones weaves memory, observation, experience, and aesthetic philosophy to probe the myths underlying our standards of beauty and desirability and interrogates her own complicity in upholding those myths.

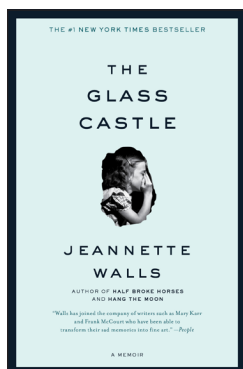
“Soul-stretching, breathtaking...A profound, impressive, and wiser-than-wise contemplation of the way Jones is viewed by others, her own collusion in those views, and whether any of this can be shifted...A game-changing gift to readers.” —*Booklist* (starred review)

Pulitzer Prize Finalist

Reading Group Guide Available

SELECTED BY Sweet Briar College

Themes: Disability Studies, Inclusivity



The Glass Castle

A Memoir

Jeannette Walls

9780743247542 | Trade Paper | 304 pages | \$18.99 | Scribner

Read by the author

The Glass Castle is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family.

The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered.

The Glass Castle is truly astonishing—a memoir permeated by the intense love of a peculiar but loyal family.

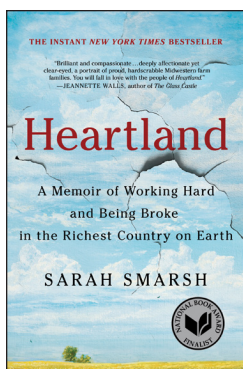
“Jeannette Walls has carved a story with precision and grace out of one of the most chaotic, heartbreaking childhoods ever to be set down on the page. This deeply affecting memoir is a triumph in every possible way, and it does what all good books should: it affirms our faith in the human spirit.” —Dani Shapiro, author of *Family History*

New York Times Bestseller | ALA/YALSA Alex Award Winner

Reading Group Guide Available | Now a Major Motion Picture

SELECTED BY over 30, most recently at Mountcalm Community College, University of Michigan, Monmouth College

Themes: Coming of Age, Inspirational, Resilience



Heartland

A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth
Sarah Smarsh

9781501133107 | Trade Paper | 320 pages | \$17.00 | Scribner

Read by the author

Sarah Smarsh was born a fifth generation Kansas wheat farmer on her paternal side, and the product of generations of teen mothers on her maternal side. Through her experiences growing up on a farm thirty miles west of Wichita, we are given a unique and essential look into the lives of poor and working class Americans living in the heartland.

During Sarah's turbulent childhood in Kansas in the 1980s and 1990s, she enjoyed the freedom of a country childhood, but observed the painful challenges of the poverty around her; untreated medical conditions for lack of insurance or consistent care, unsafe job conditions, abusive relationships, and limited resources and information that would provide for the upward mobility that is the American Dream. By telling the story of her life and the lives of the people she loves with clarity and precision but without judgement, Smarsh challenges us to look more closely at the class divide in our country.

Beautifully written, in a distinctive voice, *Heartland* combines personal narrative with powerful analysis and cultural commentary, challenging the myths about people thought to be less because they earn less.

“A deeply humane memoir that crackles with clarifying insight, *Heartland* is one of a growing number of important works—including Matthew Desmond's *Evicted* and Amy Goldstein's *Janesville*—that together merit their own section in nonfiction aisles across the country: America's postindustrial decline...Smarsh shows how the false promise of the 'American dream' was used to subjugate the poor. It's a powerful mantra.”
 —*The New York Times Book Review*

National Book Award Finalist | Kirkus Prize Finalist | *New York Times* Bestseller

Reading Group Guide Available

SELECTED BY Loyola University (Maryland), Johnson County Community College, Viterbo University, Delaware County Community College

Themes: Poverty, Class, Society, Regional: The Midwest



Hope in Action

A Memoir About the Courage to Lead
Sanna Marin

9781668069639 | Hardcover | 256 pages | \$29.00 | Scribner

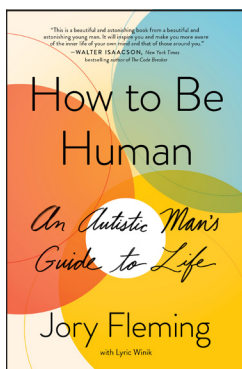
In *Hope in Action*, Sanna Marin takes readers on the extraordinary journey of her trailblazing career and shares her vision for a new kind of leadership. When she became Prime Minister of Finland at just thirty-four years old, Marin was the world's youngest serving prime minister at the time, captivating the world's attention with her progressive ideas and her boldness amidst major crises.

Marin's story is one of resilience and hope. The first in her family to attend university, she broke barriers to become a global icon of progressive leadership. Her time as Prime Minister saw historic milestones. During Marin's term (2019–2023), she led Finland through the COVID-19 pandemic, and her government implemented many progressive reforms addressing climate change, social justice, and equality. She helped the country navigate neighboring Russia's devastating full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and Finland's rapid joining of NATO—the swiftest entry for any country in the alliance's history.

Through vivid retellings of her experiences, Marin shares how she overcame significant political challenges, and how she coped with her personal life becoming public, like in an incident that sparked a media frenzy and prompted women including Hillary Clinton and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to express their support for Marin.

Hope in Action is much more than a memoir—it's a call to action. Marin urges the next generation of leaders to bring their full selves to the job. Her story is an empowering testament to the opportunities we have to affect real change in our worlds.

Themes: Resilience, Hope, Leadership



How to Be Human

An Autistic Man's Guide to Life

Jory Fleming with Lyric Winik

9781501180521 | Trade Paper | 192 pages | \$16.99 | Simon & Schuster



Read by the authors

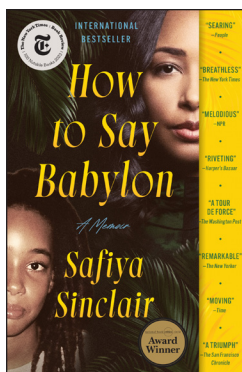
As a child, Jory Fleming was wracked by uncontrollable tantrums, had no tolerance for people, and couldn't manage the outside world. Slightly more than a decade later, he was bound for England, selected to attend one of the world's premier universities.

How to Be Human is an exploration of life amid a world constructed for neurotypical brains when yours is not. But the miracle of this book is that instead of dwelling on Jory's limitations, those who inhabit the neurotypical world will begin to better understand their own: they will contemplate what language cannot say, how linear thinking leads to dead ends, and how nefarious emotions can be, particularly when, in Jory's words, they are "weaponized." Through a series of deep, personal conversations with writer Lyric Winik, Jory makes a compelling case for logical empathy based on rational thought, asks why we tolerate friends who see us as a means to an end, and explains why he believes personality is a choice.

Join Jory and Lyric as they examine what it means to be human and ultimately how each of us might become a better one. Jory asks us to consider: Who has value? What is a disability? And how do we correct the imbalances we see in the world? *How to Be Human* shows us the ways a beautifully different mind can express the very best of our shared humanity.

"This is a beautiful and astonishing book from a beautiful and astonishing young man. It will inspire you and make you more aware of the inner life of your own mind and that of those around you. Our world, and each of us in it, could use an autistic circuit breaker at times, and Jory's book offers us that gift." —Walter Isaacson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Steve Jobs*

Themes: Neurodivergent, Humanity, Compassion



How to Say Babylon

A Memoir

Safiya Sinclair

9781982132347 | Trade Paper | 352 pages | \$18.99 | 37 Ink



Read by the author

Throughout her childhood, Safiya Sinclair's father, a volatile reggae musician and a militant adherent to a strict sect of Rastafari, was obsessed with the ever-present threat of the corrupting evils of the Western world outside their home, and worried that womanhood would make Safiya and her sisters morally weak and impure. For him, a woman's highest virtue was her obedience.

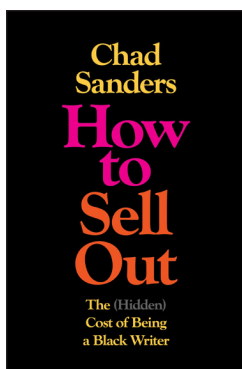
Safiya's extraordinary mother, though loyal to her father, gave her the one gift she knew would take Safiya beyond the stretch of beach and mountains in Jamaica their family called home: a world of books, knowledge, and education she conjured almost out of thin air. When she introduced Safiya to poetry, Safiya's voice awakened. As she watched her mother struggle voicelessly for years under relentless domesticity, Safiya's rebellion against her father's rules set her on an inevitable collision course with him. Her education became the sharp tool to hone her own poetic voice and carve her path to liberation. Rich in emotion and page-turning drama, *How to Say Babylon* is "a melodious wave of memories" of a woman finding her own power (NPR).

"In this remarkable memoir, Sinclair, an award-winning poet, conjures coming of age in Jamaica with her father, a reggae musician who embraced a strict sect of Rastafari and sought to protect his family from the evil and pervasive influence of the West—what Rastafari call Babylon—and coming into her own as a poet, a writer, and a young woman in charge of her own destiny." —*The New Yorker*

National Book Critics Circle Award Winner | A *New York Times* Notable Book
Reading Group Guide Available

SELECTED BY Eckerd College

Themes: Coming of Age, African American Stories and Voices, Overcoming Life's Challenges



How to Sell Out

The (Hidden) Cost of Being a Black Writer

Chad Sanders

9781982190866 | Trade Paper | 256 pages | \$19.00 | Simon & Schuster



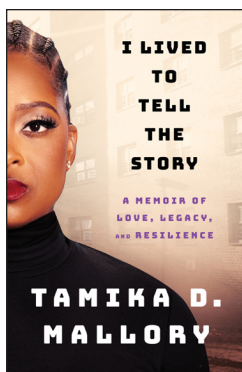
Read by the author

In the summer of 2020, when the nation was erupting in protest over the murder of George Floyd, Chad Sanders was quietly celebrating for selfish reasons. Why? After years of struggling to get his footing as a writer, he'd finally landed a *New York Times* op-ed. He wrote an essay about the hollow messages of concern he'd been receiving from white friends and colleagues. It went viral, and in the years that followed, he built a solid career as a creator—of books, podcasts, TV shows, and films—by mining his most painful experiences of being Black in America.

Black pain for white money. For Sanders, this was a lucrative trade. One he thought he could work for the rest of his life. But it didn't take long for him to realize he, like so many other writers, was getting the short end of the stick.

In *How to Sell Out*, Sanders draws on his personal experiences to offer a wry, darkly comic look at the invisible realities of making a living as a Black writer who writes about race. He relays stories of his time in the tech business, his experiences in TV writers' rooms, his childhood participation in Jack and Jill, his family and relationships, and the struggles of sharing his racial trauma in exchange for cash. Combining meditations on historical and current events and the intersection of race and class with short creative essays, Sanders sculpts a freewheeling arc that is as funny as it is moving and thought-provoking.

Themes: Society, Authenticity, Creativity, African American Stories and Voices



I Lived to Tell the Story

A Memoir of Love, Legacy, and Resilience

Tamika D. Mallory

9781982173500 | Trade Paper | 304 pages | \$19.00 | Black Privilege Publishing



Read by the author

In *I Lived to Tell the Story*, Tamika Mallory takes us beyond the headlines and podiums, offering an unfiltered look at the moments that shaped her—not just as an activist but as a woman navigating love, loss, and self-discovery.

From her early days as the daughter of civil rights organizers in Harlem to her battles with the personal pain that many never imagined—the trauma of sexual assault, the pressures of motherhood, the fallout of public scrutiny, and the fight to reclaim her peace—this is Tamika as the world has never seen her before.

A follow-up to her “masterful” (Marc Lamont Hill) debut, *State of Emergency*, which confronted the murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, this memoir ventures deeper into her journey. Tamika shares untold stories of resilience, courage, and internal struggles while waging war against injustice in America.

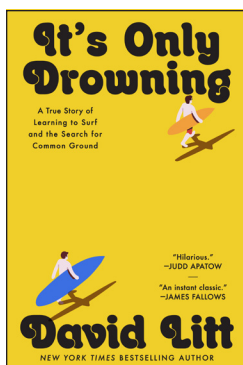
At its core, *I Lived to Tell the Story* is not just about activism; it's about what happens after the smoke clears. It's about healing, survival, and the power of truth to bring us closer to ourselves and one another.

“Shifting between outrage, hope, and resolute determination, this call to action will resonate with readers already fighting for racial justice, as well as those looking to join the movement.” — *Publishers Weekly*

“Mallory gives readers the tools they need to fight injustice and find a pathway towards true freedom.” —*Marie Claire*

“Mallory provides a history of racism in the U.S. as well as equity-centered pathways forward.” —*Ms. Magazine*

Themes: Public Policy, Social Justice, Resilience



It's Only Drowning

A True Story of Learning to Surf and the Search for Common Ground

David Litt

9781668035351 | Hardcover | 304 pages | \$29.99 | Gallery Books



Read by the author

David, the Yale-educated writer with a fear of sharks, and Matt, the daredevil electrician with a shed full of surfboards, had never been close. But as America's crises piled up and David spiraled into existential dread, he noticed that his brother-in-law was thriving. He began to suspect Matt's favorite hobby had something to do with it.

