NEW & RECOMMENDED BOOKS
Dear Common Reading Director:

The Common Reads team at Penguin Random House is excited to present our latest book recommendations for your common reading program. In this catalog you will discover new titles such as Isabel Wilkerson’s *Caste*, a masterful exploration of how America has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings; *Handprints on Hubble*, Kathryn Sullivan’s account of being the first American woman to walk in space, as part of the team that launched, rescued, repaired, and maintained the Hubble Space Telescope; *Know My Name*, Chanel Miller’s story of trauma and transcendence which will forever transform the way we think about sexual assault; Ishmael Beah’s powerful new novel *Little Family* about young people living at the margins of society; and Brittany Barnett’s riveting memoir *A Knock at Midnight*, a coming-of-age story by a young lawyer and a powerful evocation of what it takes to bring hope and justice to a legal system built to resist them both.

In addition to this catalog, our recently refreshed and updated [www.commonreads.com](http://www.commonreads.com) website features titles from across Penguin Random House’s publishers as well as great blog content, including links to author videos, and the fourth iteration of our annual “What Students Will Be Reading: Campus Common Reading Roundup,” a valuable resource and archive for common reading programs across the country. And be sure to check out our online resource for Higher Education: [www.prheducation.com](http://www.prheducation.com). Featuring Penguin Random House’s most frequently-adopted titles across more than 1,700 college courses, the site allows professors to easily identify books and resources appropriate for a wide range of courses. Penguin Random House is the first trade publisher to provide such a comprehensive and extensive service across its front and backlist.

Lastly, our Higher Education Account Manager team now provides field coverage across the entire country. Visit [tiny.cc/CRTeam](http://tiny.cc/CRTeam) to discover who your Account Manager is; they are an ideal resource to discuss what titles are the best fit for your school.

Whatever your needs and interests, we are confident that you will be able to find the ideal book for your program, whether in this catalog, on our sites or via one of our Account Managers. Please contact us with any questions, requests or to just let us know what your program is reading.

Sincerely,

Alan Walker
Vice President, Higher Education Marketing
Penguin Random House
1745 Broadway, 15th floor
New York, NY 10019
awalker@penguinrandomhouse.com

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Brittany Barnett
A KNOCK AT MIDNIGHT
A Story of Hope, Justice, and Freedom

Ishmael Beah
LITTLE FAMILY
A Novel

Lan Cao and Harlan Margaret Van Cao
FAMILY IN SIX TONES
A Refugee Mother, an American Daughter

Michele Harper
THE BEAUTY IN BREAKING
A Memoir

Kim Johnson
THIS IS MY AMERICA

Chanel Miller
KNOW MY NAME
A Memoir

Gabby Rivera
JULIET TAKES A BREATH

Kathryn D. Sullivan
HANDPRINTS ON HUBBLE
An Astronaut’s Story of Invention

Karla Cornejo Villavicencio
THE UNDOCUMENTED AMERICANS

Isabel Wilkerson
CASTE
The Origins of Our Discontents

For Updated FYE Events Schedule check http://tiny.cc/PRHFYE21

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- Digital audiobook circulation in libraries continues to rise.

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Dog Flowers
A Memoir
By Danielle Geller

A daughter returns home to the Navajo reservation to confront her family's history and retrace her mother's life—using both narrative and archive in this arresting original memoir.

After Danielle Geller’s mother dies of a withdrawal from alcohol during a period of homelessness, she is forced to return to Florida. Using her training as a librarian and archivist, Geller collects her mother’s documents, diaries, and photographs into a single suitcase and begins on a journey of confronting her family’s history and the decisions she’s been forced to make, a journey that will end at her mother’s home: the Navajo reservation.

Geller masterfully intertwines wrenching prose with archival documents to create a deeply moving narrative of loss and inheritance that pays homage to our pasts, traditions, heritage, the family we are given, and the family we choose.

“What little we learn of Geller’s Navajo mother comes from collaged notes and journal entries, photographs and reportage; it’s a story full of gaps. Which is exactly what’s remarkable about this book: Geller does not seek to make anything whole but herself. . . . Even her return to her mother’s Navajo Nation does not bring about an easy cultural reunion, although it does give us a satisfying sense that while an immediate family can fall apart, an extended family, a tribe, ties a tight web that might just hold.”—Heid E. Erdrich, award-winning poet, author, and editor of the award-winning New Poets of Native Nations

Danielle Geller is a writer of personal essays and memoir. She received her MFA in creative writing for nonfiction at the University of Arizona, and a Rona Jaffe Writers’ Award in 2016. Her work has appeared in The New Yorker, Brevity, and Arizona Highways, and has been anthologized in This Is the Place. She lives with her husband and two cats in British Columbia, where she teaches creative writing at the University of Victoria. She is a member of the Navajo Nation: born to the Tsi’naajinii, born for the white man.

Website: daniellegeller.com

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Family in Six Tones
A Refugee Mother, an American Daughter
By Lan Cao and Harlan Margaret Van Cao

Lan Cao came to America as a 13-year old refugee from her native Vietnam. In this lyrical memoir, Lan and her fierce, independently-minded daughter, Harlan Margaret Van Cao, explore the defining experiences of their drastically different and yet strikingly similar lives.

In chapters that both reflect and refract her mother’s narrative, Harlan describes the rites of passage of childhood and adolescence, as they are filtered through the aftereffects of her family’s history of war, tragedy, and migration. Lan responds in turn, trying to understand her American daughter through the lens of her own battles with culture clash and bullying. In this unique format of alternating storytelling, Family in Six Tones speaks to the unique struggles of refugees as well as the universal tug-of-war between mothers and daughters. Through explosive fights and painful setbacks, mother and daughter search for a way to accept the past and face the future together.

“A brilliant duet and a moving exploration of the American immigrant experience. Mother and daughter speak to each other across generations and cultures, revealing and bridging their differences with patience and hard-won trust.”—Ruth Ozeki, author of A Tale for the Time Being

A 2021 FYE® Guest Speaker

A Mind Spread Out on the Ground
By Alicia Elliott

The Mohawk phrase for depression can be roughly translated to “a mind spread out on the ground.” In this urgent and visceral work, Alicia Elliott explores how apt a description that is for the ongoing effects of personal, intergenerational, and colonial traumas she and so many Native people have experienced.

Elliott’s deeply personal writing details a life spent between Indigenous and white communities, a divide reflected in her own family, and engages with such wide-ranging topics as race, parenthood, love, art, mental illness, poverty, sexual assault, gentrification, and representation. Throughout, she makes thrilling connections both large and small between the past and present, the personal and political.

A national bestseller in Canada, this updated and expanded American edition helps us better understand legacy, oppression, and racism throughout North America, and offers us a profound new way to decolonize our minds.

“I anticipate this book to be featured on every ‘best of’ and award list in 2019, and revered for years to come.”—Vivek Shraya, author of I’m Afraid of Men and even this page is white

Alicia Elliott’s writing has been published in The Washington Post, The Globe and Mail, Vice, and The Best American Short Stories 2018, among others. She has been shortlisted for the Hilary Weston Writers’ Trust Prize for Nonfiction. Born in Buffalo, NY and raised between there and Ohio, she now lives in Brantford, Ontario with her husband and child.
Whistleblower
My Journey to Silicon Valley and Fight for Justice at Uber

By Susan Fowler

At 25, Susan Fowler began work at Uber, where she discovered a pervasive culture of sexism, harassment, racism, and abuse. When Uber told Fowler that she was the problem, she banded together with other women to try to make change. And when that didn’t work, she went public. Fowler could never have anticipated the impact her words would have on Silicon Valley—and the world. This moving story of a woman’s lifelong fight to do what she loves—despite repeatedly being told no or treated as less-than—is a source of inspiration for all.

““This is not just a book about harassment or inequality; it is the story of a woman navigating a world that would rather not deal with her . . . Fowler’s an unlikely hero . . . a woman blessed with unending curiosity and an exceptional facility to learn. That she became a whistle-blower and a pioneer of a social movement almost seems inevitable once you get to know her. Uber should have seen her coming.”—San Francisco Chronicle

Know My Name
A Memoir

By Chanel Miller

Universally acclaimed and rapturously reviewed, Chanel Miller’s breathtaking memoir “gives readers the privilege of knowing her not just as Emily Doe, but as Chanel Miller the writer, the artist, the survivor, the fighter.” (The Wrap). Her story of trauma and transcendence illuminates a culture biased to protect perpetrators, indicting a criminal justice system designed to fail the most vulnerable, and, ultimately, shining with the courage required to move through suffering and live a full and beautiful life.

“Know My Name is an act of reclamation. On every page, Miller unflattens herself, returning from Victim or Emily Doe to Chanel, a beloved daughter and sister . . . Know My Name marks the debut of a gifted young writer. Miller’s words are purpose. They are maps. And she is a treasure who has prevailed.” —Jennifer Weiner, The New York Times

Selected for Common Reading at: Des Moines Area Community College, Duke University

A 2021 FYE® Guest Speaker
Salt in My Soul
An Unfinished Life

By Mallory Smith

The diaries of a remarkable young woman who was determined to live a meaningful and happy life despite her struggle with cystic fibrosis and a rare superbug—from age 15 to her death at the age of 25.

Despite her cystic fibrosis diagnosis, Mallory Smith grew up to be a determined, talented young woman who inspired others even as she privately raged against her illness. Despite the daily challenges of endless medical treatments and a deep understanding that she’d never lead a normal life, Mallory was determined to “Live Happy,” a mantra she followed until her death. For more than 10 years, Mallory recorded her thoughts about struggles too personal to share during her life, leaving instructions for her mother to publish her work posthumously. What emerges is a powerful portrait of a brave young woman and blossoming writer who did not allow herself to be defined by disease. Salt in My Soul is a beautifully crafted, intimate, and poignant tribute to a short life well lived—and a call for all of us to embrace our own lives as fully as possible.

They Called Us Enemy

By George Takei; Justin Eisinger; Steven Scott; Harmony Becker

In 1942, at the order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, every person of Japanese descent on the west coast was rounded up and shipped to one of ten “relocation centers,” hundreds or thousands of miles from home, where they would be held for years under armed guard.

They Called Us Enemy is Takei’s firsthand account of those years behind barbed wire, the joys and terrors of growing up under legalized racism, his mother’s hard choices, his father’s faith in democracy, and the way those experiences planted the seeds for his astonishing future.

“A detailed, wrenching account . . . They Called Us Enemy should prove the most potent introduction for younger readers to this ignoble chapter in our history.”—The New York Times

George Takei is known around the world for his founding role as Hikaru Sulu, helmsman of the Starship Enterprise, in the acclaimed television series Star Trek. But Takei’s story goes where few stories have gone before. From a childhood spent with his family wrongfully imprisoned in Japanese American internment camps during World War II, to becoming one of the country’s leading figures in the fight for social justice, LGBTQ rights, and marriage equality, Mashable named Takei the #1 most-influential person on Facebook, with 10.4 million likes and 2.8 million followers on Twitter.
Mind and Matter
A Life in Math and Football
By John Urschel and Louisa Thomas

Against the odds, John Urschel found a way to manage his double life as both a scholar and an athlete. While he was an offensive lineman for the Baltimore Ravens, he simultaneously pursued his PhD in mathematics at MIT. Equally at home discussing Georg Cantor’s work on infinities and Bill Belichick’s playbook, Urschel reveals how each challenge—whether on the field or in the classroom—has brought him closer to understanding the two different halves of his own life, and how reason and emotion, the mind and the body, are always working together. “So often, people want to divide the world into two,” he observes. “Matter and energy. Wave and particle. Athlete and mathematician. Why can’t something (or someone) be both?”

“A charming memoir on the joys of solving puzzles and pushing yourself past your so-called limits. It’s not every day that you read a book by an NFL lineman who’s working on a math PhD at MIT, and John Urschel reminds us that a full life depends on exercising both your brain and your body.”—Adam Grant, author of *Originals*

Educated
A Memoir
By Tara Westover

Educated is an unforgettable and inspiring memoir about a young girl who, born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho and kept out of school, leaves her family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University. Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara’s older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she’d traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

“Heart-wrenching . . . a beautiful testament to the power of education to open eyes and change lives.”—Amy Chua, *The New York Times Book Review*

Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle’s Award in Autobiography, the National Book Critics Circle’s John Leonard Prize for Best First Book, and the PEN/Jean Stein Book Award

Selected for Common Reading at: California State University, Northridge; Emory University; Harvard University; University of Idaho; and more.
The Master Plan
My Journey from Life in Prison to a Life of Purpose
By Chris Wilson with Bret Witter; Foreword by Wes Moore

At eighteen, Chris Wilson was sentenced to life in prison with no hope of parole. But what should have been the end of his story became the beginning. Deciding to make something of his life, Chris embarked on a journey of self-improvement—reading, working out, learning languages, even starting a business. He wrote his Master Plan: a list of all he expected to accomplish or acquire. He worked his plan every day for years, and in his mid-thirties he did the impossible: he convinced a judge to reduce his sentence and became a free man. Today Chris is a successful social entrepreneur who employs returning citizens; a mentor; and a public speaker. He is the embodiment of second chances, and this is his unforgettable story.

“The Master Plan is less of a roadmap and more of a philosophy that we should all take to heart: we are all better than our worst decision, our sense of justice should honor the redemptive possibilities inherent in every person, and our destinies are truly intertwined.”—Wes Moore, author of The Other Wes Moore

Selected for Common Reading at: East Stroudsburg University and Boston College

Video: tiny.cc/ChrisWilsonVideo20

Tiananmen 1989: Our Shattered Hopes
By Lun Zhang; Adrien Gombeaud; Ameziane

Follow the story of China’s infamous June Fourth Incident—otherwise known as the Tiananmen Square Massacre—from the first-hand account of a young sociology teacher who witnessed it all.

The occupation of Tiananmen Square began on April 15, 1989. As tens of thousands of students and Chinese citizens took to the streets demanding political reforms, the fate of China’s communist system was unknown. When reports of soldiers marching into Beijing to suppress the protests reverberated across Western airwaves, the world didn’t know what to expect.

Lun Zhang was just a young sociology teacher then, in charge of management and safety service for the protests. Now, in this powerful graphic novel, Zhang shares his memory of this crucial moment in world history. Providing comprehensive coverage of the 1989 protests, Zhang includes context for these events, sympathetically depicting a world of discontented, idealistic, activist Chinese youth rarely portrayed in Western media. Many voices and viewpoints are on display, from Western journalists to Chinese administrators.

“While ‘Tiananmen’ calls up the famous image of a single citizen facing down a tank, Zhang’s information-dense graphic memoir . . . details the larger student-led movement for political reform behind the protest that culminated in the Chinese military killing hundreds, perhaps thousands, at Tiananmen Square.”—Publishers Weekly
Good Morning, Destroyer of Men’s Souls
A Memoir of Women, Addiction, and Love
By Nina Renata Aron
“The disease he has is addiction,” Nina Renata Aron writes of her boyfriend, K. “The disease I have is loving him.” Even as his addiction deepens, she stays, convinced she is the one who can get him sober. If she leaves K, has she failed him? Writing in prose at once unflinching and acrobatic, Aron delivers a piercing memoir, drawing on intimate anecdotes as well as academic research to crack open the long-feminized and overlooked phenomenon of codependency.

My Brother Moochie
Regaining Dignity in the Face of Crime, Poverty, and Racism in the American South
By Issac J. Bailey
A journalist’s raw, first-person account of what his family endured after his eldest brother killed a man and was sentenced to life in prison.

At the age of nine, Issac J. Bailey saw his eldest brother taken away in handcuffs, not to return from prison for thirty-two years. Drawing on sociological research as well as his expertise as a journalist, he seeks to answer the crucial question of why Moochie and many other young black men end up in the criminal justice system.