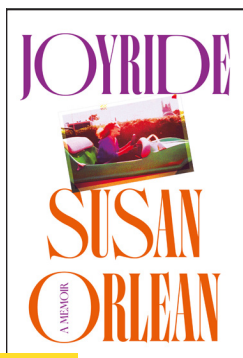
David started taking surf lessons. For months, he wiped out on waves the height of daffodils. Yet, after realizing that surfing could change him both in and out of the water, he set an audacious goal: riding a big wave in Hawaii. He searched for an expert he could trust to guide and protect him—and when he couldn't find one, he asked Matt. Together, they set out on a journey that spanned coasts, and even continents, before taking them to Oahu's famously dangerous North Shore.

It's Only Drowning is a laugh-out-loud love letter to surfing—and so much more. It's the story of an unlikely friendship, one that crosses the fault lines of education, ideology, and culture tearing so many of us apart.

“Litt's chronicle offers beautiful writing and laugh-out-loud humor and will engage anyone who has dreamed about learning to surf or undertaking any other seemingly improbable challenge. Litt also navigates the ebb and flow of familial relationships, sharing his own experience as an example of how to agree to disagree without demonizing one another. Timely and uplifting.”

—Booklist (starred review)

Themes: Connection, Coming of Age, Friendship



New Title

Joyride

A Memoir

Susan Orlean

9781982135164 | Hardcover | 368 pages | \$32.00 | Avid Reader Press



Read by the author

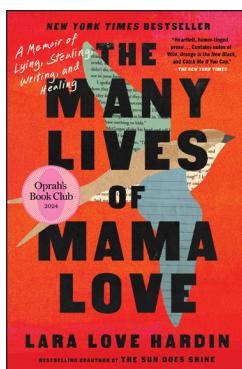
“The story of my life is the story of my stories,” writes Susan Orlean in this extraordinary, era-defining memoir from one of the greatest practitioners of narrative nonfiction of our time. *Joyride* is a magic carpet ride through Orlean's life and career, where every day is an opportunity for discovery and every moment holds the potential for wonder. Throughout her storied career, her curiosity draws her to explore the most ordinary and extraordinary of places, from going deep inside the head of a regular ten-year-old boy for a legendary profile (“The American Man at Age Ten”) to reporting on a woman who owns twenty-seven tigers, from capturing the routine magic of Saturday night to climbing Mount Fuji.

Not only does Orlean's account of a writing life offer a trove of indispensable gleanings for writers, it's also an essential and practical guide to embracing any creative path. She takes us through her process of dreaming up ideas, managing deadlines, connecting with sources, chasing every possible lead, confronting writer's block and self-doubt, and crafting the perfect lede—a Susan specialty.

Infused with Orlean's signature warmth and wit, *Joyride* is a must-read for anyone who hungers to start, build, and sustain a creative life. Orlean inspires us to seek out daily inspiration and rediscover the marvels that surround us.

“A celebration of a supremely accomplished writing life...the great value of this book is the MFA in nonfiction writing that Orlean packs into it, full of some of the most useful advice on craft that any budding (or long-practicing, for that matter) writer could ask for...A spry, entertaining memoir/writing workshop by a nonfiction artist at the top of her game.” —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

Themes: Creativity, Inspiration



The Many Lives of Mama Love

A Memoir of Lying, Stealing, Writing, and Healing

Lara Love Hardin

9781982197674 | Trade Paper | 336 pages | \$17.99 | Simon & Schuster



Read by the author

No one expects the police to knock on the door of the million-dollar two-story home of the perfect cul-de-sac housewife. But soccer mom Lara Love Hardin has been hiding a shady secret: she is funding her heroin addiction by stealing her neighbors' credit cards.

Lara is convicted of thirty-two felonies and becomes inmate S32179. She finds that jail is a class system with a power structure that is somewhere between an adolescent sleepover party and *Lord of the Flies*. But Lara quickly learns the rules and brings love and healing to her fellow inmates as she climbs the social ladder and acquires the nickname "Mama Love."

When she's released, she reinvents herself as a ghostwriter. Now, she's legally co-opting other people's identities and getting to meet Oprah, meditate with the Dalai Lama, and have dinner with Archbishop Desmond Tutu. But the shadow of her past follows her. Shame is a poison worse than heroin—there is no way to detox. Lara must learn how to forgive herself and others, navigate life as a felon on probation, and prove to herself that she is more good than bad, among other essential lessons.

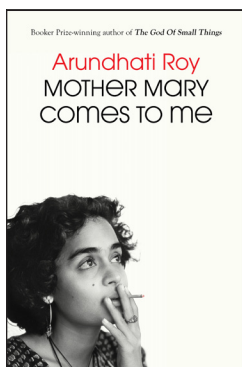
The Many Lives of Mama Love is a heartbreaking and tender journey from shame to redemption, despite a system that makes it almost impossible for us to move beyond the worst thing we have ever done.

"Grips you as suddenly as any psychological thriller... Readers will experience the lows and highs of addiction, incarceration and rehabilitation as Love Hardin assembles the pieces of her shattered life into something beautiful again in this inspiring chronicle." —*BookPage*

New York Times Bestseller

Reading Group Guide Available

Themes: Family, Redemption, Inspirational



Mother Mary Comes to Me

Arundhati Roy

9781668094716 | Hardcover | 352 pages | \$30.00 | Scribner



Read by the author

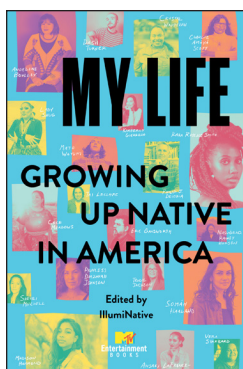
Mother Mary Comes to Me, Arundhati Roy's first work of memoir, is a soaring account, both intimate and inspirational, of how the author became the person and the writer she is, shaped by circumstance, but above all by her complex relationship to the extraordinary, singular mother she describes as "my shelter and my storm."

"Heart-smashed" by her mother Mary's death in September 2022 yet puzzled and "more than a little ashamed" by the intensity of her response, Roy began to write, to make sense of her feelings about the mother she ran from at age eighteen, "not because I didn't love her, but in order to be able to continue to love her." And so begins this astonishing, sometimes disturbing, and surprisingly funny memoir of the author's journey from her childhood in Kerala, India, where her single mother founded a school, to the writing of her prizewinning novels and essays, through today.

Mother Mary Comes to Me is an ode to freedom, a tribute to thorny love and savage grace—a memoir like no other.

"Booker Prize-winning Indian novelist Arundhati Roy recounts a life of poverty and upheaval, defiance and triumph in an emotionally raw memoir, centered on her complicated relationship with her mother...Her candid memoir revives both an extraordinary woman and the tangled complexities of filial love. An intimate, stirring chronicle." —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

Themes: Coming of Age, Political, Relationships



My Life: Growing Up Native in America

Edited by IllumiNative

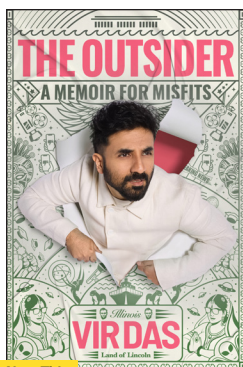
9781668021712 | Trade Paper | 224 pages | \$19.00 | MTV Books 

Twenty renowned Native writers, performers, athletes, and activists give voice to their individual experiences while shedding light on the depth and complexity of modern Native American identity, resiliency, and joy.

The topics are as fascinating and diverse as the creators. From Mato Wayuhi, award-winning composer of *Reservation Dogs*, honoring a friend who believed in his talent to *New York Times* bestselling author Angeline Boulley exploring what it means to feel Native enough, these entries are not only an exploration of community, they are a call for a more just and equitable world, and a road map toward a brighter future.

Edited by IllumiNative, an organization dedicated to amplifying contemporary Native voices, *My Life: Growing Up Native in America* features contributions from Angeline Boulley, Philip J. Deloria, Eric Gansworth, Kimberly Guerrero, Somah Haaland, Madison Hammond, Nasugraq Rainey Hopson, Trudie Jackson, Princess Daazhrai Johnson, Lady Shug, Ahsaki Baa LaFrance-Chachere, Tai Leclair, Cece Meadows, Sherri Mitchell, Charlie Amáyá Scott, Kara Roselle Smith, Vera Starbard, Dash Turner, Crystal Wahpepah, and Mato Wayuhi.

Themes: Coming of Age, Diversity, Identity, Resilience



New Title

The Outsider

A Memoir for Misfits

Vir Das

9781668066324 | Hardcover | 272 pages | \$29.00 | Simon Element

 Read by the author

When comedian and actor Vir Das found himself stranded on a pier in Cozumel, Mexico, watching his cruise ship sail away without him due to visa issues, it became a metaphor for his life: he's always been, and will always be, an outsider. Standing on that beach, he took in the absurdity of it all—broke, hungover, dumped, jobless, trousers full of sand. He knew the best way to deal with the situation wasn't to retreat. It was to laugh.

Vir's story is one of cultural dissonance and identity exploration. As a child, he bounced from India to Lagos, Nigeria, and back again. He navigated life between worlds, never quite fitting in.

You've heard stories of kids who despise boarding school, but have you ever heard the story of a kid who despised it so much they faked appendicitis and went through with the surgery to get out? That's Vir. In Africa, he was the kid from India, and back in India, he was the kid from Africa. As the only Indian kid costarring in *War and Peace* on stage at Knox College in Illinois, his outsider status was undeniable. Whether he's washing dishes at a Grand Lux Café in Chicago, navigating Bollywood, getting cancelled by an entire country and then embraced by that country all over again, or performing on stages from New York to Mumbai to Stavanger, Norway, Vir has learned to lean way into his place as an outsider, and to find humor and meaning on the fringes.

The Outsider is more than just a memoir about Vir's rise to comedic fame; it's a powerful reflection on how being a misfit can shape one's identity into something truly unique. Vir's story speaks to anyone who has ever felt out of place, serving as a testament to the resilience and humor that can arise when you resist the urge to fit in, and stay true to who you are.

Themes: Identity, Culture, Humor



The Pretty One

On Life, Pop Culture, Disability, and Other Reasons to Fall in Love with Me
Keah Brown

9781982100544 | Trade Paper | 256 pages | \$19.00 | Atria Books

 Read by the author

Keah Brown loves herself, but that hadn't always been the case. Born with cerebral palsy, her greatest desire used to be normalcy and refuge from the steady stream of self-hate society strengthened inside her. But after years of introspection and reaching out to others in her community, she has reclaimed herself and changed her perspective.

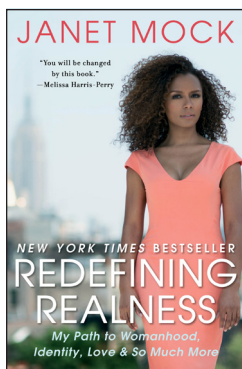
In *The Pretty One*, Brown gives a contemporary and relatable voice to the disabled—so often portrayed as mute, weak, or isolated. With clear, fresh, and light-hearted prose, these essays explore everything from her relationship with her able-bodied identical twin (called “the pretty one” by friends) to navigating romance; her deep affinity for all things pop culture—and her disappointment with the media’s distorted view of disability; and her declaration of self-love with the viral hashtag #DisabledAndCute.

By “smashing stigmas, empowering her community, and celebrating herself” (*Teen Vogue*), Brown and *The Pretty One* aims to expand the conversation about disability and inspire self-love for people of all backgrounds.

“Witty and insightful... This book would be a great choice for anyone interested in social justice, disability rights, or just interested in learning more about a fun, funny, beautiful woman.” —*Booklist*

“A hopeful, relatable memoir about a twenty-something just trying to figure out the world and her place in it.” —*Bustle*

Themes: Inclusivity, Diversity



Redefining Realness

My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love & So Much More
Janet Mock

9781476709130 | Trade Paper | 288 pages | \$18.99 | Atria Books

In her profound and courageous *New York Times* bestseller, Janet Mock establishes herself as a resounding and inspirational voice for the transgender community—and anyone fighting to define themselves on their own terms.

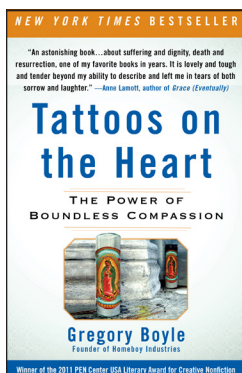
With unflinching honesty and moving prose, Janet Mock relays her experiences of growing up young, multiracial, poor, and trans in America, offering readers accessible language while imparting vital insight about the unique challenges and vulnerabilities of a marginalized and misunderstood population. Though undoubtedly an account of one woman’s quest for self at all costs, *Redefining Realness* is a powerful vision of possibility and self-realization, pushing us all toward greater acceptance of one another—and of ourselves—showing as never before how to be unapologetic and real.

“Mock defies the historically apolitical confines of the transgender memoir, and draws bright lines connecting her experiences to the larger realm of social justice, with a keen political eye that uses her individual experience to elucidate the wider condition of trans women of color in the US. Her vivid prose arouses every sense... Although the book is ostensibly one woman’s coming-of-age story, Mock fulfills grander purposes here; in coming to terms with her own difficult journey she also uses that experience didactically, as if to take the uninitiated, non-transgender reader with her, most certainly achieving ‘realness.’” —*Publishers Weekly*

New York Times Bestseller | Women’s Way Book Prize Winner
Goodreads Best of 2014 Semi-Finalist | Lambda Literary Award Finalist
Books for a Better Life Award Finalist

SELECTED BY University of California, Davis, SUNY Oneonta, Stony Brook University, Northern Michigan University, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus

Themes: Gender Issues, Coming of Age, Leadership, Social Activism



Tattoos on the Heart

The Power of Boundless Compassion

Gregory Boyle

9781439153154 | Trade Paper | 240 pages | \$19.00 | Free Press

Read by the author

Thirty years ago, Gregory Boyle founded Homeboy Industries, a gang-intervention, rehabilitation, and reentry program in Los Angeles, the gang capital of the world. In *Tattoos on the Heart*, his debut book, he distills his experience working with gang members into a breathtaking series of parables inspired by faith.

From giant, tattooed Cesar, shopping at JCPenney fresh out of prison, you learn how to feel worthy of God's love. From ten-year-old Pipi you learn the importance of being known and acknowledged. From Lulu you come to understand the kind of patience necessary to rescue someone from the dark—as Father Boyle phrases it, we can only shine a flashlight on a light switch in a darkened room.

This is a motivating look at how to stay faithful in spite of failure, how to meet the world with a loving heart, and how to conquer shame with boundless, restorative love.

New York Times Bestseller

[Reading Group Guide Available](#)

SELECTED BY over 15, most recently at Benedictine University, Merrimack College, Providence College, Westmont College

Themes: Memoir, Inspirational, Community



New Title

Theater Kid

A Broadway Memoir

Jeffrey Seller

9781668064184 | Hardcover | 368 pages | \$29.99 | Simon & Schuster

Read by the author with an ensemble cast including Annaleigh Ashford, Darren Criss, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Renée Elise Goldsberry, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Andrew Rannells, and more

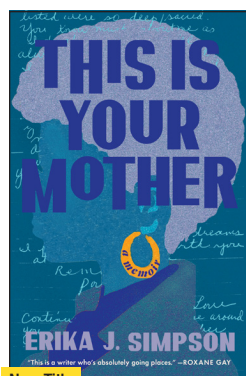
Before he was producing the musical hits of our generation, Jeffrey was just a kid coming to terms with his adoption, trying to understand his sexuality, and determined to escape his dysfunctional household in a poor neighborhood just outside Detroit. We see him find his voice through musical theater and move to New York, where he is determined to shed his past and make a name for himself on Broadway.

But moving to the big city is never easy—especially not at the height of the HIV/AIDS crisis—and Jeffrey learns to survive and thrive in the colorful and cutthroat world of commercial theatre. From his early days as an office assistant, to meeting Jonathan Larson and experiencing the triumph and tragedy of *Rent*, to working with Lin-Manuel Miranda on *In the Heights* and *Hamilton*, Jeffrey completely pulls back the curtain on the joyous and gut-wrenching process of making new musicals, finding new audiences, and winning a Tony Award—all the while finding himself.

Told with Jeffrey's candid and captivating voice, *Theater Kid* is a gripping memoir about fighting through a hardscrabble childhood to make art on one's own terms, chasing a dream against many odds, and finding acceptance and community.

"In this searing and inspiring memoir, Jeffrey Seller writes the book he wishes he'd had as a kid; about a wildly brilliant, closeted young man from tough circumstances in Detroit who finds his way into the wilds of New York and helps develop and support some of the most innovative musical theater of the twentieth and twenty-first century. It belongs on your shelf next to *Act One* by Moss Hart—if you can manage to put it down; I certainly couldn't." —Lin-Manuel Miranda

Themes: Coming of Age, Acceptance, Community, LGBTQ+



New Title

This Is Your Mother

A Memoir

Erika J. Simpson

9781668024034 | Hardcover | 224 pages | \$27.99 | Scribner

 Read by the author

When Erika Simpson was growing up, her mother loomed large, almost biblical in her life. A daughter of sharecroppers, middle child of ten, her origin story served as a Genesis. Her departure from home and a cheating husband, pursuing higher education along the way a kind of Exodus. Her rules for survival, often repeated like the Ten Commandments, guided Erika's own journey into adulthood. And the most important rule? Throughout her life, Sallie Carol preached the power of a testimony—which often proved useful in talking her way out of a bind with bill collectors.

But where does a mother's story end and a daughter's begin? In this brave, illuminating memoir, Erika offers a joint recollection of their lives as they navigate the realities of destitution often left undiscussed. Her mother's uncanny ability to endure Job-like trials and manifest New Testament-style miracles made her seem invincible. But while our parents may start out as gods in our lives, through her mother's final months and fifth battle with cancer, Erika captures the moment you realize they are just people.

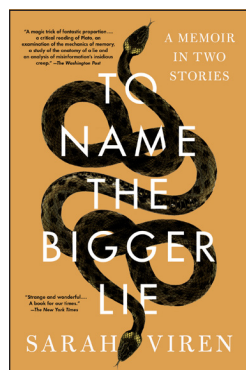
This gorgeously rendered story of a mother's life through her daughter's eyes weaves together a dual timeline, pulling inspiration from both scripture and pop culture as Erika moves through grief to a place of clarity where she can see who she is without her mom—and because of her.

"A beautiful story about an extraordinary mother's gift of love and hope."

—Jeannette Walls, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Glass Castle*

"A searingly honest book about surviving America at the thorny intersection of race, class, and gender...As it examines entangled family dynamics rooted in faith and loyalty, this poignant memoir reveals the life-long impact, for good and for ill, of the ever-powerful mother-daughter bond." —*Kirkus Reviews*

Themes: Black Voices, Coming of Age, Grief



To Name the Bigger Lie

A Memoir in Two Stories

Sarah Viren

9781982166601 | Trade Paper | 320 pages | \$18.00 | Scribner

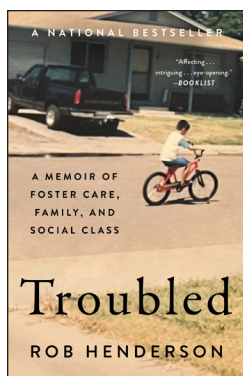
In *To Name the Bigger Lie*, Sarah Viren “has pulled off a magic trick of fantastic proportion” (*The Washington Post*), telling the story of an all-too-real investigation into her personal and professional life that she expands into a profound exploration of the nature of truth. The memoir begins as Viren is researching what she believes will be a book about her high school philosophy teacher, a charismatic instructor who taught her and her classmates to question everything—eventually, even the reality of historical atrocities. As she digs into the effects of his teachings, her life takes a turn into the fantastical when her wife, Marta, is notified that she’s being investigated for sexual misconduct at the university where they both teach.

To Name the Bigger Lie follows the investigation as it challenges everything Sarah thought she knew about truth, testimony, and the difference between the two. She knows the claims made against Marta must be lies, and as she attempts to uncover the identity of the person behind them and prove her wife’s innocence, she’s drawn back into the questions that her teacher inspired all those years ago: about the nature of truth, the value of skepticism, and the stakes we all have in getting the story right.

An incisive journey into honesty and betrayal, this memoir explores the powerful pull of dangerous conspiracy theories and the pliability of personal narratives in a world dominated by hoaxes and fakes.

SELECTED BY Stockton University

Themes: Truth, Identity



Troubled

A Memoir of Foster Care, Family, and Social Class

Rob Henderson

9781982168544 | Trade Paper | 336 pages | \$19.99 | Gallery Books



Read by the author

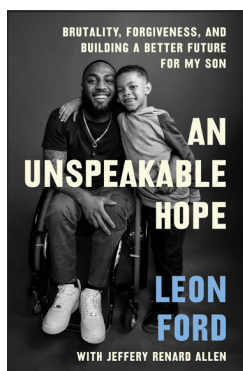
Rob Henderson was born to a drug-addicted mother and a father he never met, ultimately shuttling between ten different foster homes in California. When he was adopted into a loving family, he hoped that life would finally be stable and safe. But divorce, tragedy, poverty, and violence marked his adolescent and teen years, propelling Henderson to join the military upon completing high school.

A “vivid, insightful, poignant, and powerful” (Nicholas A. Christakis, author of *Blueprint*) portrait of shattered families, desperation, and determination, *Troubled* recounts Henderson’s expectation-defying young life and juxtaposes his story with those of his friends who wound up incarcerated or killed.

As he navigates the peaks and valleys of social class, Henderson finds that he remains on the outside looking in. His greatest achievements—a military career, an undergraduate education from Yale, a PhD from Cambridge—feel like hollow measures of success. He argues that stability at home is more important than external accomplishments, and he illustrates the ways the most privileged among us benefit from a set of social standards that actively harm the most vulnerable.

“A memoir of hardscrabble living, from foster care to the Air Force to Yale... [Henderson] traces the contours of his remarkable and often-harrowing life, starting with his abandonment by his birth parents after serious mistreatment...poignantly describ[ing] his rocky journey through numerous foster homes...Shrewd on the narrowness and hypocrisy of elites...[he] is at his best in the frank observations about his trip up the ‘American status ladder’...A blunt story about overcoming adversity.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

Themes: Coming of Age, Overcoming Life’s Challenges, Class



An Unspeakable Hope

Brutality, Forgiveness, and Building a Better Future for My Son

Leon Ford with Jeffery Renard Allen

9781982187286 | Trade Paper | 320 pages | \$19.99 | Atria Books



Read by the author with Jeffery Renard Allen

In 2012, nineteen-year-old Leon Ford was shot five times by a Pittsburgh police officer during a racially charged traffic stop stemming from a case of mistaken identity. When he woke up in the hospital, he was faced with two life-changing realities: he was a new father, and he was paralyzed from the waist down. Leon found the only way to move forward was to let go of his bitterness and learn to practice forgiveness.

Now, in this memoir and manifesto, Leon illustrates how this harrowing experience has inspired a deep reckoning with the issues his community is facing, not only with police brutality, but also an epidemic of street violence, toxic masculinity and its impact on Black fatherhood, and the lack of disability rights and mental health access in disenfranchised communities. In the wake of countless similar shootings across the country, Leon details how he turned towards social activism, dedicating himself to bridging the gap between the police and the communities they are supposed to serve.

With a voice filled with “healing, triumph, and resilience” (Shaka Senghor, bestselling author of *Writing My Wrongs*), Ford offers fresh, counterintuitive ways we can effect social change. Leon shows us how, together, we can move away from retribution and towards transformative justice in order to end police brutality and heal as a country. As he once said, “Lead with love. Start compassionate conversations even with individuals and systems that have caused you pain. I know from experience that you can make your pain purposeful.”

Themes: Social Activism, Resilience, African American Stories and Voices



Where Rivers Part

A Story of My Mother's Life

Kao Kalia Yang

9781982185305 | Trade Paper | 336 pages | \$19.99 | Atria Books

Read by the author and Pamela Xiong

Born in 1961 in war-torn Laos, Tswb's childhood was marked by the violence of America's Secret War and the CIA recruitment of the Hmong and other ethnic minorities into the lost cause. By the time Tswb was a teenager, the US had completely vacated Laos, and the country erupted into genocidal attacks on the Hmong people, who were labeled as traitors. Fearing for their lives, Tswb and her family left everything they knew behind and fled their village for the jungle.

Perpetually on the run and on the brink of starvation, Tswb eventually crossed paths with the man who would become her future husband. Leaving her own mother behind, she joined his family at a refugee camp, a choice that would haunt her for the rest of her life. Eventually becoming a mother herself, Tswb raised her daughters in a state of constant fear and hunger until they were able to emigrate to the US, where the determined couple enrolled in high school even though they were both nearly thirty and worked grueling jobs to provide for their children.