Notes of a Native Son
By James Baldwin
Written during the 1940s and early 1950s, when Baldwin was only in his twenties, the essays collected in Notes of a Native Son capture a view of black life and black thought at the dawn of the civil rights movement and as the movement slowly gained strength through the words of one of the most captivating essayists and foremost intellectuals of that era. Writing as an artist, activist, and social critic, Baldwin probes the complex condition of being black in America.

Website: www.ninarenataaron.com

Selected for Common Reading at: Davidson College

Other Press | TR
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EB: 9781590518618
MEMOIR AND BIOGRAPHY

**Behind the Beautiful Forevers**  
Life, death, and hope in a Mumbai undercity  
*By Katherine Boo*

In this brilliant, breathtaking book by Pulitzer Prize winner Katherine Boo, a bewildering age of global change and inequality is made human through the dramatic story of families striving toward a better life in the slums of Mumbai.

"Katherine Boo’s visit to campus was very exciting for our students, and her interactions with them—including her evening lecture—were consistently stimulating and provocative. She provided the perfect coda for our First Year Reading program."
—Janet G. Casey, Director, First Year Experience, Skidmore College

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**Hill Women**  
Finding Family and a Way Forward in the Appalachian Mountains  
*By Cassie Chambers*

Appalachian women face issues that are all too common: domestic violence, the opioid crisis, a world that seems more divided by the day. But they are also community leaders, keeping their towns together in the face of a system that continually fails them. By tracing her own path out of and back into the Kentucky mountains, Chambers breaks down the myth of the hillbilly and illuminates a region whose poor communities, especially women, can lead it into the future.

**I’m Still Here**  
Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness  
*By Austin Channing Brown*

Growing up in majority-white schools and churches, Austin writes, “I had to learn what it means to love blackness,” a journey that led to a lifetime spent navigating America’s racial divide as a writer, speaker, and expert helping organizations practice genuine inclusion. In a time when nearly every institution claims to value diversity in its mission statement, Austin writes in breathtaking detail about her journey to self-worth and the pitfalls that kill our attempts at racial justice, bearing witness to the complexity of America’s social fabric.

**Walk Toward the Rising Sun**  
From Child Soldier to Ambassador of Peace  
*By Ger Duany with Garen Thomas*

For readers of *Born a Crime* and *A Long Way Gone*, this is an amazing autobiography of a young Sudanese boy who went from a child soldier to an international peace activist, a struggling refugee to a Hollywood actor. Ger’s story is a bridge to talk about the current refugee crises; he is a Goodwill Ambassador to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and one of the United Nation’s most persuasive and beloved advocates on behalf of the world’s over 60 million displaced persons.
MEMOIR AND BIOGRAPHY

What You Have Heard Is True
A Memoir of Witness and Resistance
By Carolyn Forché

Written by one of our most gifted poets, What You Have Heard Is True is the story of Carolyn Forché’s fateful encounter with an intriguing man who invites her to visit and learn about his country, El Salvador. She accepts and becomes enmeshed in something beyond her comprehension.

“Forché vividly evokes her complex relationship with her mentor and with organizers, laborers, and religious leaders whose courage in the face of atrocity taught her that ‘resistance to oppression begins when people realize deeply within themselves that something better is possible.’”
—The New Yorker

Man’s Search for Meaning
By Viktor E. Frankl

Viktor Frankl’s riveting account of his time in the Nazi concentration camps, and his insightful exploration of the human will to find meaning in spite of the worst adversity, has offered solace and guidance to generations of readers since it was first published in 1946.

“This is a book I reread a lot . . . it gives me hope . . . it gives me a sense of strength.”—Anderson Cooper, Anderson Cooper 360/CNN

Callings
The Purpose and Passion of Work
By Dave Isay

StoryCorps founder Dave Isay presents unforgettable stories from people doing what they love. Some found their paths at very young ages, others later in life; some overcame great odds or upturned their lives in order to pursue what matters to them. Callings is an inspiring tribute to rewarding work and the American pursuit of happiness.

“These wonderful stories reveal that work becomes meaningful to those who choose—or are in some cases chosen by—the calling that motivates, energizes, and inspires them.”—Publishers Weekly

Finding My Voice
When the Perfect Plan Crumbles, the Adventure Begins
By Valerie Jarrett

When Valerie Jarrett interviewed a promising young lawyer named Michelle Robinson in July 1991 for a job in Chicago city government, neither knew that it was the first step on a path that would end in the White House. Now, Jarrett, the longest-serving senior advisor in the Obama White House, shares her journey as a lawyer, business leader, and public servant.

“The world would feel a lot better if there were more people like Valerie blazing the trail for the rest of us.”—Michelle Obama

To request examination copies, email commonreads@prh.com
MEMOIR AND BIOGRAPHY

Carry
A Memoir of Survival on Stolen Land
By Toni Jensen

As a Métis woman, Toni Jensen is no stranger to the violence enacted on the bodies of indigenous women, on indigenous land, and the ways it is hidden, ignored, forgotten. In Carry, Jensen maps her personal experience onto the historical, exploring how history is lived in the body and redefining the language we use to speak about violence in America. In prose at once forensic and deeply emotional, Toni Jensen shows herself to be a brave new voice and a fearless witness to her own difficult history—as well as to the violent cultural landscape in which she finds her coordinates.

See No Stranger
A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love
By Valarie Kaur

Valarie Kaur—renowned Sikh activist and civil rights lawyer—describes revolutionary love as a radical, joyful practice that extends in three directions: to others, to our opponents, and to ourselves. See No Stranger follows Kaur’s own riveting journey—as a brown girl growing up in California farmland finding her place in the world; as a law student fighting injustices in American prisons and on Guantánamo Bay; and as an activist working with communities recovering from xenophobic attacks—helping us imagine new ways of being with each other so that together we can begin to build the world we want to see.

The Other Wes Moore
One Name, Two Fates
By Wes Moore

Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? Wes Moore, the author of this fascinating book, sets out to answer this profound question.

The Work
Searching for a Life That Matters
By Wes Moore

The Work is the story of how one young man traced a path through the world to find his life’s purpose. Wes Moore graduated from a difficult childhood in the Bronx and Baltimore to an adult life that would find him at some of the most critical moments in our recent history: as a combat officer in Afghanistan; a White House fellow; and a Wall Street banker during the financial crisis. In this insightful book, Moore shares the lessons he learned from people he met along the way and also tells the stories of other 21st-century change-makers who’ve inspired him in his search.
**Born a Crime**  
*Stories from a South African Childhood*  
*By Trevor Noah*

*Born a Crime* is Trevor Noah’s compelling, inspiring, and comically sublime coming of age memoir, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed.

“*Born a Crime* is not just an unnerving account of growing up in South Africa under apartheid, but a love letter to the author’s remarkable mother.”—Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*

**Becoming Nicole**  
*The inspiring story of transgender actor-activist Nicole Maines and her extraordinary family*  
*By Amy Ellis Nutt*

The inspiring true story of transgender actor and activist Nicole Maines, whose identical twin brother, Jonas, and ordinary American family join her on an extraordinary journey to understand, nurture, and celebrate the uniqueness in us all.

“Exceptional . . . ‘Stories move the walls that need to be moved,’ Nicole told her father last year. In telling Nicole’s story and those of her brother and parents luminously, and with great compassion and intelligence, that is exactly what Amy Ellis Nutt has done here.”—*The Washington Post*

**Breathe**  
*A Letter to My Sons*  
*By Imani Perry*

*Breathe* explores the terror, grace, and beauty of coming of age as a Black person in contemporary America and what it means to parent our children in a persistently unjust world. Perry draws upon the ideas of figures such as James Baldwin, W. E. B. DuBois, Emily Dickinson, Toni Morrison, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Ida B. Wells to find steady footing and inspiration in Black tradition.
One Life
By Megan Rapinoe
Megan Rapinoe, Olympic gold medalist and two-time Women’s World Cup champion, urges all of us to continue the fight for justice and equality. Using anecdotes from her own life and career—including suing the United States Soccer Federation alongside her teammates over gender discrimination—Rapinoe discusses the obligation we all have to speak up. As she declared in 2019, “[T]his is everybody’s responsibility. . . . It takes everybody. This is my charge to everybody. Do what you Can. Do what you have to do. Step outside yourself. Be more. Be better. Be bigger than you’ve ever been before.”

Fraternity
An Inside Look at a Year of College Boys Becoming Men
By Alexandra Robbins
Alexandra Robbins weaves together psychology, current events, neuroscience, and interviews to explore the state of masculinity today from inside a fraternity house. For one year, she follows a freshman pledge and a chapter president as they candidly discuss sex, friendship, social media, drinking, peer pressure, and gender roles.

“A Robbins makes the case that fraternities are not monolithic and that, done right, they can be healthy spaces.”
—Mother Jones

A Hope in the Unseen
An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League
By Ron Suskind
In 1993, Cedric Jennings was a bright and ferociously determined honor student at Ballou, a high school in one of Washington, DC’s most dangerous neighborhoods. A Hope in the Unseen chronicles Cedric’s odyssey during his last two years of high school and follows him through his difficult first year at Brown University. Eye-opening, sometimes humorous, and often deeply moving, A Hope in the Unseen weaves a crucial new thread into the rich and ongoing narrative of the American experience.

Fairest
A Memoir
By Meredith Talusan
Fairest is a memoir about a precocious boy with albinism, a “sun child” from a rural Philippine village, who would grow up to become a woman in America. An academic scholarship to Harvard provided access to elite circles of privilege but required Talusan to navigate through the complex spheres of race, class, sexuality, and her place within the gay community. She emerged as an artist and an activist questioning the boundaries of gender.
Finding My Father  
His Century-Long Journey from World War I Warsaw and My Quest to Follow  
By Deborah Tannen  

Long before she was the acclaimed author of groundbreaking books, Deborah Tannen was a girl who adored her father. In this memoir, Tannen embarks on the poignant, yet perilous, quest to piece together the puzzle of his life. Beginning with his astonishingly vivid memories of the Hasidic community in Warsaw, where he was born in 1908, she traces his journey, coming to better understand her father’s—and her own—relationship to Judaism, and uncovering aspects of his life she would never have imagined.

Sissy  
A Coming-of-Gender Story  
By Jacob Tobia  

As a naturally sensitive and creative child, Jacob Tobia was given the label “sissy.” 20 years later, Tobia revisits the stereotypes they faced in childhood, inviting us to rethink gender and offering a blueprint for a trans-inclusive feminism free from gender-based trauma.  

“[A] necessary read about gender, society, and the very real costs of prejudice and ignorance. . . . An honest, funny, and poignant memoir that will completely make you re-think the construct of gender.”—Bustle

Learning by Heart  
An Unconventional Education  
By Tony Wagner  

Tony Wagner is an eminent education specialist who has taught at every grade level from high school through graduate school. But before he found his success, Wagner was kicked out of middle school, expelled from high school, and dropped out of two colleges. On Wagner’s path to becoming a teacher, he had to learn to create meaningful learning experiences despite the constraints of conventional schooling that made his own education so difficult. Wagner reminds us that trial and error, resilience, and respect for the individual, are at the very heart of all teaching and learning.
**The Girl Who Smiled Beads**  
*A Story of War and What Comes After*  
*By Clemantine Wamariya and Elizabeth Weil*

Clemantine Wamariya was six years old when she fled the Rwandan massacre. She spent the next six years migrating through seven African countries, eventually obtaining refugee status in the United States. In this memoir, Clemantine looks beyond the label of “victim” and recognizes the power of the imagination to transcend even the most profound injuries in order to construct a life on one’s own terms.

“[A] powerful coming-of-age story in which a girl explores her identity in the wake of a brutal war that destroyed her family and home.”—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

**On All Fronts**  
*The Education of a Journalist*  
*By Clarissa Ward*

The recipient of multiple Peabody and Murrow awards, Clarissa Ward is a world-renowned conflict reporter. With multiple assignments in Syria, Egypt, and Afghanistan, Ward, who speaks seven languages, has been based in Baghdad, Beirut, Beijing, and Moscow. She has seen and documented the violent remaking of the world at close range. With deep empathy, Ward finds a way to tell the hardest stories. *On All Fronts* is the riveting account of Ward’s singular career and of journalism in this age of extremism.

“Funny, fascinating, heart-breaking and heroic.”—Anderson Cooper

**More Than Enough**  
*Claiming Space for Who You Are (No Matter What They Say)*  
*By Elaine Welteroth*

Elaine Welteroth, as a young boss and often the only Black woman in the room, had enough of the world telling her—and all women—they’re not enough. In this part-manifesto, part-memoir, the revolutionary editor who infused social consciousness into the pages of *Teen Vogue* explores what it means to come into your own, on your own terms.

“More Than Enough is a guide for young people who want to find their voice, a crash course for those who want to challenge the status quo, and an adventure story for all of us.”—Malala Yousafzai

**Uncensored**  
*My Life and Uncomfortable Conversations at the Intersection of Black and White America*  
*By Zachary R. Wood*

There’s no one Zachary Wood refused to debate or engage with during his time as president of Uncomfortable Learning at Williams College—no matter how vehemently he disagreed with them. In *Uncensored*, Zach makes a compelling argument for a new way of interacting with others, both on campus and beyond.

“An incredible story of crossing political lines in search of honest debate.”—Juan Williams, author of *Eyes on the Prize*
The Undocumented Americans
By Karla Cornejo Villavicencio

Writer Karla Cornejo Villavicencio was on DACA when she decided to write about being undocumented for the first time using her own name. It was right after the election of 2016, the day she realized the story she’d tried to steer clear of was the only one she wanted to tell. So she wrote her immigration lawyer’s phone number on her hand in Sharpie and embarked on a trip across the country to tell the stories of her fellow undocumented immigrants—and to find the hidden key to her own.

Looking beyond the flashpoints of the border or the activism of the DREAMers, Cornejo Villavicencio explores the lives of the undocumented—and the mysteries of her own life. She finds the singular, effervescent characters across the nation often reduced in the media to political pawns or nameless laborers. The stories she tells are not deferential or naively inspirational but show the love, magic, heartbreak, insanity, and vulgarity that infuse the day-to-day lives of her subjects.

In her incandescent, relentlessly probing voice, Karla Cornejo Villavicencio combines sensitive reporting and powerful personal narratives to bring to light remarkable stories of resilience.

"[Villavicencio] writes about migrants in a way they’ve never been written about before—in all their complexity, messiness, humanity, and beauty. Cornejo Villavicencio understands in her bones that writers cannot give people voices or faces. The Undocumented Americans succeeds precisely because she sees their faces and hears their voices."—Roberto G. Gonzales, author of Lives in Limbo: Undocumented and Coming of Age in America
No Human is Illegal
An Attorney on the Front Lines of the Immigration War

By J. J. Mulligan Sepúlveda

In this powerful and personal narrative, a distinguished immigration lawyer guides us through the trials and terrors of modern immigration law. Beginning in a day in the life of an undocumented immigrant, Sepúlveda proceeds through a processing intake and a heart-wrenching court hearing. He takes us to a Texas border detention center where mothers and children are essentially imprisoned, then on to New York’s JFK airport during the weekend of Trump’s infamous travel ban, where Sepúlveda joined many other attorneys to provide pro bono legal counsel for passengers endangered with deportation.

In this multi-faceted account of being on the front lines at one of the biggest crises of our time, Sepúlveda recounts growing up the son of a Latin American immigrant, his time in Spain as a Fulbright fellow to study Europe’s ongoing migrant crisis and, in a new Afterword, his testimony before a Senate committee to advocate on behalf of undocumented youth.