Now, her daughter, Kao Kalia Yang, reveals her mother's astonishing saga with tenderness and clarity, giving voice to the countless resilient refugees who are often overlooked as one of the essential foundations of this country. "Haunting and painfully relevant" (*Booklist*), *Where Rivers Part* is destined to become a classic.

"Compassionate, lyrical, tender, and insightful." —*Kirkus Reviews*

Themes: Family, Resilience



Who I Always Was

A Memoir

Theresa Okokon

9781668008966 | Trade Paper | 288 pages | \$19.00 | Atria Books

Read by the author

When Theresa Okokon was nine, her father traveled to his hometown in Nigeria to attend his mother's funeral...and never returned. His mysterious death shattered Theresa as her family's world unraveled. Now a storyteller and television cohost, Okokon sets out to explore the ripple effects of that profound loss and the way heartache shapes our sense of self and of the world—for the rest of our lives.

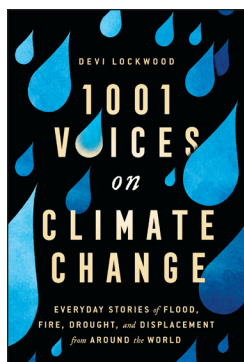
Using her grief and her father's death as a backdrop, Okokon delves deeply into intrinsic themes of Blackness, African spirituality, family, abandonment, belonging, and the seemingly endless, unrequited romantic pursuits of a Black woman who came of age as a Black girl in Wisconsin suburbs where she was—in many ways—always an anomaly.

"*Who I Always Was* is a coming-of-age memoir, where the narrator struggles to find her place in a new land, a place that also happens to be where she was born. A central wound haunts these pages, that of a father who returns to his homeland and never returns. This is an immigrant memoir that asks the deepest questions of identity, of home, of belonging." —Nick Flynn, author of *Another Bullshit Night in Suck City*

Themes: African American Stories and Voices, Acceptance, Isolation, Family, Essays, Identity, Coming of Age

Simon & Schuster First Year Reading

NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT



1,001 Voices on Climate Change

Everyday Stories of Flood, Fire, Drought, and Displacement from Around the World
Devi Lockwood

9781982146733 | Trade Paper | 352 pages | \$18.99 | Simon Element

In *1,001 Voices on Climate Change*, Lockwood travels the world, often by bicycle, collecting first-person accounts of climate change. She frequently carried with her a simple cardboard sign reading, "Tell me a story about climate change."

Over five years, covering twenty countries across six continents, Lockwood hears from indigenous elders and youth in Fiji and Tuvalu about drought and disappearing coastlines, attends the UN climate conference in Morocco, and bikes the length of New Zealand and Australia, interviewing the people she meets about retreating glaciers, contaminated rivers, and wildfires. She rides through Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia to listen to marionette puppeteers and novice Buddhist monks.

From Denmark and Sweden to China, Turkey, the Canadian Arctic, and the Peruvian Amazon, she finds that ordinary people sharing their stories does far more to advance understanding and empathy than even the most alarming statistics and studies. This "luminous book" (Deborah Blum, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Poison Squad* and *The Poisoner's Handbook*) is a hopeful global listening tour for climate change, channeling the urgency of those who have already glimpsed the future to help us avoid the worst.

SELECTED BY Alvernia University

Themes: Climate Change, Public Policy, Community



Before It's Gone

Stories from the Front Lines of Climate Change in Small-Town America

Jonathan Vigliotti

9781668008188 | Trade Paper | 304 pages | \$18.99 | One Signal Publishers

 Read by the author

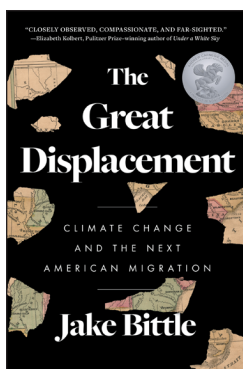
Discussion of the climate crisis has always suffered from a problem of abstraction. Data points and warnings of an overheated future struggle to break through the noise of everyday life. Deniers often portray climate solutions as inconvenient, expensive, and unnecessary. And many politicians, cloistered by status and focused always on their next election, do not yet see climate as a winning issue in the short run. But climate change is here whether we want to pay attention or not.

CBS News national correspondent Jonathan Vigliotti has personally witnessed that crisis unfold, spending nearly two decades reporting across the United States (and the world) documenting the people, communities, landmarks, and traditions we've already surrendered. Vigliotti shares with urgency and personal touch the story of an America on the brink.

Before It's Gone traces Vigliotti's travels across the country, taking him to the frontlines of climate disaster and revealing the genuine impacts of climate change that countless Americans have already been forced to confront. From massive forest fires in California to hurricanes in Louisiana, receding coastlines in Massachusetts and devastated fisheries in Alaska, we learn that warnings of a future impacted by climate are no more; the climate catastrophe is already here.

"[*Before It's Gone*] melds profiles and scientific data to highlight the human impact of climate change in locales across the country, from Louisiana to Maui." —*The New York Times Book Review*

Theme: Climate Change



The Great Displacement

Climate Change and the Next American Migration

Jake Bittle

9781982178260 | Trade Paper | 368 pages | \$18.99 | Simon & Schuster

Even as climate change dominates the headlines, many of us still think about it in the future tense. What we often don't realize is that the consequences of climate change are already visible, right here in the United States. In communities across the country, climate disasters are pushing thousands of people away from their homes.

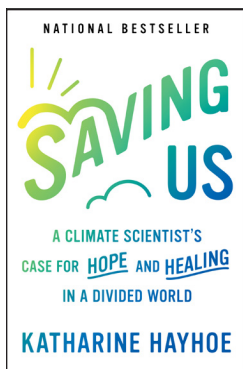
A human-centered narrative with national scope, *The Great Displacement* is "a vivid tour of the new human geography just coming into view" (David Wallace-Wells, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Uninhabitable Earth*). From half-drowned Louisiana to fire-scorched California, from the dried-up cotton fields of Arizona to the soaked watersheds of inland North Carolina, people are moving. In the last few decades, the federal government has moved tens of thousands of families away from flood zones, and tens of thousands more have moved of their own accord in the aftermath of natural disasters. Insurance and mortgage markets are already shifting to reflect mounting climate risk, pricing people out of risky areas.

Over the next fifty years, millions of Americans will be caught up in this churn of displacement, forced inland and northward in what will be the largest migration in our country's history. Jake Bittle is "an empathetic writer" (NPR) who compassionately tells the stories of those who are already experiencing life on the move, while detailing just how radically climate change will transform our lives—erasing historic towns and villages, pushing people toward new areas, and reshaping the geography of the United States.

Shortlisted for the 2024 Carnegie Medal for Excellence

SELECTED BY Minnesota State University, Mankato

Themes: Climate Change, Poverty, Social Science



Saving Us

A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World

Katharine Hayhoe

9781982143848 | Trade Paper | 320 pages | \$19.99 | One Signal Publishers

 **Read by the author**

Called "one of the nation's most effective communicators on climate change" by *The New York Times*, Katharine Hayhoe knows how to navigate all sides of the conversation on our changing planet. A Canadian climate scientist living in Texas, she negotiates distrust of data, indifference to imminent threats, and resistance to proposed solutions with ease. Over the past fifteen years Hayhoe has found that the most important thing we can do to address climate change is talk about it—and she wants to teach you how.

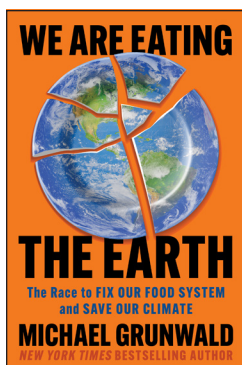
In *Saving Us*, Hayhoe argues that when it comes to changing hearts and minds, facts are only one part of the equation. We need to find shared values in order to connect our unique identities to collective action. This is not another doomsday narrative about a planet on fire. It is a multilayered look at science, faith, and human psychology, from an icon in her field.

Drawing on interdisciplinary research and personal stories, Hayhoe shows that small conversations can have astonishing results. *Saving Us* leaves us with the tools to open a dialogue with your loved ones about how we all can play a role in pushing forward for change.

"In *Saving Us*, climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe teaches all of us how to open hearts and minds to the truths of climate change. Talking about global warming with our own family and friends is one of the most important things we each can do, creating a shared understanding, rooted in empathy, to motivate action." —Anthony Leiserowitz, Director of the Yale University Project on Climate Change

SELECTED BY College of New Jersey

Themes: Climate Change, Public Policy



We Are Eating the Earth

The Race to Fix Our Food System and Save Our Climate

Michael Grunwald

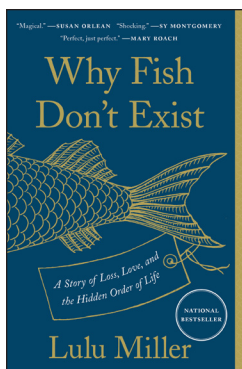
9781982160074 | Hardcover | 384 pages | \$29.99 | Simon & Schuster

In this rollicking, shocking narrative, Michael Grunwald shows how the world, after decades of ignoring the climate problem at the center of our plates, has pivoted to making it worse, embracing solutions that sound sustainable but could make it even harder to grow more food with less land. But he also tells the stories of the dynamic scientists and entrepreneurs pursuing real solutions, from a jungle-tough miracle crop called pongamia to genetically-edited cattle embryos. It's an often infuriating saga of lobbyists, politicians, and even the scientific establishment making terrible choices for humanity, but it's also a hopeful account of the people figuring out what needs to be done—and trying to do it.

Grunwald builds his narrative around a brilliant, relentless, unforgettable food and land expert named Tim Searchinger. He chronicles Searchinger's uphill battles against bad science and bad politics, both driven by the overwhelming influence of agricultural interests. And he illuminates a path that could save our planetary home for ourselves and future generations—through better policy, technology, and behavior, as well as a new land ethic recognizing that every acre matters.

"A thrilling and provocative survey of inventions, innovations, and wild flights of imagination aimed at feeding more people while using less land... People who would rather solve problems than posture over them, people who understand that popularity is no measure of truth, will find in this book a bracing, beautiful picture of what's possible—and a sobering look at the difficulty of change." —*The Washington Post*

Themes: Food, Policy, Climate Change



Why Fish Don't Exist

A Story of Loss, Love, and the Hidden Order of Life

Lulu Miller

9781501160349 | Trade Paper | 256 pages | \$19.00 | Simon & Schuster

 **Read by the author**

David Starr Jordan was a taxonomist, a man possessed with bringing order to the natural world. In time, he would be credited with discovering nearly a fifth of the fish known to humans in his day. But the more of the hidden blueprint of life he uncovered, the harder the universe seemed to try to thwart him. His specimen collections were demolished by lightning, by fire, and eventually by the 1906 San Francisco earthquake—which sent more than a thousand discoveries, housed in fragile glass jars, plummeting to the floor. In an instant, his life's work was shattered.

Many might have given up, given in to despair. But Jordan? He surveyed the wreckage at his feet, found the first fish that he recognized, and confidently began to rebuild his collection. And this time, he introduced one clever innovation that he believed would at last protect his work against the chaos of the world.

When NPR reporter Lulu Miller first heard this anecdote in passing, she took Jordan for a fool—a cautionary tale in hubris, or denial. But as her own life slowly unraveled, she began to wonder about him. Perhaps instead he was a model for how to go on when all seemed lost. What she would unearth about his life would transform her understanding of history, morality, and the world beneath her feet.

Part biography, part memoir, part scientific adventure, *Why Fish Don't Exist* is a wondrous fable about how to persevere in a world where chaos will always prevail.

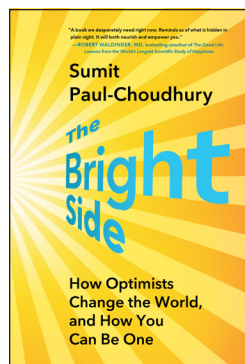
Peabody Award Winner

SELECTED BY Eckerd College

Themes: Life Science, Biography, Resilience

Simon & Schuster First Year Reading

SUCCESS IN COLLEGE AND BEYOND



The Bright Side

How Optimists Change the World, and How You Can Be One

Sumit Paul-Choudhury

9781668031407 | Hardcover | 320 pages | \$29.99 | Scribner

 **Read by the author**

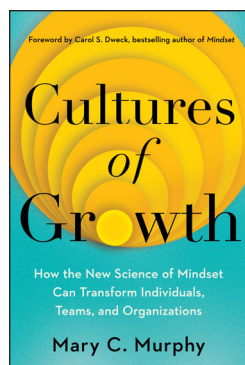
Scrolling through our daily newsfeeds we see violence, injustice, fake news, and worsening social crises—just a few of the dark currents feeding a tidal wave of pessimism. In the face of so many challenges, how can we stay optimistic? And, more important, why should we?

In *The Bright Side*, Sumit Paul-Choudhury answers these pressing questions, arguing that optimism is not only essential for overcoming the challenges we face, but also fundamental to human wellbeing. Drawing on a wide array of evidence, he delves into the underappreciated roots of optimism, examines its impact on mental health and professional success, and discusses why it has a power that wishful thinking lacks.

Additionally, *The Bright Side* shows how we can apply the principles of optimism to cope with environmental crises, artificial intelligence, and social change. From the polar reaches to the world's mightiest cities, through inspirational figures including explorers, activists, and scientists, the book illustrates optimism in action.

"A book we desperately need right now... Sumit Paul-Choudhury musters powerful arguments from science, history, and psychology to remind us of what is hidden in plain sight—our proven ability to shape a future that promotes human thriving. This is science-based chicken soup for the soul. It will both nourish and empower you." —Robert Waldinger, M.D., bestselling coauthor of *The Good Life*

Themes: Philosophy, Happiness, Society



Cultures of Growth

How the New Science of Mindset Can Transform Individuals, Teams, and Organizations

Mary C. Murphy

9781982172749 | Hardcover | 352 pages | \$30.00 | Simon & Schuster

 **Read by the author**

Carol Dweck's bestseller *Mindset* transformed our view of individual potential, coining the terms "fixed" and "growth" mindset: in a "fixed" mindset, talent and intelligence are viewed as predetermined traits, while in a "growth" mindset, talent and intelligence can be nurtured.

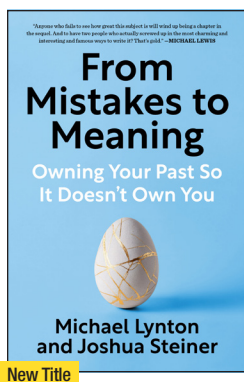
In *Cultures of Growth*, Dweck's protégé, Mary Murphy, a social psychologist at both Stanford and Indiana University, shows that mindset transcends individuals. A growth mindset culture can transform any group, team, or classroom to reach breakthroughs while also helping each person achieve their potential.

Murphy's original decade-long research reveals that organizations and teams more geared toward growth inspire deeper learning, spark collaboration, spur innovation, and build trust necessary for risk-taking and inclusion. In these cultures, great ideas come from people from all backgrounds and at all levels—not just those anointed as brilliant or talented. In a world where success seems reserved for a chosen few, *Cultures of Growth* unveils a radically different approach to creating organizations that inspire learning, growth, and success at all levels.

"*Cultures of Growth* is a good reminder that abilities are not static; it's a helpful starting point for thinking about how and when we might adopt a different mindset." —*The Wall Street Journal*

"A practical, useful guide for personal and organizational success."
—*Kirkus Reviews*

Themes: Leadership, Success



From Mistakes to Meaning

Owning Your Past So It Doesn't Own You

Michael Lynton and Joshua Steiner

9781668080221 | Hardcover | 272 pages | \$30.00 | Avid Reader Press

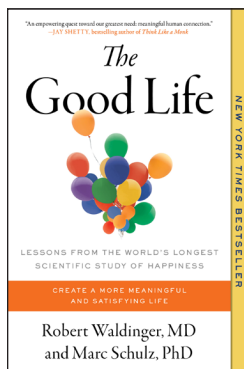


Longtime friends Michael Lynton and Josh Steiner made mistakes that shaped their careers and lives, but it wasn't until the isolation of the pandemic that they began to open up to each other about them. When Michael was the CEO of Sony Entertainment, he greenlit the film that led to the infamous North Korean hack; meanwhile, a private diary Josh had kept as Chief of Staff at the Treasury Department became a focal point in the Clinton Whitewater scandal. As their conversation deepened, they searched for a book to guide their exploration, they came up empty. So they set out to write one themselves.

Through a revealing examination of their own stories and candid interviews with influential figures such as Larry Summers, Joanna Coles, and Malcolm Gladwell along with people from all walks of life, the authors unveil the hidden dimensions of mistakes and the universal struggle to move beyond them. Working with Alison Papadakis, Director of Clinical Psychological Studies at Johns Hopkins, they ground their observations in relevant research and unpack the difference between failures and mistakes, the stages of mistakes, and how it's possible to break the patterns that lead to misunderstandings and shame.

From Mistakes to Meaning is an essential and fascinating read, combining compelling narrative and actionable advice, showing that mistakes can be used as portals for personal growth instead of lifelong burdens.

Theme: Personal Success



The Good Life

Lessons from the World's Longest Scientific Study of Happiness

Robert Waldinger, MD and Marc Schulz, PhD

9781982166700 | Trade Paper | 352 pages | \$19.99 | Simon & Schuster



Read by the authors

What makes a life fulfilling and meaningful? The simple but surprising answer is: relationships. The stronger our relationships, the more likely we are to live happy, satisfying, and healthier lives. In fact, the Harvard Study of Adult Development reveals that the strength of our connections with others can predict the health of both our bodies and our brains as we go through life.

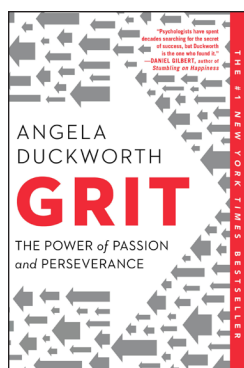
The invaluable insights in *The Good Life* emerge from the revealing personal stories of hundreds of participants in the Harvard Study as they were followed year after year for their entire adult lives, and this wisdom was bolstered by research findings from many other studies. Relationships in all their forms—friendships, romantic partnerships, families, coworkers, tennis partners, book club members—all contribute to a happier, healthier life. And as *The Good Life* shows us, it's never too late to strengthen the relationships you already have, and never too late to build new ones. *The Good Life* provides examples of how to do this.

With "insightful [and] interesting" (Daniel Gilbert, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Stumbling on Happiness*) life stories, *The Good Life* shows us how we can make our lives happier and more meaningful through our connections to others.

"Want the secret to the good life? Robert Waldinger and Marc Schulz give it to you in this magnificent new book. Based on the longest survey ever conducted over people's lives, *The Good Life* reveals who winds up happy, who doesn't, and why—and how you can use this information starting today." —Arthur C. Brooks, Professor, Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Business School

New York Times Bestseller

Themes: Happiness, Friendship, Connection



Grit

The Power of Passion and Perseverance

Angela Duckworth

9781501111112 | Trade Paper | 368 pages | \$19.99 | Scribner

 **Read by the author**

The daughter of a scientist who frequently noted her lack of “genius,” Angela Duckworth is now a celebrated researcher and professor. It was her early eye-opening stints in teaching, business consulting, and neuroscience that led to her hypothesis about what really drives success: not genius, but a unique combination of passion and long-term perseverance.

In *Grit*, she takes us into the field to visit cadets struggling through their first days at West Point, teachers working in some of the toughest schools, and young finalists in the National Spelling Bee. She also mines fascinating insights from history and shows what can be gleaned from modern experiments in peak performance. Finally, she shares what she’s learned from interviewing dozens of high achievers—from JP Morgan CEO Jamie Dimon to *New Yorker* cartoon editor Bob Mankoff to Seattle Seahawks Coach Pete Carroll.

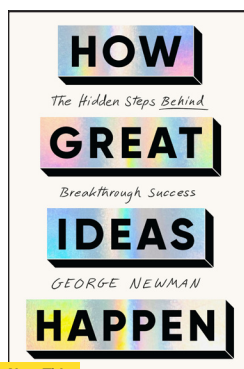
Among *Grit*’s most valuable insights: any effort you make ultimately counts twice toward your goal; grit can be learned, regardless of IQ or circumstances; and so much more. Winningly personal, insightful, and even life-changing, *Grit* is a book about what goes through your head when you fall down, and how that—not talent or luck—makes all the difference.

New York Times Bestseller

Reading Group Guide Available

SELECTED BY California State Polytechnic University–Pomona, Buena Vista University, University of Pittsburgh Katz Graduate School of Business, New York University Tandon School of Engineering, Stanford University, Pennsylvania State University–Berks, Stetson Hall University, University of Idaho

Themes: Leadership, Personal Success



New Title

How Great Ideas Happen

The Hidden Steps Behind Breakthrough Success

George Newman

9781668026007 | Hardcover | 304 pages | 30.00 | Simon & Schuster 

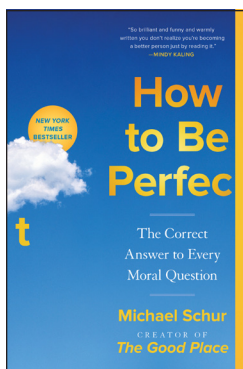
We’re used to imagining creativity as a lightbulb moment—sudden, mysterious, reserved for the gifted few. But what if ideas aren’t conjured from thin air? What if they’re discovered—more like precious artifacts that we unearth and refine?

In *How Great Ideas Happen*, cognitive scientist George Newman draws on cutting-edge research to show that creativity isn’t magic, it’s method. The most successful innovators don’t wait to be struck by brilliance; their creative process is more like archeology. As keen-eyed explorers, they scan the terrain, dig with intention, and, with a little luck, find gold.

With vivid examples from the arts, science, and business, Newman shows how creativity often comes from discovering what was already there. For example, how Jackson Pollock tapped into deep patterns in nature to create his famous “drip” paintings; how Korean filmmakers created an entirely new genre by closely studying foreign films; or, how Paul Simon made Graceland by carefully sifting through previously recorded material for what he could take away.

By revealing the hidden steps behind breakthrough success, *How Great Ideas Happen* uncovers a repeatable method that anyone can follow, reframing creativity not as a rare gift, but as a universal capacity waiting to be unlocked through exploration. The creative process is an adventure of ideas—this book is your guide.

Themes: Creativity, Inspiration, Personal Success, Psychology



How to be Perfect

The Correct Answer to Every Moral Question

Michael Schur

9781982159320 | Trade Paper | 304 pages | \$18.99 | Simon & Schuster

Read by the author and cast of *The Good Place*

Most people think of themselves as “good,” but it’s not always easy to determine what’s “good” or “bad”—especially in a world filled with complicated choices and pitfalls and booby traps and bad advice. Fortunately, many smart philosophers have been pondering this conundrum for millennia and they have guidance for us. With bright wit and deep insight, *How to Be Perfect* explains concepts like deontology, utilitarianism, existentialism, ubuntu, and more so we can sound cool at parties and become better people.

Schur starts off with easy ethical questions like “Should I punch my friend in the face for no reason?” (No.) and works his way up to the most complex moral issues we all face. Such as: Can I still enjoy great art if it was created by terrible people? How much money should I give to charity? Why bother being good at all when there are no consequences for being bad? And much more. By the time the book is done, we’ll know exactly how to act in every conceivable situation, so as to produce a verifiably maximal amount of moral good. We will be perfect, and all our friends will be jealous. Okay, not quite. Instead, we’ll gain fresh, funny, inspiring wisdom on the toughest issues we face every day.

“[H]eartfelt and funny... a relatable and consistently amusing introduction to practical philosophy. Like *The Good Place*, this is a humorous and thought-provoking journey into some of life’s hardest questions.”

—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

SELECTED BY University of South Carolina

Themes: Philosophy, Ethics



New Title

Kin

The Future of Family

Sophie Lucido Johnson

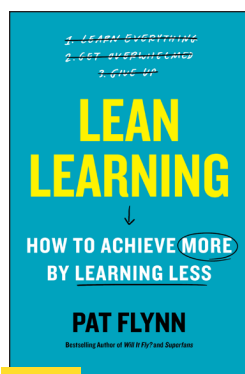
9781668060650 | Hardcover | 288 pages | \$29.00 | Atria Books

Doesn’t it seem like there simply isn’t enough time to take care of ourselves, our families, and our to do lists? Even when we’re partnered and surrounded by friends, we’re often too afraid of burdening others to ask for help. So how do we survive today’s age of overwork and stress, and who can we turn to for the support we need to stay afloat?

Now, writer and cartoonist Sophie Lucido Johnson offers a radical answer to our age of overwhelm in *Kin*. With richly reported stories and insights from psychology and sociology, Lucido Johnson explores the importance of our closest relationships (beyond the nuclear family) and provides the tools to forge kinship: relationships built on emotional support, physical care, and shared resources. From asking for help on a grocery run, to choosing to have roommates later in life to combat loneliness, to living in modern day “mommunes” of single mothers sharing bills and responsibilities, *Kin* shows the vast range of kinship structures she and others are thriving in—and how to build your own community of support.