"A compassionate and expert window into the netherworlds of immigration that so few of us see: the jails, the courthouses, the nonprofit waiting rooms, the hospitals, and the government offices where the complexities and cruelties of the U.S. immigration system rear their heads at great human cost. Mulligan Sepúlveda is our guide through these broken systems and reveals the tireless, vital work of immigration attorneys as they toil without rest to keep decency, hope and the rule of law alive."—Lauren Markham, author of The Far Away Brothers
SOCIAL JUSTICE—SPOTLIGHT ON IMMIGRATION

The Line Becomes a River
Dispatches from the Border
By Francisco Cantú

“In a courageous endeavor to comprehend the complex issues that characterize America’s border with Mexico, Francisco Cantú joined the US Border Patrol. His story, and intelligent and humane perspective, should mortify anyone who ever thought building a wall might improve our lot. His words are emotionally true and his literary sensibility uplifting. The bilingual Mr. Cantú advocates here for clarity and compassion in place of xenophobia and uninformed rhetoric.”—Barry Lopez

Selected for Common Reading at: UCLA; SUNY Brockport; College of Charleston; University of Arizona

Website: franciscocantu.us
Video: tiny.cc/FranciscoCantuVideo

A Good Provider
Is One Who Leaves
One Family and Migration in the 21st Century
By Jason DeParle

New York Times reporter Jason DeParle paints a portrait of an unforgettable family across three generations. At the heart of the story is Rosalie, who escapes poverty in the Philippines by becoming a nurse, and lands jobs in Jeddah, Abu Dhabi, and, finally, Texas—joining the record forty-four million immigrants in the United States.

“One of the best books on immigration written in a generation.”—Matthew Desmond, author of Evicted

Website: jasondeparle.com
Video: tiny.cc/JasonDeParleVideo

The Road from Raqqa
A Story of Brotherhood, Borders, and Belonging
By Jordan Ritter Conn

The Alkasem brothers, Riyad and Bashar, spent their childhood in Raqqa, the Syrian city that would later become the capital of ISIS, until one left for a new life in the U.S. and the other stayed behind. Crossing years and continents, The Road from Raqqa is the harrowing story of the reunion of two brothers who—despite a homeland at war and an ocean between them—hold fast to the bonds of family.

Website: jordanritterconn.com

After the Last Border
Two Families and the Story of Refuge in America
By Jessica Goudeau

Writer and activist Jessica Goudeau tracks the human impacts of America’s ever-shifting refugee policy with this intimate look at the lives of two women settling as refugees in Austin, Texas. Mu Naw, a Christian from Myanmar, was accepted at a time when America was at its most open to displaced families; and Hasna, a Muslim from Syria, agrees to relocate as a last resort for the safety of her family—only to be cruelly separated from her children by the travel ban.
Patriot Number One
A Chinese Rebel Comes to America
By Lauren Hilgers

Under the alias Patriot Number One, Zhuang Liehong stoked a series of pro-democracy protests in Southern China, hoping to change his home for the better. Instead, sensing an impending crackdown, Zhuang and his wife, Little Yan, left their infant son with relatives and traveled to America. With few contacts and only a shaky grasp of English, they had to start from scratch. With a novelist’s eye for character and detail, Hilgers captures the joys and indignities of building a life in a new country—and the stubborn allure of the American dream.

The Far Away Brothers
Two Young Migrants and the Making of an American Life
By Lauren Markham

Growing up in rural El Salvador in the wake of the civil war, the U.S. was a distant fantasy to identical twins Ernesto and Raul Flores—until, at age 17, a deadly threat forces them to flee the only home they’ve ever known. In this urgent chronicle of contemporary immigration, journalist Lauren Markham follows the Flores twins as they make their way across the Rio Grande and the Texas desert, into the hands of immigration authorities, and from there to their estranged older brother in Oakland, CA. With intimate access and breathtaking range, Markham offers an unforgettable testament to the migrant experience.

Enrique’s Journey
The Story of a Boy’s Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother
By Sonia Nazario

Enrique’s Journey recounts the unforgettable quest of a Honduran boy looking for his mother, 11 years after she is forced to leave her starving family to find work in the United States. Braving unimaginable peril, often clinging to the sides and tops of freight trains, Enrique travels through hostile worlds full of thugs, bandits, and corrupt cops. But he pushes forward, relying on his wit, courage, hope, and the kindness of strangers.

Love Thy Neighbor
A Muslim Doctor’s Struggle for Home in Rural America
By Ayaz Virji with Alan Eisenstock

In 2013, Ayaz Virji moved to a small town in Minnesota to address the shortage of doctors in rural America. When the county swung for Donald Trump in 2016, Virji watched in horror as his children faced anti-Muslim remarks. Virji wanted out until a local pastor invited him to speak at her church and Virji began to see how his story could change hearts and minds. Virji’s narrative demonstrates the human consequences of our toxic politics and the potential for a renewal of understanding in America’s heartland.
Brittany K. Barnett was only a law student when she came across the case that would change her life forever—that of Sharanda Jones, single mother, business owner, and, like Brittany, Black daughter of the rural South. A victim of America’s devastating war on drugs, Sharanda had been torn away from her young daughter and was serving a life sentence without parole—for a first-time drug offense. In Sharanda, Brittany saw haunting echoes of her own life, both as the daughter of a formerly incarcerated mother and as the once-girlfriend of an abusive drug dealer. As she studied this case, a system came into focus: one where widespread racial injustice forms the core of America’s addiction to incarceration. Moved by Sharanda’s plight, Brittany set to work to gain her freedom.

This had never been the plan. Bright and ambitious, Brittany was a successful accountant on her way to a high-powered future in corporate law. But Sharanda’s case opened the door to a harrowing journey through the criminal justice system. By day she moved billion-dollar deals, and by night she worked pro bono to free clients in near-hopeless legal battles. Ultimately, her path transformed her understanding of injustice in the courts, of genius languishing behind bars, and the very definition of freedom itself.

Brittany’s riveting memoir is at once a coming-of-age story and a powerful evocation of what it takes to bring hope and justice to a system built to resist them both.

Brittany K. Barnett is an award-winning attorney and entrepreneur focused on social impact investing. She is dedicated to transforming the criminal justice system and has won freedom for numerous clients serving life sentences for federal drug offenses—seven of whom received executive clemency from President Barack Obama. Brittany has founded several social enterprises, such as XVI Capital Partners, Milena Reign LLC, the Buried Alive Project, and Girls Embracing Mothers. She has earned many honors, including being named one of America’s most Outstanding Young Lawyers by the American Bar Association.

Website: www.brittanykbarnett.com

“A Knock at Midnight is a book that is just right for this smoldering moment, a memoir that offers an irresistible invitation to examine the evolution and the impact of injustice in America.”

—Michele Norris, contributing columnist at The Washington Post and founding director of The Race Card Project
Five Days
The Fiery Reckoning of an American City
By Wes Moore with Erica L. Green

When Freddie Gray was arrested for possessing an “illegal knife” in April 2015, he was, by eyewitness accounts that video evidence later confirmed, treated “roughly” as police loaded him into a vehicle. By the end of his trip in the police van, Gray was in a coma from which he would never recover.

In the wake of a long history of police abuse in Baltimore, this killing felt like the final straw—it led to a week of protests, then five days described alternately as a riot or an uprising that set the entire city on edge and caught the nation’s attention.

Moore—along with journalist Erica Green—tells the story of the Baltimore uprising both through his own observations and through the eyes of other Baltimoreans: Partee, a conflicted black captain of the Baltimore Police Department; Jenny, a young white public defender who’s drawn into the violent center of the uprising herself; Tawanda, a young black woman who’d spent a lonely year protesting the killing of her own brother by police; and John Angelos, scion of the city’s most powerful family and executive vice president of the Baltimore Orioles, who had to make choices of conscience he’d never before confronted.

Each shifting point of view contributes to an engrossing, cacophonous account of one of the most consequential moments in our recent history, which is also an essential cri de coeur about the deeper causes of the violence and the small seeds of hope planted in its aftermath.

“Moore captures the fear, anger, uncertainty, and hope of locals who saw their city fall apart and struggle to come back together. . . . Moore provides important context in the history of Baltimore’s racial and income inequality and the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement. Readers will be enthralled by this propulsive account.”—Publishers Weekly

Wes Moore is the CEO of the Robin Hood Foundation, one of the largest antipoverty organizations in the country. His first book, The Other Wes Moore, was a New York Times and Wall Street Journal bestseller; his second book, The Work, was also a bestseller and was featured on Oprah Winfrey’s SuperSoul Sunday. Moore appears regularly as a commentator on NBC News. He lives in his hometown of Baltimore with his wife and two children.

Erica L. Green is an award-winning journalist for The New York Times.

Website: www.robinhood.org/wes-moore
White Fragility
Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism

By Robin DiAngelo

The New York Times best-selling book exploring the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality.

In this vital and necessary book, antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and “allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to ‘bad people’” (Claudia Rankine). Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.

Robin DiAngelo is an academic, lecturer, and author and has been a consultant and trainer on issues of racial and social justice for more than twenty years. She formerly served as a tenured professor of multicultural education at Westfield State University.

Biased
Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do

By Jennifer L. Eberhardt, PhD

You don’t have to be racist to be biased. Unconscious bias can be at work without our realizing it, and ingrained stereotypes can infect our visual perception, attention, memory, and behavior. In Biased, with a perspective that is at once scientific, investigative, and informed by personal experience, Dr. Jennifer Eberhardt offers us insights into the dilemma and a path forward.

A psychologist at the forefront of this field, Eberhardt conducts her research in courtrooms and boardrooms, in prisons, on the street, and in classrooms and coffee shops. She shows us the subtle—and sometimes dramatic—daily repercussions of implicit bias. Racial bias is not the fault of nor restricted to a few “bad apples” but is present at all levels of society in media, education, and business. The good news is that we are not hopelessly doomed by our innate prejudices. Eberhardt reminds us that racial bias is a human problem—one all people can play a role in solving.

“Groundbreaking, . . . Biased presents the science of bias with rare insight and accessibility, but it is also a work with the power and craft to make us see why overcoming racial bias is so critical.”—Bryan Stevenson, author of Just Mercy

Selected for Common Reading at:

University of Pennsylvania, University of Alabama

Selected for Common Reading at:

Elon University
Our History Is the Future
Standing Rock Versus the Dakota Access Pipeline, and the Long Tradition of Indigenous Resistance

By Nick Estes

In 2016, a small protest encampment at the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota, initially established to block construction of the Dakota Access oil pipeline, grew to be the largest Indigenous protest movement in the twenty-first century. Water Protectors knew this battle for native sovereignty had already been fought many times before, and that, even after the encampment was gone, their anticolonial struggle would continue. In *Our History Is the Future*, Nick Estes traces traditions of Indigenous resistance that led to the #NoDAPL movement. *Our History Is the Future* is at once a work of history, a manifesto, and an intergenerational story of resistance. 

Nick Estes is a citizen of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and an Assistant Professor of American Studies at the University of New Mexico.

As Long as Grass Grows
The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice, from Colonization to Standing Rock

By Dina Gilio-Whitaker

The story of Native peoples’ resistance to environmental injustice and land incursions, and a call for environmentalists to learn from the Indigenous community’s rich history of activism.

Through the unique lens of “Indigenized environmental justice,” Indigenous researcher and activist Dina Gilio-Whitaker explores the fraught history of treaty violations, struggles for food and water security, and protection of sacred sites, while highlighting the important leadership of Indigenous women in this centuries-long struggle. As *Long As Grass Grows* gives readers an accessible history of Indigenous resistance to government and corporate incursions on their lands and offers new approaches to environmental justice activism and policy. 

Dina Gilio-Whitaker (Colville Confederated Tribes) is the policy director and a senior research associate at the Center for World Indigenous Studies and teaches American Indian Studies at California State University San Marcos. She is the coauthor, with Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, of *All the Real Indians Died Off* and 20 Other Myths About Native Americans. She lives in San Clemente, California.
Tell Me Who You Are
Sharing Our Stories of Race, Culture, & Identity

By Winona Guo and Priya Vulchi

Spurred by the realization that they had nearly completed high school without hearing any substantive discussion about racism in school, Winona Guo and Priya Vulchi deferred college admission for a year to collect first-person accounts of how racism plays out in this country every day. Featuring interviews with over 150 Americans accompanied by their photographs, this toolkit offers a deep examination of racism and strategies for effecting change.

“In Tell Me Who You Are, Priya Vulchi and Winona Guo do exactly that—tell us who they are, how they have come to thinking so carefully, so deeply about race, and how they want to create change.… This book is at once hopeful, raw, and brimming with curiosity, engagement and youthful energy. Through the conversations these women have with people from all walks of life, we see that the key to any kind of progress begins with letting people tell us who they are. If you want to have richer, more fruitful discussions about race, gender, all the things that comprise our identities, this book will give you a necessary vocabulary. All you have to do is turn the page.”—Roxane Gay, author of Bad Feminist

How to Be an Antiracist

By Ibram X. Kendi

Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism—and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. At its core, racism is a powerful system that creates false hierarchies of human value; its warped logic extends beyond race, from the way we regard people of different ethnicities or skin colors to the way we treat people of different sexes, gender identities, and body types. Racism intersects with class and culture and geography and even changes the way we see and value ourselves. In How to Be an Antiracist, Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas—from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities—that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves.

Kendi weaves an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science with his own personal story of awakening to antiracism. This is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond the awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a just and equitable society.
**SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**Charged**
*The New Movement to Transform American Prosecution and End Mass Incarceration*
*By Emily Bazelon*

Charged follows the story of two young people caught up in the criminal justice system: Kevin, a 20-year-old who picked up his friend’s gun as the cops burst in and was charged with a serious violent felony, and Noura, a teenage girl indicted for the murder of her mother. Bazelon tracks both and, with her trademark blend of deeply reported narrative, legal analysis, and investigative journalism, illustrates just how criminal prosecutions can go wrong and, more important, why they don’t have to.

**Between the World and Me**
*By Ta-Nehisi Coates*

In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation’s history and current crisis.

“This is required reading.”—Toni Morrison

“Eloquent . . . in the tradition of James Baldwin with echoes of Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man* . . . an autobiography of the black body in America.”—*The Boston Globe*

**Evicted**
*Poverty and Profit in the American City*
*By Matthew Desmond*

In *Evicted*, Princeton sociologist and MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Desmond transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of 21st-century America’s most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.

**How to Be Less Stupid About Race**
*On Racism, White Supremacy, and the Racial Divide*
*By Crystal M. Fleming*

Your essential guide to breaking through the half-truths and ridiculous misconceptions that have thoroughly corrupted the way race is represented in the classroom, pop culture, media, and politics. Combining social critique, humorous personal anecdotes, and analysis of the latest interdisciplinary scholarship on systemic racism, sociologist Crystal M. Fleming provides a fresh, accessible, and irreverent take on everything that’s wrong with our “national conversation about race.”
SOCIAL JUSTICE

Tales of Two Americas
Stories of Inequality in a Divided Nation
Edited by John Freeman

36 major contemporary writers examine life in a deeply divided America— including Roxane Gay, Rebecca Solnit, Anthony Doerr, Ann Patchett, Hector Tobar, Joyce Carol Oates, Edwidge Danticat, Richard Russo, Eula Biss, Karen Russell, and many more. Their stories, essays, and poems demonstrate how boundaries break down when experiences are shared, and that sharing our stories can help to alleviate a suffering that touches so many people.

“Poignant and profound, Tales of Two Americas... unites a multiplicity of voices into a powerful rallying cry.”—NPR.org

Rest in Power
The Enduring Life of Trayvon Martin
By Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin

Years after his tragic death, Trayvon Martin has become a symbol of social justice activism. But who was Trayvon Martin, before he became, in death, an icon? Rest in Power, told through the compelling alternating narratives of his parents answers those questions from the most intimate of sources. The book takes us beyond the news cycle and familiar images to give the account that only his parents can offer: the story of the beautiful and complex child they lost, the cruel unresponsiveness of the police and the hostility of the legal system, and an inspiring journey from grief and pain to power, and from tragedy and senselessness to purpose.

The Purpose of Power
How We Come Together When We Fall Apart
By Alicia Garza

An essential guide to building transformative movements to address the challenges of our time, from one of the country’s leading organizers and a co-creator of Black Lives Matter. This is the story of one woman’s lessons through years of bringing people together to create change. Most of all, it is a new paradigm for change for a new generation of changemakers, from the mind and heart behind one of the most important movements of our time.