“Sophie Lucido Johnson’s *Kin* models ways to find, cultivate, and deepen connections with people who aren’t romantic partners or family. Along the way, this bighearted book will make you want to reach out to those you already hold dear. *Kin* is the book I wish I could give to my younger self. Reading it now is the next best thing.” —Tove Danovich, author of *Under the Henfluence*

Themes: Community, Relationships



New Title

Lean Learning

How to Achieve More by Learning Less

Pat Flynn

9781668027646 | Hardcover | 256 pages | \$28.99 | Simon Acumen

Read by the author

In today's fast-moving world, the difference between success and failure is not in what you know but in what you do with what you know. *Lean Learning* equips you with the tools to do just that, propelling you towards your goals with greater efficiency, purpose, and results.

Pat Flynn, a seasoned and serial entrepreneur and business mentor to millions, draws on his own experiences and of those who have successfully implemented his techniques. *Lean Learning* isn't just about absorbing information efficiently—it's about reshaping your approach to knowledge altogether.

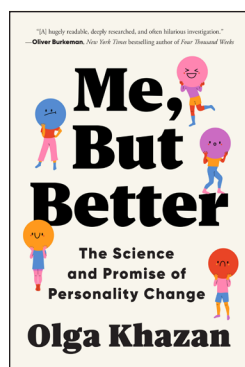
This book teaches you how to identify what's essential for your growth and eliminate all the distractions that tend to bog you down.

Lean Learning stands out in a crowded productivity space by focusing not just on "working smarter" but on revolutionizing the way we absorb, process, and use information every single day. It's a perfect read for entrepreneurs, professionals, and lifelong learners who are ready to cut through the chaos and start making real progress.

Backed by Flynn's extensive entrepreneurial success real-life case studies, *Lean Learning* offers a transformative approach to mastering any skill and achieving more with less.

"Better is possible. But it requires focused curiosity and persistence. Flynn's book offers us a useful foundation for growth." —Seth Godin, author of *This Is Strategy*

Themes: Personal Success, Self Improvement



Me, But Better

The Science and Promise of Personality Change

Olga Khazan

9781668012550 | Trade Paper | 288 pages | \$19.00 | Simon Element

Read by the author

In recent years, Olga Khazan had been spiraling toward an existential crisis. Though she treasured her loving relationship and her dream job, her neurotic personality often left her snatching dissatisfaction from the jaws of happiness. While her overachieving had always been a professional asset, Olga lately felt like her brittle disposition could shatter under the weight of just one more thing—but could she really change her entire personality?

Research shows that you can alter your personality traits by behaving in ways that align with the kind of person you'd like to be—a process that can make you happier, healthier, and more successful. In *Me, But Better*, Olga embarks on an experiment to see whether it's possible to go from dwelling in dread to "radiating joy." For one year, Olga reluctantly clicked "yes" on a bucket list of new experiences—from meditation to improv to sailing—that forced her to at least act happy. With a skeptic's eye, Olga brings you on her journey through the science of personality, presenting evidence-backed techniques to help you change your mind for the better. Sharply witty and deeply fascinating, *Me, But Better* offers a probing inquiry into what it means to live a fulfilling life, and how you can keep diving into change, no matter how uncomfortable it feels.

"Me, But Better is everything you want in a nonfiction book. It's funny, intelligent, thought-provoking, and mind-changing." —Derek Thompson, *The Atlantic* staff writer

Themes: Self Improvement, Happiness



The Opposite of Loneliness

Essays and Stories

By Marina Keegan, Foreword by R.F. Kuang, Introduction by Anne Fadiman

9781476753911 | Trade Paper | 256 pages | 18.99 | Scribner

Marina Keegan's star was on the rise when she graduated magna cum laude from Yale in May 2012. She had a play that was to be produced at the New York Fringe Festival and a job waiting for her at *The New Yorker*. Tragically, five days after graduation, Marina died in a car crash.

Marina left behind a rich, deeply expansive trove of writing that, like her title essay, captures the hope, uncertainty, and possibility of her generation. As Marina wrote: "We can still do anything. We can change our minds. We can start over... We're so young. We can't, we MUST not lose this sense of possibility because in the end, it's all we have."

The Opposite of Loneliness is an unforgettable collection of Marina's essays and stories that articulates the universal struggle all of us face as we figure out what we aspire to be and how we can harness our talents to impact the world. "How do you mourn the loss of a fiery talent that was barely a tendril before it was snuffed out? Answer: Read this book. A clear-eyed observer of human nature, Keegan could take a clever idea... and make it something beautiful" (*People*).

This expanded anniversary edition features a foreword from bestselling author R.F. Kuang and additional materials from Marina, including one of her final essays and a selection from her performance poetry.

"A triumph... Keegan was right to prod us all to reflect on what we seek from life." —Nicholas Kristof, *The New York Times*

Themes: Inspirational, Essays



Think Faster, Talk Smarter

How to Speak Successfully When You're Put on the Spot

Matt Abrahams

9781668010303 | Hardcover | 256 pages | \$28.99 | Simon Acumen

 Read by the author

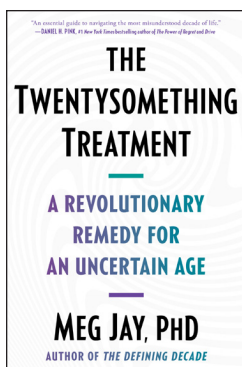
In *Think Faster, Talk Smarter*, Stanford lecturer, podcast host, and communication expert Matt Abrahams provides tangible, actionable skills to help even the most anxious of speakers succeed when speaking spontaneously. Abrahams provides science-based strategies for managing anxiety, responding to the mood of the room, and making content concise, relevant, compelling, and memorable. Drawing on stories from his clients and students, he offers best practices for navigating Q&A sessions, shining in job interviews, providing effective feedback, making small talk, fixing faux pas, persuading others, and handling other impromptu speaking tasks.

Whether it's a professor asking you an unexpected question during a class or all eyes turning to you at a dinner party, you'll know how to navigate the situation like a pro and bring out your very best. *Think Faster, Talk Smarter* is an accessible guide to communication that will help you master new techniques in no time.

"Matt Abrahams has a gift for making complex concepts easy to understand and simple to enact. If you've ever struggled to summon the right words at the right time, this book is an essential read." —Daniel H. Pink, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Drive*

"This concise guide offers science-based strategies for managing anxiety and delivering impactful, impromptu responses in any situation, from job interviews to those questions you get at the most unexpected moments. Abrahams's real-life examples and actionable tips provide a roadmap to mastering the art of thinking quickly and speaking confidently, and this is the perfect book for professionals, teachers, parents—or anyone else who talks." —Charles Duhigg, bestselling author of *The Power of Habit*

Theme: Personal Success



The Twentysomething Treatment

A Revolutionary Remedy for an Uncertain Age

Meg Jay

9781668012307 | Trade Paper | 288 pages | \$18.99 | Simon & Schuster

 Read by the author

There is a young adult mental health crisis in America. So many twentysomethings are struggling—especially with anxiety, depression, and substance use—yet, as a culture, we are not sure what to think or do about it. We are quick to pathologize them and to hand out diagnoses and medications.

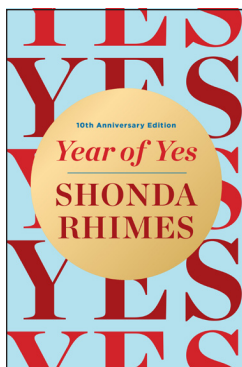
For twenty-five years, Meg Jay has worked as a clinical psychologist who specializes in twentysomethings, and here she argues that most don't have disorders that must be treated: they have problems that can be solved. In these pages, she offers a revolutionary remedy that upends the medicalization of twentysomething life and advocates instead for skills over pills.

In *The Twentysomething Treatment*, Jay teaches:

- How to think less about “what if” and more about “what is.”
- How to feel uncertain without coming undone.
- How to work—at work—toward competence and calm.
- How to be social when social media functions as an evolutionary trap.
- How to befriend someone and why this is more crucial for survival than ever.
- How to move, literally, toward happiness and health.
- How to change a bad habit you may not know you have.
- How to decide when so much about life is undecided.
- How to choose purpose at work and in love.

The Twentysomething Treatment is a book that offers help and hope to millions of young adults—and to the friends, parents, partners, teachers, and mentors who care about them—just when they need it the most. It is essential reading for anyone who wants to find out how to improve our mental health by improving how we handle the uncertainties of life.

Themes: Mental Health, Personal Success



Year of Yes (10th Anniversary Deluxe Edition)

Dance It Out. Stand in the Sun. Be Your Own Person.

Shonda Rhimes

9781668205273 | Hardcover | 400 pages | \$30.00 | Marysue Rucci Books

 Read by the author

In 2015, Shonda Rhimes, the trailblazing creative force behind some of television's most beloved series, took on a challenge that would change her life forever. She challenged herself to say “yes” to everything for a year, and the results were nothing short of transformative. Hailed as “honest, raw, and revelatory” (*The Washington Post*) and “as fun to read as Rhimes's TV series are to watch” (*Los Angeles Times*), *Year of Yes* quickly became a *New York Times* bestseller, captivating thousands with its candid and compelling narrative.

Now, in the 10th anniversary deluxe edition of *Year of Yes*, Shonda revisits this pivotal year with fresh insights and exclusive new material, including a new introduction and a bonus chapter.

With humor and honesty, Shonda's story encourages readers to step out of their own comfort zones and embrace new opportunities. A self-proclaimed introvert who often said “no,” Shonda's year of yes was transformational—and yet entirely relatable. This wildly candid and compulsively readable book reveals how the mega-talented Shonda Rhimes achieved badassery worthy of a Shondaland character. And how you can, too.

“Small, charmingly odd, inspirational stories... Quite simply, it's a book about how she learned to take care of herself, and how you might be able to as well. Welcome your new life coach, Shonda Rhimes.” —*Vulture*

Reading Group Guide Available

Themes: Personal Success, Inspiration

Simon & Schuster First Year Reading

TOPICS OF TODAY



New Title

Abundance**Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson**

9781668023488 | Hardcover | 304 pages | \$30.00 | Avid Reader Press



Read by the authors

Abundance explains that our problems today are not the results of yesteryear's villains. Rather, one generation's solutions have become the next generation's problems. Rules and regulations designed to solve the problems of the 1970s often prevent urban-density and green-energy projects that would help solve the problems of the 2020s. Laws meant to ensure that government considers the consequences of its actions have made it too difficult for government to act consequentially.

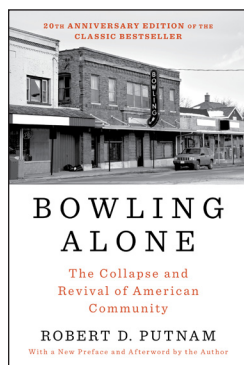
Progress requires facing up to the institutions in life that are not working as they need to. It means, for liberals, recognizing when the government is failing. It means, for conservatives, recognizing when the government is needed. In a book exploring how we can move from a liberalism that not only protects and preserves but also builds, Klein and Thompson trace the political, economic, and cultural barriers to progress and propose a path toward a politics of abundance. At a time when movements of scarcity are gaining power in country after country, this is an answer that meets the challenges of the moment while grappling honestly with the fury so many rightfully feel.

"Spectacular...Offers a comprehensive indictment of the current problems and a clear path forward...Klein and Thompson usher in a mood shift. They inspire hope and enlarge the imagination by describing the good things that are actually within our grasp: abundant energy, cheaper housing, affordable cities, shorter workweeks, lab-grown meat so that we no longer have to use 25 percent of global land to raise livestock."

—David Brooks, *The New York Times*

Reading Group Guide Available

Theme: Public Policy

**Bowling Alone: Revised and Updated***The Collapse and Revival of American Community***Robert D. Putnam**

9781982130848 | Trade Paper | 592 pages | \$21.99 | Simon & Schuster

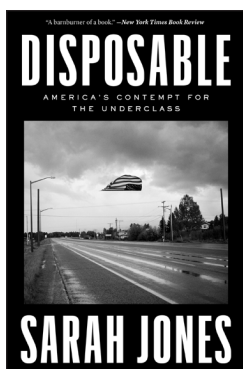


Twenty years ago, Robert D. Putnam made a seemingly simple observation: once we bowled in leagues, usually after work; but no longer. This seemingly small phenomenon symbolized a significant social change that became the basis of the acclaimed bestseller, *Bowling Alone*.

Bowling Alone surveyed in detail Americans' changing behavior over the decades, showing how we had become increasingly disconnected from family, friends, neighbors, and social structures, whether it's with the PTA, church, clubs, political parties, or bowling leagues. In the revised edition of his classic work, Putnam shows how our shrinking access to the "social capital" that is the reward of communal activity and community sharing still poses a serious threat to our civic and personal health, and how these consequences have a new resonance for our divided country today. He includes critical new material on the pervasive influence of social media and the internet, which has introduced previously unthinkable opportunities for social connection—as well as unprecedented levels of alienation and isolation.

Updated to include a new chapter about the influence of social media and the Internet—the 20th anniversary edition of *Bowling Alone* remains a seminal work of social analysis, and its examination of what happened to our sense of community remains more relevant than ever in today's fractured America.

Themes: Community, US History, Public Policy



Disposable

America's Contempt for the Underclass

Sarah Jones

9781982197438 | Trade Paper | 304 pages | \$20.00 | Avid Reader Press 

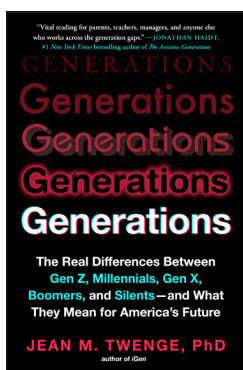
Disposable is a poignant exploration of America's underclass, left vulnerable by systemic racism and capitalism. Here, Sarah Jones delves into the lives of the essential workers, seniors, and people with disabilities who were disproportionately affected by COVID-19—not due to their age or profession, but because of the systemic inequality and poverty that left them exposed.

The pandemic served as a stark revelation of the true state of America, a country where the dream of prosperity is a distant mirage for millions. Jones argues that the pandemic didn't create these dynamics, but rather revealed the existing social mobility issues and wealth gap that have long plagued the nation. Behind the staggering death toll are stories of lives lost, injustices suffered, and institutions that failed to protect their people.

Jones brings these stories to the forefront, transforming the abstract concept of the pandemic into a deeply personal and political phenomenon. She argues that America has abandoned a sacrificial underclass of millions but insists that another future is possible. By addressing the pervasive issues of racial justice and public policy, Jones calls for a future where no one is seen as disposable again.

"Jones chronicles the human toll of COVID and how the pandemic served to exacerbate the deep inequalities already baked into American society. The book not only explores the ways in which illness intersects with poverty, race, and disability; it also critiques an American economy that leaves many, including herself, living '[a] middle-class life threatened on all sides by catastrophe.'" —Kate Tuttle, *The Boston Globe*

Themes: Society, Policy, Social Justice, Public Health, Inequality



Generations

The Real Differences Between Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X, Boomers, and Silents—and What They Mean for America's Future

Jean M. Twenge, PhD

9781982181628 | Trade Paper | 560 pages | \$21.99 | Atria Books 

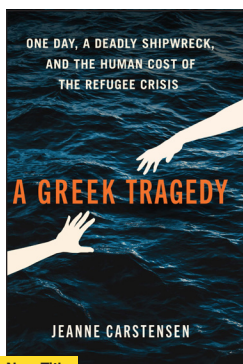
Upending the conventional theory that generational differences are caused by major events, Dr. Jean Twenge analyzes data on 39 million people from robust national surveys—some going back nearly a century—to show that changes in technology are the underlying driver of each generation's unique makeup. In this revelatory work, Twenge outlines key shifts in attitudes and lifestyle choices that define each generation regarding gender, income, politics, race, sexuality, marriage, mental health, and much more.

Surprising, engaging, and informative, *Generations* will forever change the way you view your parents, peers, coworkers, and teachers, no matter which generation you call your own.

"In this magnum opus, Jean Twenge summarizes three decades of research and survey data from 39 million people to paint a portrait of six American generations. Her conclusions about technology and individualism—and her predictions for the future—will leave you gasping. More important, Jean gets you thinking about how appreciating generational differences can, ironically, bring us together." —Angela Duckworth, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Grit*

"Jean Twenge's fascinating new book gives key insights into how cultural trends have shaped each generation's psychological well-being—it is essential reading for anyone concerned about today's mental health crisis." —Lori Gottlieb, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone*

Theme: Society



New Title

A Greek Tragedy

One Day, a Deadly Shipwreck, and the Human Cost of the Refugee Crisis

Jeanne Carstensen

9781668083147 | Hardcover | 288 pages | \$28.99 | One Signal Publishers 

On October 28, 2015, a boat meant for only a few dozen passengers capsized off the coast of the Greek island of Lesbos. Hundreds of refugees, forced in desperation onto the overloaded boat manned by armed smugglers, were tossed into a roiling sea. The resulting loss of life, the largest in a single day during the crisis in the Aegean, shocked the world.

Now, after nearly a decade of research, interviews, and investigation, reporter Jeanne Carstensen has captured every detail of the dramatic twenty-four hours. This includes the recollections of the refugees' lives before they left their homes and a full account of the courageous rescue efforts of the Greek islanders and volunteers rushing to help, even as their government and the EU failed to act. In this remarkable narrative feat, Carstensen brilliantly showcases the extraordinary heroism of ordinary people in extreme circumstances.

In a world where forced migration is on the rise, *A Greek Tragedy* challenges us to confront our collective humanity. It's an unforgettable testament of our times and a compassionate depiction of the lengths to which a person will go to save another human being.

“An up-close look at an ongoing calamity. Carstensen emphasizes islanders, local fishermen, and foreign volunteers who rescued many and provided food, shelter, and medical care so well that the island was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. A vivid snapshot of a broken asylum system.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

Themes: Humanity, Refugees, Immigrants



Get on the Job and Organize

Standing Up for a Better Workplace and a Better World

Jaz Brisack

9781668080795 | Hardcover | 320 pages | \$28.99 | One Signal Publishers

 Introduction read by Jaz Brisack / Read by Em Grosland

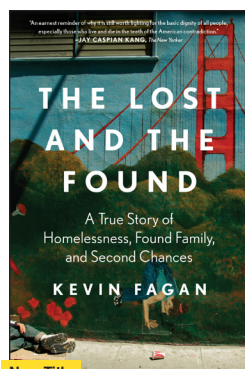
A leader of the Starbucks and Tesla union movements shares stories from the front lines to help us organize our own workplaces and “better understand the aims and goals for a resurgent trade union movement and how workers all over the country can join in solidarity with it” (Senator Bernie Sanders).

Get on the Job and Organize is a compelling, stirring narrative of the Starbucks and Tesla unionization efforts, telling the broader story of the new, nationwide labor movement unfolding in our era of political and social unrest. As one of the exciting new faces of the American Labor Movement, Jaz Brisack argues that while workers often organize when their place of work is toxic, it's equally important to organize when you love your job. Here, Brisack delivers practical advice on how workers can and should stand up for their rights, especially when electoral politics seem to have failed us.

With an accessible tone, a deep love of labor history, and profound empathy, Brisack puts recent efforts into the context of Americans' long tradition of organizing. In the process, they show us that we, too, can improve our workplaces, from how to educate ourselves and our colleagues, to what backlash to expect and how to fight it, to what victory looks like even if the union doesn't necessarily win.

A “fascinating insider account” (*Publishers Weekly*), richly detailed, and with never-before-reported scenes, *Get on the Job and Organize* is a bold and galvanizing call to fight for the workplaces we deserve.

Themes: Political Science, Business, American History



New Title

The Lost and the Found

A True Story of Homelessness, Found Family, and Second Chances

Kevin Fagan

9781668017128 | Trade Paper | 288 pages | \$19.00 | One Signal Publishers 

Kevin Fagan's *The Lost and the Found*, set in San Francisco—one of the wealthiest cities in America—takes an empathic, character-driven approach to exploring the human side of what's behind the homelessness epidemic.

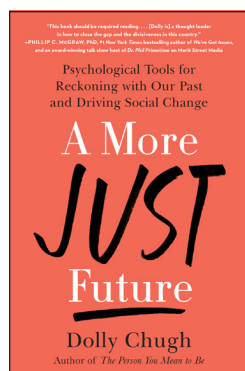
An award-winning journalist and Pulitzer Prize nominee who has covered homelessness for decades and spent extensive time on the streets for his reporting, Fagan experienced it himself as a young man and brings a deep understanding to the crisis. He introduces us to Rita and Tyson, telling the deeply moving story of two unhoused people rescued by their families with the help of Fagan's reporting, and their struggle to pull themselves out of homelessness and addiction, ending with both enormous tragedy and triumph.

But *The Lost and the Found* is not just a story of individuals experiencing homelessness, it is also a compelling look at the link between homelessness and addiction, and an incisive commentary on housing and equality. Fagan shines a sharp light on this national calamity, and in sharing Rita and Tyson's stories, *The Lost and the Found* has the potential to change the way we see and help the homeless.

"With compassion, an eye for detail, and an instinct for the human stories behind the statistics, Fagan gives voice to the often-anonymous individuals propelled on downward spirals that take them from suburbia and middle-class comforts to mean streets rife with panhandling, AIDS, fentanyl, disease, and death. Powerful, offering a humanizing and hopeful portrait of an abiding problem. A rare look at citizens often denied their dignity."

—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

Themes: Society, Policy, Journalism, Regional: San Francisco



A More Just Future

Psychological Tools for Reckoning with Our Past and Driving Social Change

Dolly Chugh

9781982157616 | Trade Paper | 224 pages | \$18.99 | Atria Books

 Read by the author

As we grapple with news stories about our country's racial fault lines, our challenge is not just to learn about the past, but also to cope with the "belief grief" that unlearning requires. If you are on the emotional journey of reckoning with the past, such as the massacre of Black Americans in Tulsa, the killing of Native American children in compulsory "residential schools" designed to destroy their culture, and the incarceration of Japanese Americans, you are not alone. The seeds of today's inequalities were sown in past events like these. The time to unlearn the whitewashed history we believed was true is now.

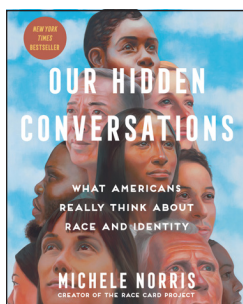
As historians share these truths, we will need psychologists to help us navigate the shame, guilt, disbelief, and despair many of us feel. In *A More Just Future*, Dolly Chugh, award-winning professor, social psychologist, and author of the acclaimed *The Person You Mean to Be*, invites us to dismantle the systems built by our forebearers and work toward a more just future.

Through heartrending personal histories and practical advice, Chugh gives us the psychological tools we need to grapple with the truth of our country with "one of the most moving and important behavioral science books of the last decade" (Katy Milkman, author of *How to Change*).

"Marked by its authenticity and sense of encouragement, this is a welcome look at how the average person can help fulfill America's promise."

—*Publishers Weekly*

Themes: Social Science, History, Psychology



Our Hidden Conversations

What Americans Really Think About Race and Identity

Michele Norris

9781982154394 | Hardcover | 528 pages | \$35.00 | Simon & Schuster

Read by the author and a full cast

The prompt seemed simple: Race. Your Thoughts. Six Words. Please Send.

The answers, though, have been challenging and complicated. The stories are shocking in their depth and candor, spanning the full spectrum of race, ethnicity, identity, and class. Even at just six words, the micro-essays can pack quite a punch, revealing fear, pain, triumph, and sometimes humor. Responses such as: You're Pretty for a Black girl. White privilege, enjoy it, earned it. Lady, I don't want your purse. My ancestors massacred Indians near here. Urban living has made me racist. I'm only Asian when it's convenient.

Many go even further than just six words, submitting backstories, photos, and heirlooms: a collection much like a scrapbook of American candor you rarely get to see. *Our Hidden Conversations* is a unique compilation of stories, richly reported essays, and photographs providing a window into America during a tumultuous era. This powerful book offers an honest, if sometimes uncomfortable, conversation about race and identity, permitting us to eavesdrop on deep-seated thoughts, private discussions, and long submerged memories.

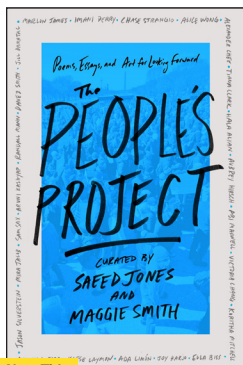
Our Hidden Conversations reminds us that even during times of great division, honesty, grace, and a willing ear can provide a bridge toward empathy and maybe even understanding.

"A stunning book and a gift to our nation. Anchored by more than a decade of research and engagement with Americans across the country, Michele Norris takes us on a journey into the heart of this country's painful, complex, and unrelenting battle with the salience and significance of race in our lives." —Sherrilyn Ifill, Howard Law School

Peabody Award Winner

SELECTED BY Dallas College

Themes: Identity, Society, Race



New Title

The People's Project

Poems, Essays, and Art for Looking Forward

Saeed Jones and Maggie Smith

9781668207024 | Paper Over Board | 128 pages | \$22.00 | Washington Square Press

Inspired by Saeed Jones and Maggie Smith's conversations in the wake of the 2024 election, this is a collection of poems, essays, and visual art on what we—individually and collectively—can hold onto, and what we can work towards.

In times of difficulty, with a government working against its own people, we must turn to our friends and loved ones to provide context, language, energy, and hope. *The People's Project* offers a range of perspectives, drawing wisdom from their communities and histories: from know-your-place aggression to crip time as a way forward, from finding strength in nature to how trans people provide a guide for the future, and how hope has everything to do with survival.