Thirst
A Story of Redemption, Compassion, and a Mission to Bring Clean Water to the World
By Scott Harrison; Contribution by Lisa Sweetingham

At 28 years old, Scott Harrison had it all. A top nightclub promoter in New York City, his life was an endless cycle of drugs, booze, models—repeat. But 10 years in, desperately unhappy and morally bankrupt, he asked himself, “What would the exact opposite of my life look like?” Walking away from everything, Harrison founded charity: water. In Thirst, Harrison recounts the twists and turns that built charity: water into one of the most trusted and admired nonprofits in the world.
Good Talk
A Memoir in Conversations
By Mira Jacob

Like many six-year-olds, Mira Jacob’s half-Jewish, half-Indian son, Z, has questions about everything. And as tensions from the 2016 election spread from the media into his own family, they become much, much more complicated. Trying to answer him honestly, Mira has to think back to where she’s gotten her own answers: her most formative conversations about race, color, sexuality, and, of course, love. Written with humor and vulnerability, this deeply relatable graphic memoir is a love letter to the art of conversation—and to the hope that hovers in our most difficult questions.

Website: www.mirajacob.com
Selected for Common Reading at: University of La Verne
Longlisted for the PEN/Open Book Award

She Said
Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement
By Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey

Rumors of Harvey Weinstein’s wrongdoing had long been circulating by 2017, when Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey began their investigation for the New York Times. With superlative detail, insight, and journalistic expertise, Kantor and Twohey take us into the very heart of the social shift their article prompted, reliving in real-time what it took to get the story and giving an up-close portrait of the forces that hindered and spurred change.

Website: shesaidthebook.com
Video: tiny.cc/SheSaidVideo

Palaces for the People
How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life
By Eric Klinenberg

An eminent sociologist and bestselling author offers an inspiring blueprint for rebuilding our fractured society. In Palaces for the People, Eric Klinenberg suggests a way forward. He believes that the future of democratic societies rests not simply on shared values but on shared spaces: the libraries, childcare centers, bookstores, churches, synagogues, and parks where crucial, sometimes life-saving connections, are formed.

Website: tiny.cc/KlinenbergFYE
Longlisted for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction

Talking Across the Divide
How to Communicate with People You Disagree with and Maybe Even Change the World
By Justin Lee

In a time when every conversation quickly becomes a battlefield, social justice activist Justin Lee explains how to break through the barriers that make people resist differing opinions. With a combination of psychological research, pop-culture references, and anecdotes from Justin’s many years of experience mediating contentious conversations, this book will help you understand people on the other side of the argument and give you the tools you need to change their minds.

Website: tiny.cc/JustinLeeFYE
Video: tiny.cc/JustinLeeVideo

Theme: Race & Identity
Theme: Gender
Theme: Being Connected
SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Coddling of the American Mind
How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas Are Setting Up a Generation for Failure
By Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt
First Amendment expert Greg Lukianoff and social psychologist Jonathan Haidt show how the new problems on campus have their origins in three terrible ideas that have become increasingly woven into American childhood and education.
"A deep analysis of what’s going wrong on campus, and how we can hold universities to their highest ideals.” —Steven Pinker, author of Enlightenment Now

Entitled
How Male Privilege Hurts Women
By Kate Manne
In this bold and stylish critique, Cornell philosopher Kate Manne offers a radical new framework for understanding misogyny. Ranging widely across the culture, from Harvey Weinstein and the Brett Kavanaugh hearings to “Cat Person” and the political misfortunes of Elizabeth Warren, Manne’s book shows how privileged men’s sense of entitlement—to sex, yes, but more insidiously to admiration, care, bodily autonomy, knowledge, and power—is a pervasive social problem with often devastating consequences.

The Broken Ladder
How Inequality Affects the Way We Think, Live, and Die
By Keith Payne
Psychologist Keith Payne examines how inequality divides us not just economically, but also has profound consequences for how we think, how our cardiovascular systems respond to stress, how our immune systems function, and how we view moral ideas such as justice and fairness.
"The Broken Ladder’s examination of the consequences of inequality . . . is as profound as it is revelatory.” —Sonja Lyubomirsky, University of California, Riverside, author of The How of Happiness

Oak Flat
A Fight for Sacred Land in the American West
By Lauren Redniss
Oak Flat is a mesa that sits above the southeastern Arizona desert, 15 miles to the west of the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation. For the San Carlos tribe, Oak Flat is a holy place. But when a massive untapped copper reserve is discovered nearby, a private company threatens to wipe Oak Flat off the map. Redniss’s deep reporting and haunting artwork anchor this mesmerizing human narrative of the saga of westward expansion, the resistance and resilience of Native peoples, and the efforts of profitiers to control the land and unearth treasure beneath it while the lives of individuals hang in the balance.
SOCIAL JUSTICE

Not Quite Not White
Losing and Finding Race in America
By Sharmila Sen

Part memoir, part manifesto, first-generation immigrant Sharmila Sen explores race and assimilation in the United States, ultimately finding that not-whiteness can be the very thing that makes us American.

“In this intimate, passionate look at race in America, Sen considers the price paid by nonwhite immigrants who try to become white. . . . Her provocative solution is for people like us to defiantly embrace not being white. That feels just right to me.”—Viet Thanh Nguyen, author of The Sympathizer

Just Mercy
A Story of Justice and Redemption
By Bryan Stevenson

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. Just Mercy is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer’s coming-of-age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.

Ink Knows No Borders
Poems of the Immigrant and Refugee Experience
By Patrice Vecchione

This collection of sixty-four poems shares the experience of first- and second-generation young adult immigrants and refugees. Whether it’s cultural and language differences, homesickness, social exclusion, racism, stereotyping, or questions of identity, the Dreamers, immigrants, and refugee poets encourage readers to honor their roots as well as explore new paths, offering empathy and hope. Many of the struggles described are faced by young people everywhere: isolation, self-doubt, confusion, and emotional dislocation. But also joy, discovery, safety, and family. Includes poetry by Ocean Vuong, Samira Ahmed, Elizabeth Acevedo.

Unfree Speech
The Threat to Global Democracy and Why We Must Act, Now
By Joshua Wong with Jason Y. Ng

Since he was 14, Joshua Wong has led the Umbrella Movement, founded a political party, and rallied the international community around the anti-extradition bill protests in Hong Kong. His actions have earned him a Nobel Peace Prize nomination and landed him in jail twice. Unfree Speech chronicles Joshua’s path to activism, collects the letters he wrote as a political prisoner, and closes with a powerful and urgent call for all of us globally to defend our democratic values.
Become America
Civic Sermons on Love, Responsibility, and Democracy

By Eric Liu

What does it mean to be an engaged American in today’s divided political landscape, and how do we restore hope in our country? In a collection of “civic sermons” delivered at gatherings around the nation, popular advocate for active citizenship Eric Liu takes on these thorny questions and provides inspiration and solace in a time of anger, fear, and dismay over the state of the Union.

Here are 19 stirring explorations of current and timeless topics about democracy, liberty, equal justice, and powerful citizenship. This book will energize you to get involved, in ways both large and small, to help rebuild a country that you’re proud to call home. Become America will challenge you to rehumanize our politics and rekindle a spirit of love in civic life.

“[This] collection is like a penetrating time-lapse movie of the American mind... [Liu’s] great contribution is to show how to mix conviction on racial matters with humility and gentleness. Moreover, he is always pushing toward an American creed that moves beyond both the white monoculture and the fracturing multiculturalism. He is always pushing toward a national story large enough to contain all the hybrid voices.”—David Brooks, The New York Times

Eric Liu is the co-founder and CEO of Citizen University and executive director of the Aspen Institute Citizenship and American Identity Program. His books include You’re More Powerful Than You Think: A Citizen’s Guide to Making Change Happen and The Gardens of Democracy. Eric served as a White House speechwriter and policy advisor for President Bill Clinton. He is a correspondent for TheAtlantic.com and his TED Talks on citizen power and voting have been viewed nearly 3 million times.

Walter Isaacson, author of Steve Jobs

“Eric Liu writes with deep patriotism and bracing candor about history and our own hearts. This powerful book will remind Americans how to live like citizens capable of keeping a republic. It’s a very needed book for our times and an inspirational one as well.”

—Walter Isaacson, author of Steve Jobs
Empathy is in short supply. We struggle to understand people who aren’t like us, but find it easy to hate them. Studies show that we are less caring than we were even 30 years ago. In 2006, Barack Obama said that the United States was suffering from an “empathy deficit.” Since then, things seem to have only gotten worse.

It doesn’t have to be this way. In this groundbreaking book, Jamil Zaki shares cutting-edge research, including experiments from his own lab, showing that empathy is not a fixed trait—something we’re born with or not—but rather a skill that can be strengthened through effort. He also tells the stories of people who embody this new perspective, fighting for kindness in the most difficult of circumstances. We meet a former neo-Nazi who is now helping to extract people from hate groups, ex-prisoners discussing novels with the judge who sentenced them, Washington police officers changing their culture to decrease violence among their ranks, and NICU nurses fine-tuning their empathy so that they don’t succumb to burnout.

Written with clarity and passion, The War for Kindness is an inspiring call to action. The future may depend on whether we accept the challenge.

“A wide-ranging practical guide to making the world better.”—NPR

“In this landmark book, Jamil Zaki gives us a revolutionary perspective on empathy: Empathy can be developed, and, when it is, people, relationships, organizations, and cultures are changed.”
—Carol Dweck, author of Mindset


Website: www.warforkindness.com
Instant gratification is the norm today—in our lives, our culture, our economy, and our politics. Many of us have forgotten (if we ever learned) how to make smart decisions for the long run. Whether it comes to our finances, our health, our communities, or our planet, it’s easy to avoid thinking ahead.

As a former adviser in the Obama administration, Bina Venkataraman helped communities and businesses prepare for climate change, and she learned first-hand why people don’t think ahead—and what can be done to change that. In *The Optimist’s Telescope*, she draws from stories around the world and new research in biology, psychology, and economics to explain how we can make decisions that benefit us over time. With examples from ancient Pompeii to modern-day Fukushima, she dispels the myth that human nature is inherently reckless. The result is a book brimming with the ideas and insights all of us need in order to forge a better future.

“The unknown can always be scary. But in this wise, eye-opening, and hopeful book, Bina Venkataraman shows us the ways we can think more clearly and strategically about the future—in our communities, our families, and in our own lives.”—Arianna Huffington

**The Third Door**

The Wild Quest to Uncover How the World’s Most Successful People Launched Their Careers

By Alex Banayan

The larger-than-life journey of an 18-year-old college freshman who set out from his dorm room to track down the world’s most successful people. After remarkable one-on-one interviews with Maya Angelou, Bill Gates, Steve Wozniak, Jane Goodall, Larry King, Pitbull, and many more, Alex discovered the one key they have in common: they all took the Third Door. It’s the entrance where you have to jump out of line, run down the alley, bang on the door a hundred times, climb over the dumpster, sneak through the kitchen—there’s always a way in.

**The Algebra of Happiness**

Notes on the Pursuit of Success, Love, and Meaning

By Scott Galloway

Scott Galloway teaches at NYU’s Stern School of Business, but his most popular lectures deal with life strategy, not business. In the classroom, on his blog, and in YouTube videos garnering millions of views, he regularly offers hard-hitting answers to the big questions: What’s the formula for a life well lived? How can you have a meaningful career, not just a lucrative one? Is work/life balance possible? *The Algebra of Happiness* draws on Professor Galloway’s mix of anecdotes and insight to share hard-won wisdom about life’s challenges, along with poignant personal stories.
This Book Will Make You Kinder
An Empathy Handbook
By Henry James Garrett

In this timely, insightful guide, Henry James Garrett lays out the case for developing a strong, courageous, moral kindness, one that will help you fight cruelty and make the world a more empathetic place. Building on his academic studies in metaethics and using his signature-sweet animal cartoons, Garrett explores the sources and the limitations of human empathy and the many ways, big and small, that we can work toward being our best and kindest selves for the people around us and the society we need to build.

"[Garrett] blends distinctly human comics with an academic approach to understanding empathy."—Adam J. Kurtz

Do Nothing
How to Break Away from Overworking, Overdoing, and Underliving
By Celeste Headlee

These days, human beings are working more instead of less, living harder not smarter, and becoming more lonely and anxious. Pulling together threads from history, neuroscience, social science, and even paleontology, Headlee examines long-held assumptions about time use, idleness, hard work, and even our ultimate goals. Her research reveals that the habits we cling to are doing us harm; they developed recently in human history, which means they are habits that can, and must, be broken.

Theme: Service & Altruism
Website: celesteheadlee.com

Thank You for Arguing, Fourth Edition (Revised and Updated)
What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion
By Jay Heinrichs

Jay Heinrichs’s Thank You for Arguing is your master class in the art of persuasion. His sage guide has been fully updated to address our culture of “fake news” and political polarization, and this expanded edition also includes new content on how to reset your audience’s priorities, politicians’ use of coded language to appeal to specific groups, as well as new and improved ArgueLab games to hone your skills.

Theme: Life Skills
Website: www.arguelab.com

Breaking Bread with the Dead
A Reader’s Guide to a More Tranquil Mind
By Alan Jacobs

Alan Jacobs shows us that engaging with the strange and wonderful writings of the past might help us live less anxiously in the present. Jacobs draws us into texts from across the ages, including the work of Anita Desai, Henrik Ibsen, Jean Rhys, Simone Weil, Edith Wharton, Amitav Ghosh, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Italo Calvino, and many more, in order to help us expand our consciousness, our sympathies, and our wisdom far beyond what our present moment can offer.

“A beautiful case for reading old books as a way to cultivate personal depth in shallow times. . . . Timely and timeless.”—Austin Kleon, author of Steal Like An Artist

Theme: Being Connected
Website: ayjay.org
INSPIRATION

An Outsider’s Guide to Humans
What Science Taught Me About What We Do and Who We Are
By Camilla Pang, PhD

Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder at the age of eight, Camilla Pang struggled to understand the world around her. Desperate for a solution, she asked her mother if there was an instruction manual for humans that she could consult. When she was told no such manual exists, Pang began to create her own. That lifelong project eventually resulted in An Outsider’s Guide to Humans, an original and incisive exploration of human nature and the strangeness of social norms, written from the outside looking in—which is helpful to even the most neurotypical thinker.

Theme: Life Skills

The Art of Gathering
How We Meet and Why It Matters
By Priya Parker

Priya Parker argues that the gatherings in our lives are generally lackluster and unproductive—but they don’t have to be. At a time when coming together is more important than ever, Parker sets forth a human-centered approach to gathering that will help everyone create meaningful, memorable experiences.

“We’re more connected than ever. But it doesn’t really feel that way. We’re constantly interacting, but not always communicating on a meaningful level. We’re busy, but we’re not often getting a lot done. Priya Parker aims to change that.”—Debbie Millman, Design Matters

Website: priyaparker.com
Video: tiny.cc/PriyaParkerVideo

Theme: Being Connected

The Freedom Writers Diary (20th Anniversary Edition)
How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them
By The Freedom Writers and Erin Gruwell

In 1994, an idealistic first-year teacher named Erin Gruwell confronted a room of “unteachable, at-risk” students. She rebooted her entire curriculum, using treasured books as her guide to combat intolerance and misunderstanding. Consisting of powerful entries from the students’ diaries and narrative text by Erin Gruwell, The Freedom Writers Diary is an unforgettable story of how hard work, courage, and determination changed the lives of a teacher and her students.

Theme: Resilience

Moonshot
What Landing a Man on the Moon Teaches Us About Collaboration, Creativity, and the Mind-set for Success
By Richard Wiseman, PhD

Inspired by the historic moon landings, psychologist Richard Wiseman brings together history, psychology, and inspiration in this unique and powerful guide to achieving the impossible. The result of intensive research, including interviews with surviving members of the Apollo mission-control team, Moonshot delivers eight key lessons on teamwork, leadership, persistence, creativity, and more, each one a vital part of the mindset for success.

Theme: Life Skills

To request examination copies, email commonreads@prh.com
The Immortals of Tehran

By Ali Araghi

As a child living in his family’s apple orchard, Ahmad Torkash-Vand treasures his great-great-great-great grandfather’s every mesmerizing word. On the day of his father’s death, Ahmad listens closely as the seemingly immortal elder tells him the tale of a centuries-old family curse, and the boy’s own fated role in the story. Ahmad grows up to suspect that something must be interfering with his family, as he struggles to hold them together through decades of famine, loss, and political turmoil in Iran. As the world transforms around him, each turn of Ahmad’s life is a surprise: from street brawler, to father of two unusually gifted daughters; from radical poet, to politician with a target on his back. These lives, and the many unforgettable stories alongside his, converge and catch fire at the center of the Revolution.

Exploring the brutality of history while conjuring the astonishment of magical realism, The Immortals of Tehran is a novel about the incantatory power of words and the revolutionary sparks of love, family, and poetry—set against the indifferent, relentless march of time.

Ali Araghi is an Iranian writer and translator. He won the 2017 Prairie Schooner Virginia Faulkner Award for Excellence in Writing and has published stories and translations in Prairie Schooner, Fifth Wednesday Journal, Asymptote, and Hayden’s Ferry Review, among others. He lives in St. Louis.

Little Family

A Novel

By Ishmael Beah

Hidden away from a harsh outside world, five young people have improvised a home in an abandoned airplane, a relic of their country’s tumultuous past. Eli-mane, the bookworm, is as street-smart as he is wise. Clever Khoudiemata maneuvers to keep the younger kids—athletic, pragmatic Ndevui, thoughtful Kpindi, and especially their newest member, Namsa—safe and fed. When Eli-mane makes himself of service to the shadowy William Handkerchief, it seems as if the little family may be able to keep the world at bay and their household intact. But when Khoudi comes under the spell of the “beautiful people”—the fortunate sons and daughters of the elite—the desire to resume an interrupted coming of age and follow her own destiny proves impossible to resist.

A profound and tender portrayal of the connections we forge to survive the fate we’re dealt, Little Family marks the further blossoming of a unique global voice.

“Deeply affecting... Little Family is an empathy-expanding story... [The] little family have such a clear-eyed sense of their place as disposable members of society. To hear their story should make our confirmed blindness a little harder to maintain.”—The Washington Post

Website: ishmaelbeah.com
The Water Dancer
A Novel

By Ta-Nehisi Coates

Young Hiram Walker was born into bondage. When his mother was sold away, Hiram was robbed of all memory of her—but was gifted with a mysterious power. Years later, when Hiram almost drowns in a river, that same power saves his life. This brush with death births an urgency in Hiram and a daring scheme: to escape from the only home he’s ever known.

So begins an unexpected journey that takes Hiram from the corrupt grandeur of Virginia’s proud plantations to desperate guerrilla cells in the wilderness, from the coffin of the Deep South to dangerously idealistic movements in the North. Even as he’s enlisted in the underground war between slavers and the enslaved, Hiram’s resolve to rescue the family he left behind endures.

This is the dramatic story of an atrocity inflicted on generations of women, men, and children—the violent and capricious separation of families—and the war they waged to simply make lives with the people they loved. Written by one of today’s most exciting thinkers and writers, The Water Dancer is a propulsive, transcendent work that restores the humanity of those from whom everything was stolen.

Nominated for the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work – Fiction

The Girl with the Louding Voice
A Novel

By Abi Daré

Adunni is a 14-year-old Nigerian girl who knows what she wants: an education. This, her mother has told her, is the only way to get a “louding voice”—the ability to speak for herself and decide her own future. So when her father sells her to be the third wife of a local man, Adunni runs away to the city. And when she realizes that she must stand up not only for herself, but for other girls, she finds the resolve to speak, however she can—in a whisper, in song, in broken English—until she is heard.

“Daré draws the reader in with a vivid character whose dire circumstances are contrasted with her undying will to survive…. Throughout her harrowing coming-of-age journey, told with verve and compassion, Adunni never loses the ‘louding voice’ that makes Daré’s story, and her protagonist, so unforgettable.”

—The New York Times Book Review

Video: tiny.cc/AbiDareVideo
Fiction

Discipline: English

Theme: Immigrant & First-Generation Stories

Sabrina & Corina
Stories
By Kali Fajardo-Anstine

Kali Fajardo-Anstine’s magnetic story collection breathes life into her Latina characters of indigenous ancestry and the land they inhabit in the American West. Against the remarkable backdrop of Denver, Colorado—a place that is as fierce as it is exquisite—these women navigate the land the way they navigate their lives: with caution, grace, and quiet force.

In “Sugar Babies,” ancestry and heritage are hidden inside the earth but tend to rise during land disputes. In “Tomi,” a woman leaves prison and finds herself in a gentrified city that is a shadow of the one she remembers from her childhood. And in the title story, “Sabrina & Corina,” a Denver family falls into a cycle of violence against women, coming together only through ritual.

Sabrina & Corina is a moving narrative of unrelenting feminine power and an exploration of the universal experiences of abandonment, heritage, and an eternal sense of home.

“Here are stories that blaze like wildfires, with characters who made me laugh and broke my heart.”—Sandra Cisneros

Finalist for the National Book Award for Fiction, the Story Prize, and the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Short Story Collection

Website: www.kalifajardoanstine.com

Selected for Common Reading at: Metropolitan State University and Regis University

Exit West
A Novel
By Mohsin Hamid

Nadia and Saeed meet in a country teetering on the brink of civil war. As the violence escalates, they decide to leave their homeland and their old lives behind. The love story that unfolds between these remarkable characters, across the rapidly changing face of a volatile world, forces them into an alien and uncertain future—both completely of our time and for all time.

“Hamid rewrites the world as a place thoroughly, gorgeously, and permanently overrun by refugees and migrants . . . . But, still, he depicts the world as resolutely beautiful and, at its core, unchanged. The novel feels immediately canonical, so firm and unerring is Hamid’s understanding of our time and its most pressing questions.”—The New Yorker

Winner of the 2018 Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Fiction
Finalist for the 2017 Man Booker Prize and The National Book Critics Circle Award

Selected for Common Reading at: University of California—Berkeley; New York University; Vassar College; Ramapo College; Georgetown University; University of Utah; Skidmore College; Chaffey College; Penn State Altoona; Pomona College; Connecticut College; Rhode Island College; Eastern Mennonite University; Muhlenberg College; St. Francis University

Also Available: Discontent and its Civilizations 9781594634031; How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia 9781594632334
Quotients
By Tracy O'Neill

Two people search for connection in a world of fractured identities and aliases, global finance, big data, intelligence bureaucracies, algorithmic logic, and terror. Jeremy Jordan and Alexandra Chen hope to make a quiet home together but struggle to find a space safe from their personal secrets. For Jeremy, this means leaving behind his former life as an intelligence operative during The Troubles in Northern Ireland. For Alexandra, a high-powered job in image management for whole countries cannot prepare her for her missing brother’s sudden reappearance.

In a culture of limitless surveillance, Jeremy and Alexandra will go to great lengths to protect what is closest to them. Spanning decades and continents, their saga brings them into contact with a down-and-out online journalist, shadowy security professionals, and jockeying technology experts, each of whom has a different understanding of whether information really protects us, and how we might build a world worth trusting in our paranoid age.

Tracy O’Neill is the author of The Hopeful, one of Electric Literature’s Best Novels of 2015, and Quotients. In 2015, she was named a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 honoree, long-listed for the Flaherty-Dunnan Prize, and was a Narrative Under 30 finalist.

On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous
A Novel
By Ocean Vuong

On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous is a letter from a son to a mother who cannot read. Written when the speaker, Little Dog, is in his late twenties, the letter unearths a family’s history that began before he was born—a history whose epicenter is rooted in Vietnam—and serves as a doorway into parts of his life his mother has never known. At once a witness to the fraught love between a single mother and her son, it is also a brutally honest exploration of race, class, and masculinity. With stunning urgency and grace, Ocean Vuong writes of people caught between disparate worlds, and asks how we heal and rescue one another without forsaking who we are. The question of how to survive, and how to make of it a kind of joy, powers the most important debut novel of many years.

“A lyrical work of self-discovery that’s shockingly intimate and insistently universal… not so much briefly gorgeous as permanently stunning.”—Ron Charles, The Washington Post

Winner of the 2019 New England Book Award for Fiction
A Long Petal of the Sea
A Novel
By Isabel Allende;
Translated by Nick Caistor and Amanda Hopkinson

In the late 1930s, civil war grips Spain. When the Fascists succeed in overthrowing the government, hundreds of thousands are forced to flee, including two refugees who unite in a marriage neither of them desires in order to survive. Together with 2,000 others, they embark on a ship chartered by the poet Pablo Neruda, to Chile: “the long petal of sea and wine and snow.” Destined to witness the battle between freedom and repression as it plays out across the world, Roser and Victor discover and redefine what home means for them in an unstable world.

The Vanishing Half
A Novel
By Brit Bennett

From the author of The Mothers comes a stunning new novel about twin sisters, inseparable as children, who ultimately choose to live in two very different worlds. One lives with her black daughter in the same southern town of her youth. The other passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters’ lives intersect?

Clade
By James Bradley

On a beach in Antarctica, scientist Adam Leith marks the passage of the summer solstice. Back in Sydney his partner Ellie waits for the results of her latest round of IVF treatment. That result, when it comes, will change both their lives and propel them into a future neither could have predicted. In a collapsing England, Adam will battle to survive an apocalyptic storm. Against a backdrop of growing civil unrest at home, Ellie will discover a strange affinity with beekeeping. In the aftermath of a pandemic, a young man finds solace in building virtual recreations of the dead. And new connections will be formed from the most unlikely beginnings.

Kindred
By Octavia E. Butler

The visionary author’s masterpiece pulls us—along with her Black female hero—through time to face the horrors of slavery and explore the impacts of racism, sexism, and white supremacy then and now. Dana, a modern black woman, is celebrating her 26th birthday when she is transported to the antebellum South to save the drowning son of a plantation owner. Brought through time repeatedly, each stay grows more and more treacherous until it is uncertain whether Dana’s life will end before it had the chance to begin.
**FICTION**

**Pet**  
*By Akwaeke Emezi*  
The award-winning, genre-defying novel by the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Death of Vivek Oji* that explores themes of identity and justice and asks: How do you share the truth when the world around you is in denial?  
“Like [Madeleine] L’Engle, Akwaeke Emezi asks questions of good and evil and agency, all wrapped up in the terrifying and glorious spectacle of fantastical theology.”—*NPR*

**Website:** www.akwaeke.com  
Make Me a World | HC  
EB: 9780525647096

**Lights All Night Long**  
*A Novel*  
*By Lydia Fitzpatrick*  
15-year-old Ilya arrives in Louisiana from his native Russia for what should be the adventure of his life: a year in America as an exchange student. But all is not right in Ilya’s world: just before he left, his brother Vladimir found himself in prison, accused of murder. With the help of Sadie, who has secrets of her own, Ilya embarks on a mission to prove Vladimir’s innocence.  
“Utterly brilliant and completely captivating. Fitzpatrick writes with cinematic clarity about life on margins of contemporary Russia and America.”—Anthony Marra, author of *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena*

**Website:** lydiafitzpatrick.com

**An Absolutely Remarkable Thing**  
*A Novel*  
*By Hank Green*  
Hank Green—co-creator of Crash Course, Vlogbrothers, and SciShow—spins a cinematic tale that grapples with big themes, including how the social internet is changing fame, rhetoric, and radicalization; how our culture deals with fear and uncertainty; and how vilification and adoration spring from the same dehumanization that follows a life in the public eye.  
“The most interesting meditation on the internet and fame I’ve ever seen. . . . A book in which the page-turning story and the fascinating ideas inform and support each other.”—Joseph Fink, author of *Alice Isn’t Dead*

**Website:** tiny.cc/HankGreenFYE  
**Video:** tiny.cc/HankGreenVideo

**A Pure Heart**  
*A Novel*  
*By Rajia Hassib*  
Sisters Rose and Gameela Gubran could not have been more different. Rose, an Egyptologist, married an American journalist and immigrated to New York City. Gameela, a devout Muslim since her teenage years, stayed in Cairo. During the aftermath of Egypt’s revolution, Gameela is killed in a suicide bombing. When Rose returns to Egypt after the bombing, she sifts through the artifacts Gameela left behind, desperate to understand how her sister came to die, and who she truly was.

**Website:** tiny.cc/RajiaHassibFYE  
**Video:** tiny.cc/RajiaHassibVideo

**Selected for Common Reading at:**  
Cuyahoga Community College

**Also Available:** *A Beautifully Foolish Endeavor*  
9781524741341

**Also Available:** *In the Language of Miracles*  
9780143109150

To request examination copies, email commonreads@prh.com
Where the Dead Sit Talking
By Brandon Hobson

With his single mother in jail, Sequoyah, a fifteen-year-old Cherokee boy, is placed in foster care with the Troutt family. Literally and figuratively scarred by his mother’s years of substance abuse, Sequoyah keeps mostly to himself, living with his emotions pressed deep below the surface. At least until he meets seventeen-year-old Rosemary, a troubled artist who also lives with the family.

Sequoyah and Rosemary bond over their shared Native American background and tumultuous paths through the foster care system, but as Sequoyah’s feelings toward Rosemary deepen, the precariousness of their lives and the scars of their pasts threaten to undo them both.

Every Body Looking
By Candice Iloh

Candice Iloh weaves the key moments of Ada’s young life—her mother’s descent into addiction, her father’s attempts to create a home for his American daughter more like the one he knew in Nigeria, her first year at a historically black college—into a luminous and inspiring verse novel.

“This is a story about the sometimes toxic and heavy expectations set on the backs of first-generation children, the pressures woven into the family dynamic, culturally and socially. About childhood secrets with sharp teeth. And ultimately, about a liberation that taunts every young person.”—Jason Reynolds, author of Long Way Down

This Is My America
By Kim Johnson

The Hate U Give meets Just Mercy in this unflinching yet uplifting provocative novel that explores the racist injustices in the American justice system.

Author Kim Johnson mentors Black student leaders and is an undergraduate advisor and member of the first historical Black sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, which has 300,000+ members, including Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, Ava DuVernay, Kamala Harris, Jaqueline Woodson, and Rita Williams-Garcia.

Darius the Great Is Not Okay
By Adib Khorram

Darius Kellner speaks better Klingon than Farsi, and he knows more about Hobbit social cues than Persian ones. He’s a Fractional Persian—half, his mom’s side—and his first-ever trip to Iran is about to change his life.

Darius has never really fit in at home, and he’s sure things are going to be the same in Iran. His clinical depression doesn’t exactly help matters, and trying to explain his medication to his grandparents only makes things harder. Then Darius meets Sohrab, the boy next door, and everything changes.
**Dig**
*By A.S. King*

Former potato farmers Gottfried and Marla Hemmings managed to trade digging spuds for developing subdivisions and now they sit atop a million-dollar bank account—wealth they’ve refused to pass on to their five teenage grandchildren. As the rot beneath the surface of the Hemmings’ white suburban respectability destroys the family from within, the estranged cousins must find their ways back to one another. With her inimitable surrealism, award winning author A.S. King exposes how a toxic culture of polite white supremacy tears a family apart and how one determined generation can dig its way out.

**Theme:** Race & Identity

**Again Again**
*By E. Lockhart*

If you could live your life again, what would you do differently? In this novel full of surprises from the New York Times bestselling author of *We Were Liars* and *Genuine Fraud*, E. Lockhart ups the ante with an inventive and romantic story about human connection, forgiveness, self-discovery, and possibility. A raw, funny story that will surprise you over and over, *Again Again* gives us an indelible heroine grappling with the terrible and wonderful problem of loving other people.