We hope these meditations and strategies will provide you with inspiration and fortitude for the years ahead.

Featuring original and selected work from Alexander Chee, Chase Strangio, Tiana Clark, Hala Alyan, Aubrey Hirsch, Imani Perry, Abi Maxwell, Victoria Chang, Koritha Mitchell, Jason Silverstein, Alice Wong, Mira Jacob, Aruni Kashyap, Sam Sax, Ashley C. Ford, Marlon James, Eula Biss, Randall Mann, Danez Smith, Ada Limon, Kiese Laymon, Joy Harjo, Jill Damatac, and Patricia Smith.

"After the election of 2024, poets Jones and Smith looked to their 'mentors, siblings on the page, and friends' for hope and solace, strategies and commiseration. Their collection of twenty-seven essays, poems, and artwork honors that diverse community of writers and artists who share their reflections on how to cope with oppression and how to move forward... All underscore the crucial power of community. A stirring anthology." —

Kirkus Reviews

Themes: Poetry, Hope, Community



Say the Right Thing

How to Talk About Identity, Diversity, and Justice

Kenji Yoshino and David Glasgow

9781982181383 | Hardcover | 240 pages | \$29.00 | Simon Acumen 

In the current period of social and political unrest, conversations about identity are becoming more frequent and more difficult. On subjects like critical race theory, gender equity in the workplace, and LGBTQ-inclusive classrooms, many of us are understandably fearful of saying the wrong thing. That fear can sometimes prevent us from speaking up at all, depriving people from marginalized groups of support and stalling progress toward a more just and inclusive society.

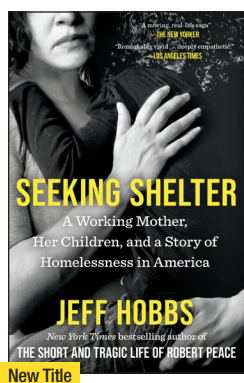
Kenji Yoshino and David Glasgow, founders of the Meltzer Center for Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging at NYU School of Law, are here to show potential allies that these conversations don't have to be so overwhelming. Through stories drawn from contexts as varied as social media posts, dinner party conversations, and workplace disputes, they offer seven user-friendly principles that teach skills such as how to avoid common conversational pitfalls, engage in respectful disagreement, offer authentic apologies, and better support people in our lives who experience bias.

Research-backed, accessible, and uplifting, *Say the Right Thing* charts a pathway out of cancel culture toward more meaningful and empathetic dialogue on issues of identity. It also gives us the practical tools to do good in our spheres of influence. Whether managing diverse teams at work, navigating issues of inclusion at college, or challenging biased comments at a family barbecue, Yoshino and Glasgow help us move from unconsciously hurting people to consciously helping them.

"A must-read for anyone seeking guidance on how to foster positive communication about identity." —Kirkus Reviews

Living Now Book Awards Gold Medalist

Themes: Society, Psychology, Identity



Seeking Shelter

A Working Mother, Her Children, and a Story of Homelessness in America

Jeff Hobbs

9781668034835 | Trade Paper | 336 pages | \$20.00 | Scribner

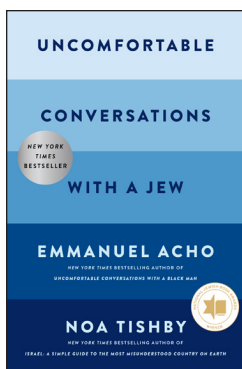
 **Read by the author and Janina Edwards**

In 2018, poverty and domestic violence cast Evelyn and her children into the urban wilderness of Los Angeles, where she avoids the family crisis network that offers no clear pathway for her children to remain together and in a decent school. For the next five years, Evelyn works full time as a waitress yet remains unable to afford legitimate housing or qualify for government aid. All the while she strives to provide stability, education, loving memories, and college aspirations for her children even as they sleep in motels and in her car, living in fear of both her ex and the nation's largest child welfare agency. Eventually Evelyn encounters Wendi Gaines, a recently trained social worker who decades earlier survived her own abusive marriage and housing crisis. Evelyn becomes one of Wendi's first clients, and the relationship transforms them both.

Told from the perspectives of Evelyn, Wendi, and Evelyn's teenaged son, Orlando, *Seeking Shelter* is a powerful and urgent exploration of the issues of homelessness, poverty, and education in America—a must-read for anyone interested in understanding not just social inequality and economic disparity in our society but also the power of a mother's love and vision for her kids.

"A mom struggles to keep a roof over her family's head in this poignant saga...It's an eye-opening look at how the housing crisis extends far beyond what's visible on the streets." —Publishers Weekly (starred review)

Themes: Society, Policy, Education, Regional: Los Angeles



Uncomfortable Conversations with a Jew

Emmanuel Acho and Noa Tishby

9781668057865 | Trade Paper | 320 pages | \$19.99 | Simon Element



Read by the author

For Emmanuel Acho and Noa Tishby no question about Jews is off-limits. They go there. They cover Jews and money. Jews and power. Jews and privilege. Jews and white privilege. The Black and Jewish struggle. Emmanuel asks, Did Jews kill Jesus? To which Noa responds, “Why are Jewish people history’s favorite scapegoat?” They unpack Judaism itself: Is it a religion, culture, a peoplehood, or a race? And: Are you antisemitic if you’re anti-Zionist?

The questions—and answers—might make you squirm, but together, they explain the tropes, stereotypes, and catalysts of antisemitism in America today.

The topics are complicated and Acho and Tishby bring vastly different perspectives. Tishby is an outspoken Israeli American. Acho is a mild-mannered son of a Nigerian American pastor. But they share a superpower: an uncanny ability to make complicated ideas easy to understand so anyone can follow the straight line from the past to our immediate moment—and then see around corners. Acho and Tishby are united by the core belief that hatred toward one group is never isolated: if you see the smoke of bigotry in one place, expect that we will all be in the fire.

Informative and accessible, *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Jew* has a unique structure: Acho asks questions and Tishby answers them with deeply personal, historical, and political responses. This book will enable anyone to explain—and identify—what Jewish hatred looks like. It is a much-needed lexicon for this fraught moment in Jewish history. As Acho says, “Proximity breeds care and distance breeds fear.”

Themes: Jewish Studies



What the Fact?

Finding the Truth in All the Noise

Dr. Seema Yasmin

9781665900041 | Trade Paper | 368 pages | \$12.99 | Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers



Read by the author

What is a fact? What are reliable sources? What is news? What is fake news? How can anyone make sense of it anymore? Well, we have to. As conspiracy theories and online hoaxes increasingly become a part of our national discourse and “truth” itself is being questioned, it has never been more vital to build the discernment necessary to tell fact from fiction, and media literacy has never been more important.

In this accessible guide, Dr. Seema Yasmin, an award-winning journalist, scientist, medical professional, and professor, traces the spread of misinformation and disinformation through our fast-moving media landscape and teaches young readers the skills that will help them identify and counter poorly-sourced clickbait and misleading headlines.

“Educators will applaud a book that helps navigate an already overwhelming problem and curious teens will be rewarded with helpful tips for media consumption. It’s a book every library and classroom should have.”

—*School Library Journal*

“Laden with entertainingly presented tips and techniques, this informative overview will encourage further exploration and contemplation. A savvy, accessible, and critical guide to media literacy.” —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

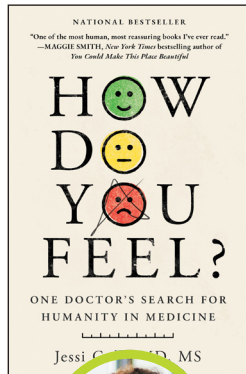
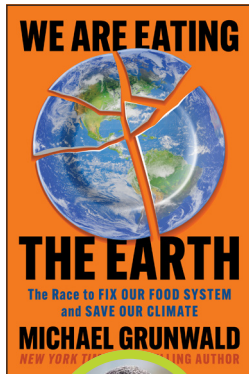
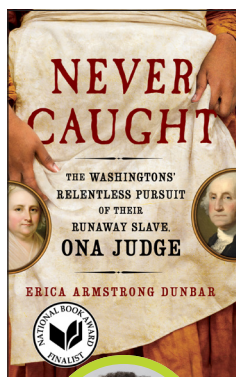
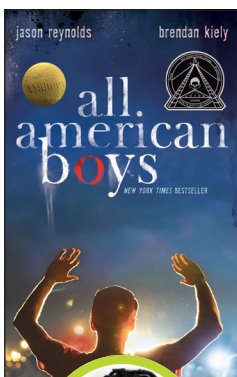
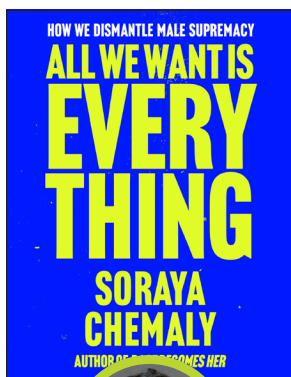
“Journalist Yasmin (*If God Is a Virus*, for adults) effectively explores contemporary media literacy’s barriers and how to overcome them in this eye-opening work told via contagion and vaccine metaphor.” —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

SELECTED BY Highland Community College

Theme: Media Literacy

Bestselling Authors and Industry Leaders.
Important Topics and Recognized Experts.

Bring a Simon & Schuster Author to Speak at Your Next Event!



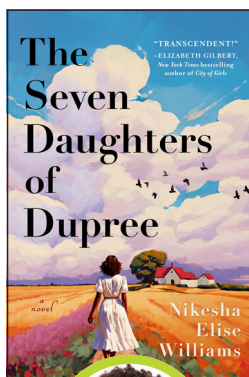
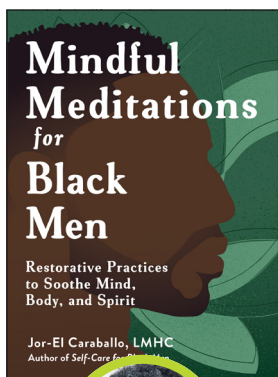
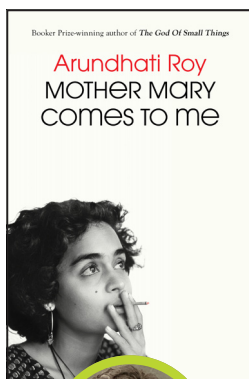
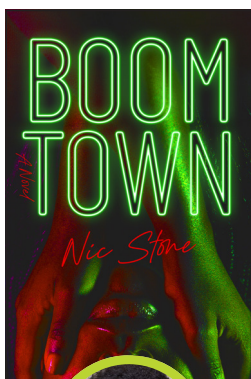
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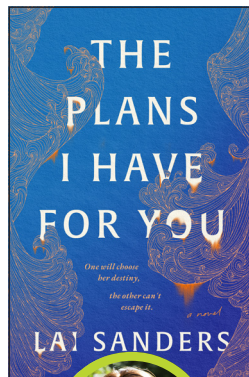
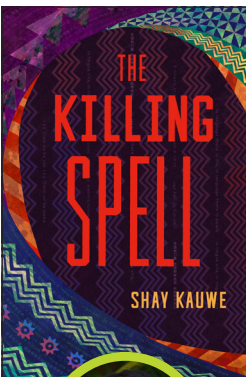
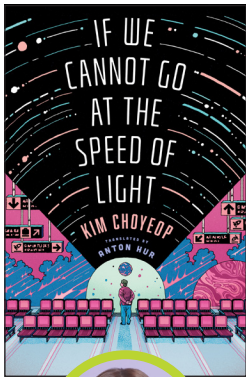
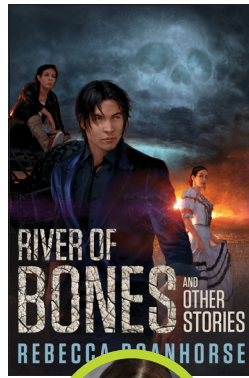
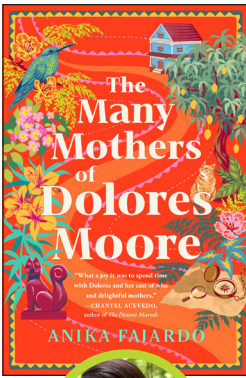


Books Like Us

BY SIMON & SCHUSTER

Simon & Schuster's Books Like Us (BLU) is a platform dedicated to amplifying our diverse authors and their literature. The Books Like Us vertical features author video content, monthly newsletters, influencer collaboration, and public programming at cultural and literary events nationwide. For more information and opportunities for BLU to exhibit visit [SimonandSchuster.com/p/Books-Like-Us](https://www.SimonandSchuster.com/p/Books-Like-Us) or contact Imani Seymour at Imani.Seymour@SimonandSchuster.com





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