**Theme:** Being Connected

**The Great Believers**
*A Novel*
*By Rebecca Makkai*

In 1985, Yale Tischman’s friends are dying in Chicago’s AIDS epidemic. Soon the only person he has left is Fiona. 30 years later, Fiona is staying in Paris with a photographer who documented the Chicago crisis, and she finds herself finally grappling with the ways AIDS affected her life. The two intertwining stories take us through the heartbreak of the 80s and the chaos of the modern world, as both Yale and Fiona struggle to find good in the midst of disaster.

**Theme:** Being Connected

**Behold the Dreamers**
*A Novel*
*By Imbolo Mbue*

Jende Jonga, a Cameroonian immigrant living in Harlem, has come to the United States to provide a better life for himself, his wife, Neni, and their six-year-old son. In the fall of 2007, Jende can hardly believe his luck when he lands a job as a chauffeur for Clark Edwards, a senior executive at Lehman Brothers. But when the financial world is rocked by the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the Jongas are desperate to keep Jende’s job—even as their marriage threatens to fall apart. As their lives are dramatically upended, Jende and Neni are forced to make an impossible choice.

**Theme:** Immigrant & First-Generation Stories
**Apeirogon**  
*By Colum McCann*  
Bassam Aramin is Palestinian. Rami Elhanan is Israeli. They inhabit a world of conflict that colors every aspect of their lives until they are brought together by a shared tragedy: the death of a child. When they learn of each other’s story, they recognize the loss that connects them. Together they attempt to use their grief as a weapon for peace—and with their one small act, start to permeate what has for generations seemed an impermeable conflict.

“*Apeirogon* is an empathy engine, utterly collapsing the gulf between teller and listener.”—*The New York Times Book Review* (cover review)

**A Place for Us**  
*A Novel*  
*By Fatima Farheen Mirza*  
*A Place for Us* is a richly drawn portrait of a contemporary Muslim Indian-American family. Parents Rafiq and Layla, immigrants whose own marriage was arranged, must reckon with their children’s departures from tradition. Hadia, Huda, and Amar, meanwhile, forge their own paths, navigating the tension between their cultural heritage and their individual desires. Over the course of decades, acts of betrayal and the revelation of closely guarded secrets threaten to forever tear the family apart—and lead Amar, the only son, to break ties entirely.

**Little Fires Everywhere**  
*A Novel*  
*By Celeste Ng*  
When single mother Mia Warren and her teenaged daughter, Pearl, arrive in the idyllic bubble of Shaker Heights and rent a house from the Richardsons, all four Richardson children are drawn to the pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend the carefully ordered community.

“A pointed and persuasive social critique, teasing out the myriad forms of privilege and predation that stand between so many people and their achievement of the American dream.”—*The Boston Globe*

**Such a Fun Age**  
*By Kiley Reid*  
This page-turning story about race and privilege is set around a young black babysitter, her well-intentioned employer, and a surprising connection that threatens to undo them both.

“This is a deft coming-of-age story for the current American moment. . . . Kiley Reid explores serious issues—race, class, sex, power, ambition, and what it’s like to live in our hyperconnected world—with a light touch and sly humor.”—Rumaan Alam, author of *That Kind of Mother*
FICTION

**Juliet Takes a Breath**  
*By Gabby Rivera*

Juliet Milagros Palante is a self-proclaimed closeted Puerto Rican baby dyke from the Bronx. Only, she’s not so closeted anymore. Not after coming out to her family the night before flying to Portland, Oregon, to intern with the legendary author Harlowe Brisbane, the ultimate authority on feminism, women’s bodies, and other gay-sounding stuff. Juliet is sure Harlowe will be able to help her figure out this whole “Puerto Rican lesbian” thing. Except Harlowe’s white. And not from the Bronx. And she definitely doesn’t have all the answers.

**Cher Ami and Major Whittlesey**  
*A Novel*  
*By Kathleen Rooney*

Inspired by true events of World War I, Kathleen Rooney resurrects two long-forgotten yet unforgettable figures: one a pigeon and the other a soldier. Answering the call to serve in the war to end all wars, neither Cher Ami, the messenger bird, nor Charles Whittlesey, the Army officer, can anticipate how their lives will briefly intersect in a chaotic battle in the forests of France, where their wills will be tested, their fates will be shaped, and their lives will emerge forever altered.

**We Cast a Shadow**  
*A Novel*  
*By Maurice Carlos Ruffin*

In a near-future Southern city plagued by fenced-in ghettos and police violence, more and more residents are turning to an experimental medical procedure. Like any father, our narrator just wants the best for his son, Nigel, a biracial boy whose black birthmark is getting bigger by the day. But how far will he go?

“[A]t once a pitch-black comedy, a chilling horror story and an endlessly perceptive novel about the possible future of race in America.”—NPR

**Dear Justyce**  
*By Nic Stone*

In this stunning sequel to the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Dear Martin*, Nic Stone delivers an unflinching look into the flawed practices and silenced voices in the American juvenile justice system.

Through a series of flashbacks, vignettes, and letters to Justyce—the protagonist of *Dear Martin*—Quan’s story takes form. Troubles at home and misunderstandings at school give rise to police encounters and tough decisions.

“A powerful, raw, must-read told through the lens of a Black boy ensnared by our broken criminal justice system.”—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

To request examination copies, email commonreads@prh.com
FICTION

Lot
Stories
By Bryan Washington

In Houston—a sprawling, diverse microcosm of America—the son of a black mother and a Latino father is coming of age. He’s working at his family’s restaurant, weathering his brother’s blows, resenting his older sister’s absence. And discovering he likes boys.

“Washington doesn’t render a world, he actually captures one... Unflinching, romantic while refusing to romanticize, this is the debut of a prodigious talent.”—Mat Johnson, author of Loving Day

Red at the Bone
A Novel
By Jacqueline Woodson

Two families from different social classes are joined together by an unexpected pregnancy. Moving forward and backward in time, Jacqueline Woodson’s extraordinary new novel uncovers the role that history and community have played in the experiences, decisions, and relationships of these families, and in the life of this child.

“[A] beautifully imagined novel... Woodson’s nuanced voice evokes the complexities of race, class, religion, and sexuality in fluid prose and a series of telling details. This is a wise, powerful, and compassionate novel.”—Publishers Weekly, starred review

How Much of These Hills Is Gold
A Novel
By C Pam Zhang

Lucy and Sam, newly orphaned children of immigrants, are suddenly alone in a hostile land. Fleeing the threats of their western mining town, they set off on a journey to bury their father. Blending Chinese symbolism and re-imagined history with fiercely original storytelling, How Much of These Hills Is Gold explores race in an expanding country and the question of where immigrants are allowed to belong, as well as the memories that bind and divide families and the yearning for home.

Theme: Race & Identity

Theme: Gender

Theme: Race & Identity

Theme: Race & Identity

Theme: Race & Identity

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Longlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize

Theme: Race & Identity

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Theme: Race & Identity
In this brilliant book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings.

Beyond race, class, or other factors, there is a powerful caste system that influences people’s lives and behavior and the nation’s fate. Linking the caste systems of America, India, and Nazi Germany, Wilkerson explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines, stigma, and more. Using riveting stories about people—including Martin Luther King, Jr., baseball’s Satchel Paige, a single father and his toddler son, Wilkerson herself, and many others—she shows the ways that the insidious undertow of caste is experienced every day. She documents how the Nazis studied the racial systems in America to plan their out-cast of the Jews; she discusses why the cruel logic of caste requires that there be a bottom rung for those in the middle to measure themselves against; she writes about the surprising health costs of caste, in depression and life expectancy, and the effects of this hierarchy on our culture and politics. Finally, she points forward to ways America can move beyond the artificial and destructive separations of human divisions, toward hope in our common humanity.

Beautifully written, original, and revealing, Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents is an eye-opening story of people and history, and a reexamination of what lies under the surface of ordinary lives and of American life today.

Isabel Wilkerson, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Humanities Medal, is the author of the critically acclaimed New York Times best-seller The Warmth of Other Suns. Her debut work won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction and was named to Time’s 10 Best Nonfiction Books of the 2010s and The New York Times’s list of the Best Nonfiction of All Time. She has taught at Princeton, Emory, and Boston Universities and has lectured at more than 200 other colleges and universities across the United States and in Europe and Asia.

Website: isabelwilkerson.com

“[Caste] should be at the top of every American’s reading list.”
—Chicago Tribune
Begin Again
James Baldwin’s America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own
By Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

We live, according to Eddie S. Glaude Jr., in a moment when the struggles of Black Lives Matter and the attempt to achieve a new America have been challenged by the election of Donald Trump.

We have been here before: For James Baldwin, these after times came in the wake of the civil rights movement, when a similar attempt to compel a national confrontation with the truth was answered with the murders of Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, Jr. In these years, spanning from the publication of The Fire Next Time in 1963 to that of No Name in the Street in 1972, Baldwin transformed into a more overtly political writer, a change that came at great professional and personal cost. But from that journey, Baldwin emerged with a sense of renewed purpose about the necessity of pushing forward in the face of disillusionment and despair.

In the story of Baldwin’s crucible, Glaude suggests, we can find hope and guidance through our own after times, this Trumpian era of shattered promises and white retrenchment. Mixing biography—drawn partially from newly uncovered interviews—with history, memoir, and trenchant analysis of our current moment, Begin Again is Glaude’s endeavor, following Baldwin, to bear witness to the difficult truth of race in America today. It is at once a searing exploration that lays bare the tangled web of race, trauma, and memory, and a powerful interrogation of what we all must ask of ourselves in order to call forth a new America.

The World
A Brief Introduction
By Richard Haass

This invaluable primer from Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, is designed to empower more informed, discerning citizens, better able to arrive at sound, independent judgments and to hold elected representatives to account. Global literacy is deeply necessary, and this is a critical time for college students and others to understand what is taking place around the world, why it is taking place, and how it will affect our lives. Toward these ends, The World focuses on essential history, what makes each region of the world tick, the many challenges globalization presents, and the most influential countries, events, and ideas. Explaining complex ideas with wisdom and clarity, The World is an evergreen book that will remain relevant and useful even as history continues to unfold.

“This is the book that explains how the world really works, how it is changing, and why it matters. Just what every citizen and student needs to read.”—Madeleine Albright

“This book is a superb introduction to the world and global issues. Richard Haass has been able to write something that is brief, readable and yet comprehensive—marked throughout by his trademark intelligence and common sense.”—Fareed Zakaria
Four Hundred Souls
A Community History of African America, 1619–2019
Edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Kiesha N. Blain

A “choral history” of African Americans covering 400 years of history in the voices of 80 writers, edited by the bestselling, National Book Award–winning historian Ibram X. Kendi.

Last year marked the 400th anniversary of the first African presence in the Americas—and also launched the Four Hundred Souls project, spearheaded by Ibram X. Kendi, director of the Antiracism Institute of American University, and Keisha Blain, editor of The North Star. They’ve gathered together 80 black writers from all disciplines—historians and artists, journalists and novelists—each of whom has contributed an entry about one five-year period to create a dynamic multivoiced single-volume history of black people in America.

The Omni-Americans
Some Alternatives to the Folklore of White Supremacy
By Albert Murray / with a foreword by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Rediscover the “most important book on black-white relationships” in America. “The United States is in actuality not a nation of black people and white people. It is a nation of multicolored people. . . . Any fool can see that the white people are not really white, and that black people are not black. They are all interrelated one way or another.” These words, written by Albert Murray at the height of the Black Power movement, cut against the grain of their moment, and took aim at protest writers and social scientists who accentuated the “pathology” of race in American life.

In his 1970 classic The Omni-Americans, Murray took aim at protest writers and social scientists who accentuated the “pathology” of race in American life. Against narratives of marginalization and victimhood, Murray argued that black art and culture, particularly jazz and blues, stand at the very headwaters of the American mainstream, and that much of what is best in American art embodies the “blues-hero tradition”—a heritage of grace, wit, and inspired improvisation in the face of adversity. Reviewing The Omni-Americans in 1970, Walker Percy called it “the most important book on black-white relationships . . . indeed on American culture . . . published in this generation.” As Henry Louis Gates, Jr. makes clear in his introduction, Murray’s singular poetic voice, impassioned argumentation, and pluralistic vision have only become more urgently needed today.
How Race Survived US History
From Settlement and Slavery to the Eclipse of Post-racialism

By David R. Roediger

An absorbing chronicle of the role of race in US history, by the foremost historian of race and labor

The Obama era produced countless articles arguing that America’s race problems were over. The election of Donald Trump has proved those hasty pronouncements wrong. Race has always played a central role in US society and culture.

Surveying a period from the late seventeenth century—the era in which W.E.B. Du Bois located the emergence of “whiteness”—through the American Revolution and the Civil War to the civil rights movement and the emergence of the American empire, How Race Survived US History reveals how race did far more than persist as an exception in a progressive national history. This masterful account shows how race has remained at the heart of American life well into the twenty-first century.

David R. Roediger is the Foundation Distinguished Professor of American Studies and History at the University of Kansas. He is the author of, among other books, The Wages of Whiteness and Towards the Abolition of Whiteness.

Redbone
The True Story of a Native American Rock Band

By Thibault Balahy; Christian Staebler; Sonia Paoloni

Experience the riveting, powerful story of the Native American civil rights movement and the resulting struggle for identity told through the high-flying career of West Coast rock ‘n’ roll pioneers Redbone.

Brothers Pat and Lolly Vegas were talented Native American rock musicians that took the 1960s Sunset Strip by storm. They influenced The Doors and jammed with Jimmy Hendrix before he was “Jimi,” and the idea of a band made up of all Native Americans soon followed. Determined to control their creative vision and maintain their cultural identity, they eventually signed a deal with Epic Records in 1969. But as the American Indian Movement gained momentum the band took a stand, choosing pride in their ancestry over continued commercial reward.

Created in cooperation of the Vegas family, authors Christian Staebler and Sonia Paoloni with artist Thibault Balahy take painstaking steps to ensure the historical accuracy of this important and often overlooked story of America’s past. Part biography and part research journalism, Redbone provides a voice to a people long neglected in American history.
Imagined Communities
Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism
By Benedict Anderson

*Imagined Communities* is the most influential book on the origins of nationalism. This illuminating study traces the emergence of community as an idea to South America, rather than to nineteenth-century Europe. Later, this sense of belonging was formed and reformulated at every level, from high politics to popular culture, through print, literature, maps and museums. Following the rise and conflict of nations and the decline of empires, Anderson draws on examples from South East Asia, Latin America and Europe’s recent past to show how nationalism shaped the modern world.

A Black Women's History of the United States
By Daina Ramey Berry

A vibrant and empowering history that emphasizes the perspectives and stories of African American women to show how they are—and have always been—instrumental in shaping our country.

Berry and Gross prioritize many voices: enslaved women, freedwomen, religious leaders, artists, queer women, activists, and women who lived outside the law. The result is a starting point for exploring Black women’s history and a testament to the beauty, richness, rhythm, tragedy, heartbreak, rage, and enduring love that abounds in the spirit of Black women in communities throughout the nation.

An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States
By Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Today in the United States, there are more than five hundred federally recognized Indigenous nations comprising nearly three million people, descendants of the fifteen million Native people who once inhabited this land. The centuries-long genocidal program of the US settler-colonial regimen has largely been omitted from history. Acclaimed historian and activist Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz offers a history of the United States told from the perspective of Indigenous peoples and reveals how Native Americans, for centuries, actively resisted expansion of the US empire.

I Want You to Know We’re Still Here
A Post-Holocaust Memoir
By Esther Safran Foer

Esther Safran Foer grew up in a family in which the Holocaust was always felt but never discussed—until an astonishing revelation shifts the foundations of her family history. Armed with only a black-and-white photo and hand-drawn map, Esther travels to Ukraine, determined to find the shtetl where her father hid during the war. What she finds not only reshapes her identity but gives her the long-delayed opportunity to mourn the all-but-forgotten dead.

“Part personal quest, part testament and all thoughtfully, compassionately written.”—The Washington Post
**21 Lessons for the 21st Century**  
*By Yuval Noah Harari*  
A probing and visionary investigation into today’s most urgent issues as we move into the uncharted territory of the future. As technology advances faster than our understanding of it, hacking becomes a tactic of war, and the world feels more polarized than ever, Yuval Noah Harari addresses the challenge of navigating life in the face of constant and disorienting change and raises the important questions we need to ask ourselves in order to survive.

**An African American and Latinx History of the United States**  
*By Paul Ortiz*  
Incisive and timely, this history, told from the interconnected vantage points of Latinx and African Americans, reveals the radically different ways that people of the diaspora have addressed issues still plaguing the United States today, and it offers a way forward in the continued struggle for universal civil rights.

“An African American and Latinx History of the United States is a gift.”—Ibram X. Kendi, author of *How to Be An Antiracist and Stamped from the Beginning*

**Coffeeland**  
*One Man’s Dark Empire and the Making of Our Favorite Drug*  
*By Augustine Sedgewick*  
Coffee is an indispensable part of daily life for billions of people around the world—one of the most valuable commodities in the history of global capitalism, the leading source of the world’s most popular drug, and perhaps the most widespread word on the planet. Augustine Sedgewick’s *Coffeeland* tells the hidden and surprising story of how this came to be, tracing coffee’s five-hundred-year transformation from a mysterious Muslim ritual into an everyday necessity.

**The Woman’s Hour**  
*The Great Fight to Win the Vote*  
*By Elaine Weiss*  
After a seven-decade crusade, just one last state’s vote was needed to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment. The suffragists faced vicious opposition from politicians, clergy, corporations, and racists who don’t want black women voting. Not to mention the “Antis”—women who oppose their own enfranchisement, fearing suffrage will bring about the nation’s moral collapse. *The Woman’s Hour* follows a handful of remarkable suffragists through these final, critical moments in their battle for the right to vote.
There is a renaissance blooming in the climate movement: leadership that is more characteristically feminine and more faithfully feminist, rooted in compassion, connection, creativity, and collaboration. While it’s clear that women and girls are vital voices and agents of change for this planet, they are too often missing or even barred from the proverbial table. More than a problem of bias, it’s a dynamic that sets us up for failure.

All We Can Save illuminates the expertise and insights of dozens of diverse women leading on climate in the United States—scientists, journalists, farmers, strategists, teachers, activists, innovators, builders, and designers, across ages, geographies, and ethnicities—and aims to advance a more representative, nuanced, and solution-oriented public conversation on the climate crisis. These women are offering a spectrum of ideas and insights for how we can rapidly, radically reshape society.

Intermixing essays with poetry and art, this book is both a balm and a guide for knowing and holding what has been done to the world, while bolstering our resolve never to give up on one another or our collective future. We must summon truth, courage, and solutions, to turn away from the brink and toward life-giving possibility. Curated by two climate leaders, All We Can Save is a collection and celebration of visionaries who are leading us on a path toward all we can save.

With essays and poems by: Janine Benyus • Adrienne Maree Brown • Abigail Dillen • Camille T. Dungy • Joy Harjo • Jane Hirshfield • Mary Anne Hitt • Naomi Klein • Ada Limon • Kate Marvel • Sherri Mitchell • Sharon Olds • Mary Oliver • Jacqueline Patterson • Catherine Pierce • Marge Piercy • Patricia Smith • Leah C. Stokes • Maggie Thomas • Alice Walker • and more!

Website: www.ayanaelizabeth.com
www.kkwilkinson.com

Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson is a marine biologist, policy expert, writer, and Brooklyn native. She is founder and CEO of Ocean Collectiv, a consulting firm for conservation solutions grounded in social justice, and founder of Urban Ocean Lab, a think tank for the future of coastal cities.

Dr. Katharine Keeble Wilkinson is an author, strategist, teacher, and homegrown Atlantan, named one of 15 “Women Leading the Fight Against Climate Change” by Time. Her writing has been featured in The Drawdown Review and the New York Times bestseller Drawdown, and she is the author of Between God and Green.

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Does oil wealth lead to political poverty? It often looks that way, but *Carbon Democracy* tells a more complex story. In this magisterial study, Timothy Mitchell rethinks the history of energy, bringing into his grasp as he does so environmental politics, the struggle for democracy, and the place of the Middle East in the modern world.

With the rise of coal power, the producers who oversaw its production acquired the ability to shut down energy systems, a threat they used to build the first mass democracies. Oil offered the West an alternative, and with it came a new form of politics. Oil created a denatured political life whose central object – the economy – appeared capable of infinite growth. What followed was a Western democracy dependent on an undemocratic Middle East. We now live with the consequences: an impoverished political practice, incapable of addressing the crises that threaten to end the age of carbon democracy – namely, the disappearance of cheap energy and the carbon-fueled collapse of the ecological order.

“*Carbon Democracy* is a sweeping overview of the relationship between fossil fuels and political institutions from the industrial revolution to the Arab Spring, which adds layers of depth and complexity to the accounts of how resource wealth and economic development are linked.”

—Financial Times

TIMOTHY MITCHELL teaches at Columbia University. His books include *Colonising Egypt, Rule of Experts*, and *Carbon Democracy*.
**No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference**

*By Greta Thunberg*

In August 2018, 15-year-old Greta Thunberg decided not to go to school in order to protest the climate crisis. Her actions sparked a global movement, inspiring millions of students to go on strike for our planet, forcing governments to listen, and earning her a Nobel Peace Prize nomination.

*No One Is Too Small to Make A Difference* brings you Greta in her own words for the first time. Collecting her speeches that have made history across the globe, from the United Nations to Capitol Hill and mass street protests, her book is a rallying cry for why we must all wake up and fight to protect the living planet, no matter how powerless we feel. Our future depends upon it.

"Greta Thunberg is already one of our planet's greatest advocates."—Barack Obama

"Thunberg has always been refreshingly—and necessarily—blunt in her demands for action from world leaders who refuse to address climate change. With clarity and unbridled passion, she presents her message that climate change is an emergency that must be addressed immediately . . . A tiny book . . . with huge potential impact."—Kirkus, starred review

**The Uninhabitable Earth**

*Life After Warming*

*By David Wallace-Wells*

An “epoch-defining book” (*The Guardian*) and “this generation’s Silent Spring” (*The Washington Post*), *The Uninhabitable Earth* is both a travelogue of the near future and a meditation on how that future will look to those living through it—the ways that warming promises to transform global politics, the meaning of technology and nature in the modern world, the sustainability of capitalism and the trajectory of human progress.

*The Uninhabitable Earth* is also an impassioned call to action. For just as the world was brought to the brink of catastrophe within the span of a lifetime, the responsibility to avoid it now belongs to a single generation—today’s.

“David Wallace-Wells argues that the impacts of climate change will be much graver than most people realize, and he’s right. *The Uninhabitable Earth* is a timely and provocative work.”—Elizabeth Kolbert, author of *The Sixth Extinction*

Longlisted for the PEN/E. O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award and Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction

**Selected for Common Reading at:**

- Hofstra University
- College of the Holy Cross
The Good Food Revolution
Growing Healthy Food, People, and Communities
By Will Allen

Despite financial challenges and daunting odds, Will Allen built the country’s preeminent urban farm—showing how local food systems can help troubled youths, dismantle racism, create jobs, and improve public health. The Good Food Revolution is the story of a pioneering urban farmer pointing the way to a new food system that can feed—and heal—communities.

“Will Allen’s remarkable story, told with eloquence and compassion, conveys the universal value of social justice and real food.”—Alice Waters

Junk Raft
An Ocean Voyage and a Rising Tide of Activism to Fight Plastic Pollution
By Marcus Eriksen

A scientist, activist, and inveterate adventurer, Eriksen and his co-navigator, Joel Paschal, construct a “junk raft” made of plastic trash and set themselves adrift from Los Angeles to Hawaii, with no motor or support vessel, confronting perilous cyclones, food shortages, and a fast decaying raft. As Eriksen recounts his struggles to keep afloat, he immerses readers in the deep history of the plastic pollution crisis and the movement that has arisen to combat it.

Tales of Two Planets
Stories of Climate Change and Inequality in a Divided World
Edited by John Freeman

Building from his acclaimed anthology Tales of Two Americas, editor John Freeman draws together 35 of our greatest writers to help us see how the environmental crisis is affecting the world. Margaret Atwood conjures a dystopian future. Lauren Groff whisks us to Florida; Edwidge Danticat to Haiti; Tahmima Anam to Bangladesh; Yasmine El Rashidi to Egypt. Eka Kurniawan brings us to Indonesia, Chinelo Okparanta to Nigeria, and Anuradha Roy to the Himalayas.

Trespassing Across America
One Man’s Epic, Never-Done-Before (and Sort of Illegal) Hike Across the Heartland
By Ken Ilgunas

Both a travel memoir and a reflection on climate change, Trespassing Across America is a fascinating account of one man’s remarkable journey along the proposed Keystone XL pipeline route and a meditation on climate change, the beauty of the natural world, and the extremes to which we can push ourselves.

“A timely and riveting book . . . written by a courageous young man struggling with the chaos he is inheriting from his elders . . . . A welcome message of resistance and hope.”—The Huffington Post
The Fate of Food
What We'll Eat in a Bigger, Hotter, Smarter World
By Amanda Little

Climate models show that global crop production will decline every decade for the rest of this century due to drought, heat, and flooding. Water supplies are in jeopardy. Meanwhile, the world’s population is expected to grow another 30 percent by midcentury. So how, really, will we feed nine billion people sustainably in the coming decades? In the fascinating story of the sustainable food revolution, an environmental journalist and professor asks the question: Is the future of food looking bleak—or better than ever?

We Rise
The Earth Guardians Guide to Building a Movement that Restores the Planet
By Xiuhtezcatl Martinez

Xiuhtezcatl Martinez is a climate activist, hip-hop artist, and powerful new voice on the frontlines of a global youth-led movement. He and his group the Earth Guardians believe that today’s youth will play an important role in shaping our future. They know that the choices made right now will have a lasting impact on the world of tomorrow, and people—young and old—are asking themselves what they can do to ensure a positive, just, and sustainable future. We Rise tells these stories and addresses the solutions.

How to Give Up Plastic
A Guide to Changing the World, One Plastic Bottle at a Time
By Will McCallum

How to Give Up Plastic is a straightforward guide to eliminating plastic from our lives. Greenpeace activist Will McCallum teaches us how to spot disposable plastic items and find plastic-free, sustainable alternatives to each one. He also arms readers with a wealth of facts about global plastic consumption and tips for advocating to businesses and community leaders to commit to eliminating disposable plastics for good.

“Accessible and optimistic. . . . A galvanizing alternative to ominous media prophecies of inevitable environmental disaster.”—Booklist

Fashionopolis
Why What We Wear Matters
By Dana Thomas

What should I wear? It’s one of the fundamental questions we ask ourselves every day. More than ever, we are told it should be something new. Today, the clothing industry churns out 80 billion garments a year and employs every sixth person on Earth. Historically, the apparel trade has exploited labor, the environment, and intellectual property—and in the last three decades, those abuses have multiplied exponentially, primarily out of view. Dana Thomas has traveled the globe to investigate the damage wrought by the colossal clothing industry and the grassroots, high-tech, international movement fighting to reform it.
On December 29, 2019, historian Timothy Snyder fell gravely ill. Unable to stand, barely able to think, he waited for hours in an emergency room before being correctly diagnosed and rushed into surgery. Over the next few days, as he clung to life and the first light of a new year came through his window, he found himself reflecting on the fragility of health, not recognized in America as a human right but without which all rights and freedoms have no meaning.

And that was before the pandemic. We have since watched American hospitals, long understaffed and undersupplied, buckling under waves of coronavirus patients. The federal government made matters worse through willful ignorance, misinformation, and profiteering. Our system of commercial medicine failed the ultimate test, and thousands of Americans died.

In this eye-opening cri de coeur, Snyder traces the societal forces that led us here and outlines the lessons we must learn to survive. In examining some of the darkest moments of recent history and of his own life, Snyder finds glimmers of hope and principles that could lead us out of our current malaise. Only by enshrining healthcare as a human right, elevating the authority of doctors and medical knowledge, and planning for our children’s future can we create an America where everyone is truly free.
The Poison Squad
One Chemist’s Single-Minded Crusade for Food Safety at the Turn of the Twentieth Century
By Deborah Blum

By the end of the 19th century, food was dangerous—even lethal. In New York City alone, thousands of children were killed by “embalmed milk” that contained formaldehyde. This was not by accident; food manufacturers had rushed to embrace the rise of industrial chemistry, and were knowingly selling harmful products. Unchecked by government regulation, basic safety, or even labelling requirements, they put profit before the health of their customers. Deborah Blum tells the dramatic true story of the heroes, led by the inimitable Dr. Harvey Washington Wiley, who fought for food safety and consumer protection. When the landmark 1906 Food and Drug Act was finally passed, it was known across the land, as “Dr. Wiley’s Law.” Blum brings to life this timeless and hugely satisfying “David and Goliath” tale with righteous verve and style, driving home the moral imperative of confronting corporate greed and government corruption with a bracing clarity, which speaks resoundingly to the enormous social and political challenges we face today.

“The Poison Squad offers a powerful reminder that truth can defeat lies, that government can protect consumers and that an honest public servant can overcome the greed of private interests.”—Eric Schlosser, New York Times Book Review

The Beauty in Breaking
A Memoir
By Michele Harper

Michele Harper is a female, African American emergency room physician in a profession that is overwhelmingly male and white. Brought up in Washington, D.C., she went to Harvard before joining the staff of a hospital in central Philadelphia. As she shines a light on the systemic disenfranchisement of the patients she treats as they struggle to maintain their health and dignity, Harper comes to understand that each of us is broken—physically, emotionally, psychologically. How we recognize those breaks, how we try to mend them, and where we go from there are all crucial parts of the healing process.

“The Beauty in Breaking takes us into the life in an Emergency Room—the drama, the adrenaline, the emotion—with such immediacy that I could not help but be completely enthralled by the individual stories of the patients that Michele Harper treats. But this powerful, poignant page-turner of a book also tells a much larger and universal story about how healing actually happens, not just for broken bodies but for broken hearts and souls. Harper shows us that that healing begins only after we are broken open ourselves.”—Kerry Egan, author of On Living
The Great Influenza
The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History
By John M. Barry

At the height of World War I, history’s most lethal influenza virus erupted in an army camp in Kansas, moved east with American troops, then exploded, killing as many as 100 million people worldwide. Magisterial in its breadth of perspective and depth of research, The Great Influenza provides us with a sobering model as we confront the epidemics looming on our own horizon. As John Barry concludes, “The final lesson of 1918, a simple one yet one most difficult to execute, is that . . . those in authority must retain the public’s trust.”

Chasing My Cure
A Doctor’s Race to Turn Hope into Action; A Memoir
By David Fajgenbaum

The powerful memoir of a young doctor and former college athlete diagnosed with a rare disease who spearheaded the search for a cure—and became a champion for a new approach to medical research.

“What an extraordinary memoir . . . It belongs with Atul Gawande’s writings and When Breath Becomes Air”—Adam Grant, New York Times bestselling author of Originals

“A page-turning chronicle of living, nearly dying, and discovering what it really means to be invincible in hope.”—Angela Duckworth, bestselling author of Grit

What the Eyes Don’t See
A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City
By Mona Hanna-Attisha

Here is the inspiring story of how Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, alongside a team of researchers, parents, friends, and community leaders, discovered that the children of Flint, Michigan, were being exposed to lead in their tap water—and then battled her own government and a brutal backlash to expose that truth to the world. What the Eyes Don’t See reveals how misguided austerity policies, broken democracy, and callous bureaucratic indifference placed an entire city at risk. And at the center of the story is Dr. Mona herself—an immigrant, doctor, scientist, and mother whose family’s activist roots inspired her pursuit of justice.

The Lonely Century
How to Restore Human Connection in a World That’s Pulling Apart
By Noreena Hertz

Today, nearly half of adults in the United States report feeling lonely. All around us, the fabric of community is unraveling. And technology isn’t the lone culprit. Rather, the crisis stems from the dismantling of civic institutions, the radical reorganization of the workplace, mass urban migration, and decades of neoliberal policies that placed self-interest above the collective good. The Lonely Century diagnoses the problem and offers a hopeful vision for how to heal our fractured communities and restore connection in our lives.
The Ghost Map
By Steven Johnson

It’s the summer of 1854, and London is just emerging as one of the first modern cities in the world. But lacking infrastructure like garbage removal, clean water, and sewers that are necessary to support its rapidly expanding population, the city has become the perfect breeding ground for a terrifying disease no one knows how to cure. Steven Johnson illuminates the intertwined histories of the spread of disease, the rise of cities, and the nature of scientific inquiry, offering both a riveting history and a powerful explanation of how it has shaped the world we live in.

Crisis in the Red Zone
The Story of the Deadliest Ebola Outbreak in History, and of the Viruses to Come
By Richard Preston

Richard Preston deeply chronicles the 2013–2014 Ebola pandemic, in which we saw for the first time the specter of the virus jumping continents, crossing the Atlantic, and infecting people in America. By the end—as the virus mutated into its deadliest form, and spread farther and faster than ever before—30,000 people would be infected, and the dead would be spread across eight countries on three continents. Rich in characters and conflict—physical, emotional, and ethical—Crisis in the Red Zone is an immersion in one of the great public health calamities of our time.

The Mosquito
A Human History of Our Deadliest Predator
By Timothy C. Winegard

Roughly the size and weight of a grape seed, the mosquito has determined the fates of empires and nations, razed and crippled economies, and decided the outcome of pivotal wars, killing nearly half of humanity along the way. In this book, Dr. Timothy C. Winegard reveals how the tiny mosquito has played a greater role in shaping our human story than any other living thing.

"One of those eye-opening books that permanently shift your worldview.”—The New York Times Book Review

Ingredients
The Strange Chemistry of What We Put in Us and on Us
By George Zaidan

Cheese puffs. Coffee. Sunscreen. Vapes. George Zaidan offers the perspective of a chemist on the stuff we eat, drink, inhale, and smear on ourselves. Zaidan reveals exactly what science can (and can’t) tell us about the packaged ingredients sold to us every day.

"If you are looking for a guide in understanding the everyday chemistry of our lives, you could not do better than George Zaidan. Ingredients is everything that should lead you to expect: funny, edgy, fascinating, dismaying, reassuring, and overall, just incredibly smart.”—Deborah Blum, author of The Poison Squad
PUBLIC HEALTH

Emerging Epidemics
The Menace of New Infections
By Madeline Drexler
Penguin Books | TR
978-0-14-311717-9 | 336 pp.
$17.00 / $19.00 Can.

Five Days at Memorial
Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital
By Sheri Fink
Broadway Books | TR
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EB: 9780307718983

Superbugs
Deadly Microbes and the Extraordinary Race for a Cure: A Tale of Human Ingenuity
By Matt McCarthy, MD
Avery | TR
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EB: 9780735217522

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A Journey Through Anxiety
By Andrea Petersen
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Miracle Cure
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A Paradise Built in Hell
The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster
By Rebecca Solnit
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The Vaccine Race
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The Language of Kindness
A Nurse’s Story
By Christie Watson
Tim Duggan Books | TR
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336 pp. | $17.00

The Inner Level
How More Equal Societies Reduce Stress, Restore Sanity and Improve Everyone’s Well-Being
By Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett
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Bedlam
An Intimate Journey into America’s Mental Health Crisis
By Kenneth Paul Rosenberg, MD
Avery | HC
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EB: 9800525561325

The Healing of America
A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care
By T. R. Reid
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978-0-14-310859-9 | 432 pp.
$18.00 / $23.00 Can.
EB: 980014310863

An American Sickness
How Healthcare Became Big Business and How You Can Take It Back
By Elisabeth Rosenthal
Penguin | TR
978-0-14-310859-9 | 432 pp.
$18.00 / $23.00 Can.
EB: 980014310863
The Sirens of Mars
Searching for Life on Another World
By Sarah Stewart Johnson

Mars was once similar to Earth, but today there are no rivers, no lakes, no oceans. Coated in red dust, the terrain is bewilderingly empty. And yet multiple spacecraft are circling Mars, sweeping over Terra Sabaea, Syrtis Major, the dunes of Elysium, and Mare Sirenum—on the brink, perhaps, of a staggering find, one that would inspire humankind as much as any discovery in the history of modern science.

In this beautifully observed, deeply personal book, Georgetown scientist Sarah Stewart Johnson tells the story of how she and other researchers have scoured Mars for signs of life, transforming the planet from a distant point of light into a world of its own.

Johnson’s fascination with Mars began as a child in Kentucky, turning over rocks with her father and looking at planets in the night sky. She now conducts fieldwork in some of Earth’s most hostile environments, such as the Dry Valleys of Antarctica and the salt flats of Western Australia, developing methods for detecting life on other worlds. Here, with poetic precision, she interlaces her own personal journey—as a female scientist and a mother—with tales of other seekers, from Percival Lowell, who was convinced that a utopian society existed on Mars, to Audouin Dollfus, who tried to carry out astronomical observations from a stratospheric balloon. In the process, she shows how the story of Mars is also a story about Earth: This other world has been our mirror, our foil, a telltale reflection of our own anxieties and yearnings.

Empathetic and evocative, The Sirens of Mars offers an unlikely natural history of a place where no human has ever set foot, while providing a vivid portrait of our quest to defy our isolation in the cosmos.

Sarah Stewart Johnson is an assistant professor of planetary science at Georgetown University. A former Rhodes Scholar and White House Fellow, she received her PhD from MIT and has worked on NASA’s Spirit, Opportunity, and Curiosity rovers. She is also a visiting scientist with the Planetary Environments Lab at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center.
Handprints on Hubble
An Astronaut’s Story of Invention

By Kathryn D. Sullivan

The first American woman to walk in space recounts her experience as part of the team that launched, rescued, repaired, and maintained the Hubble Space Telescope.

The Hubble Space Telescope has revolutionized our understanding of the universe. It has, among many other achievements, revealed thousands of galaxies in what seemed to be empty patches of sky; transformed our knowledge of black holes; found dwarf planets with moons orbiting other stars; and measured precisely how fast the universe is expanding. In Handprints on Hubble, retired astronaut Kathryn Sullivan describes her work on the NASA team that made all of this possible. Sullivan, the first American woman to walk in space, recounts how she and other astronauts, engineers, and scientists launched, rescued, repaired, and maintained Hubble, the most productive observatory ever built.

Along the way, Sullivan chronicles her early life as a “Sputnik Baby,” her path to NASA through oceanography, and her initiation into the space program as one of “thirty-five new guys.” (She was also one of the first six women to join NASA’s storied astronaut corps.) She describes in vivid detail what liftoff feels like inside a spacecraft (it’s like “being in an earthquake and a fighter jet at the same time”), shows us the view from a spacewalk, and recounts the temporary grounding of the shuttle program after the Challenger disaster. Sullivan explains that “maintainability” was designed into Hubble, and she describes the work of inventing the tools and processes that made on-orbit maintenance possible. Because in-flight repair and upgrade was part of the plan, NASA was able to fix a serious defect in Hubble’s mirrors—leaving literal and metaphorical “handprints on Hubble.”

Kathryn D. Sullivan is a NASA astronaut (retired), former Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and an inductee in the Astronaut Hall of Fame.

“Perhaps the most important spacecraft ever launched in a single mission is the Hubble Space Telescope . . . Astronaut Kathy Sullivan was there at the beginning of Hubble’s design. As much as anyone, her handprints are on this magnificent space observatory. Now, in this fast-paced memoir, she tells us of the frustrations and triumphs of her storied career as the first American woman to walk in space and how she came to deploy the Hubble in orbit.”

—Homer Hickam, author of Rocket Boys/October Sky
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**Discipline:** Computer Science  
**Theme:** Inequality

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### Weapons of Math Destruction

**How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy**

*By Cathy O'Neil*

We live in the age of the algorithm. Increasingly, the decisions that affect our lives—where we go to school, whether we can get a job or a loan, how much we pay for health insurance—are being made not by humans, but by machines. In theory, this should lead to greater fairness: Everyone is judged according to the same rules.

But as mathematician and data scientist Cathy O'Neil reveals, the mathematical models being used today are unregulated and uncontestable, even when they're wrong. Most troubling, they reinforce discrimination—propping up the lucky, punishing the downtrodden, and undermining our democracy in the process. Welcome to the dark side of Big Data.

“This is a manual for the 21st-century citizen, and it succeeds where other big data accounts have failed—it is accessible, refreshingly critical and feels relevant and urgent.”—Financial Times

“Cathy O’Neil has seen Big Data from the inside, and the picture isn’t pretty…. This book is wise, fierce, and desperately necessary.”—Jordan Ellenberg, University of Wisconsin–Madison, author of *How Not To Be Wrong*

Longlisted for the National Book Award for Nonfiction

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**Discipline:** Engineering & Mathematics  
**Theme:** Being Connected

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### How to Do Nothing

**Resisting the Attention Economy**

*By Jenny Odell*

In a world where addictive technology is designed to buy and sell our attention, and our value is determined by our 24/7 data productivity, it can seem impossible to escape. But in this inspiring field guide to dropping out of the attention economy, artist and critic Jenny Odell shows us how we can still win back our lives.

Odell sees our attention as the most precious—and overdrawn—resource we have. And we must actively and continuously choose how we use it. We might not spend it on things that capitalism has deemed important … but once we can start paying a new kind of attention, she writes, we can undertake bolder forms of political action, reimagine humankind’s role in the environment, and arrive at more meaningful understandings of happiness and progress.

Far from the simple anti-technology screed, or the back-to-nature meditation we read so often, *How to Do Nothing* is an action plan for thinking outside of capitalist narratives of efficiency and techno-determinism. Provocative, timely, and utterly persuasive, this book will change how you see your place in our world.

Jenny Odell is an artist and writer who teaches at Stanford and has been an artist-in-residence at places like the San Francisco dump, Facebook, the Internet Archive, and the San Francisco Planning Department. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *The Atlantic*, *The Believer*, *The Paris Review*, and *McSweeney’s*, among others.

Named One of the Best Books of the Year By: *Time*, *The New Yorker*, NPR, *GQ*, *Elle*, *Vulture*, *Fortune*
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Irresistible
The Rise of Addictive Technology and the Business of Keeping Us Hooked
By Adam Alter

Adam Alter, a professor of psychology and marketing at NYU, tracks the rise of behavioral addiction, and explains why so many of today’s products are irresistible. It’s no accident: the companies that design these products tweak them over time until they become almost impossible to resist.

“Both a brilliant exploration of the sometimes sinister ways we get hooked, and a manual for finding focus and human connection in the midst of it all.”—Oliver Burkeman, author of The Antidote

The Hype Machine
How Social Media Disrupts Our Elections, Our Economy, and Our Health—and How We Must Adapt
By Sinan Aral

Drawing on two decades of his own research and business experience, MIT professor Sinan Aral tackles the critical question of just how much social media actually shapes our choices, for better or worse. Along the way, he covers a wide array of topics, including how the neuroscience of how social media affects our brains, the real consequences of fake news, and the power of social ratings. The Hype Machine offers the definitive guide to understanding and being more thoughtful consumers of the technology that has redefined our world overnight.

Math Without Numbers
By Milo Beckman

This is a book about math. But the only numbers in this book are the page numbers.

Written by math prodigy Milo Beckman, who completed his graduate-level study of mathematics at age 16, when he was a sophomore at Harvard, Math Without Numbers is a vivid, conversational, and wholly original guide to the three main branches of abstract math—topology, analysis, and algebra—which turn out to be surprisingly easy to grasp. Beckman shows why math is mostly just pattern recognition and how it keeps on surprising us with unexpected, useful connections to the real world.

Calling Bullshit
The Art of Skepticism in a Data-Driven World
By Carl T. Bergstrom & Jevin D. West

Misinformation, disinformation, and fake news abound and it’s increasingly difficult to know what’s true. Our media environment has become hyperpartisan. Science is conducted by press release. Startup culture elevates bullshit to high art. We are fairly well equipped to spot the sort of old-school bullshit that is based in fancy rhetoric and weasel words, but most of us don’t feel qualified to challenge the avalanche of new-school bullshit presented in the language of math, science, or statistics. In Calling Bullshit, Professors Carl Bergstrom and Jevin West give us a set of powerful tools to cut through the most intimidating data.
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Pluses and Minuses
How Math Solves Our Problems
By Stefan Buijsman

In Pluses and Minuses, math prodigy Stefan Buijsman puts his research into practice to show how a better understanding of mathematics will give us a better understanding of the world as a whole. We all know math is important: we live in the age of big data, our lives are increasingly governed by algorithms, and we’re constantly faced with a barrage of statistics. But what might be less obvious is how math factors into your daily life.

Girl Decoded
A Scientist’s Quest to Reclaim Our Humanity by Bringing Emotional Intelligence to Technology
By Rana el Kaliouby with Carol Colman

In this captivating memoir, an Egyptian American visionary and scientist provides an intimate view of her personal transformation as she follows her calling—to humanize our technology and how we connect with one another. Rana el Kaliouby is a rarity in both the tech world and her native Middle East: a Muslim woman in charge in a field that is still overwhelmingly white and male. Girl Decoded chronicles el Kaliouby’s journey, carving her own path as she revolutionizes technology.

Broad Band
The Untold Story of the Women Who Made the Internet
By Claire L. Evans

In a world where tech companies are still male-dominated and women are often dissuaded from STEM careers, Broad Band shines a much-needed light on the bright minds history forgot, from pioneering database poets, data wranglers, and hypertext dreamers to glass ceiling-shattering dot com-era entrepreneurs.

“Evans’s riveting account of female innovators from the Victorian age to today fills in gaps in the history we should have had all along.”—Joshua Davis, author of Spare Parts

Because Internet
Understanding the New Rules of Language
By Gretchen McCulloch

Language is humanity’s most spectacular open-source project, and the internet is making our language change faster and in more interesting ways than ever before. Internet linguist Gretchen McCulloch explains how the internet is changing the English language, why that’s a good thing, and what our online interactions reveal about who we are.

“In prose at once scholarly and user-friendly, McCulloch unpacks the evolution of language in the digital age, providing a comprehensive survey of everything from the secret language of emojis to the appeal of animal memes.”—Esquire
The Smallest Lights in the Universe
A Memoir
By Sara Seager

Sara Seager, a pioneering planetary scientist, searches for exoplanets—especially that distant, elusive world that sustains life. But with the unexpected death of Seager’s husband, the purpose of her own life becomes hard for her to see. Suddenly, at 40, she is a widow and the single mother of two young boys. For the first time, she feels alone in the universe. In this luminous memoir, an MIT astrophysicist must reinvent herself in the wake of tragedy and discovers the power of connection on this planet, even as she searches our galaxy for another Earth.

Theme: Resilience

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks
By Rebecca Skloot

This phenomenal New York Times bestseller tells a riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew.

“A deftly crafted investigation of a social wrong committed by the medical establishment, as well as the scientific and medical miracles to which it led.”—Washington Post

Theme: Race & Identity

Tools and Weapons
The Promise and the Peril of the Digital Age
By Brad Smith and Carol Ann Browne

Microsoft President Brad Smith operates by a simple core belief: When your technology changes the world, you bear a responsibility to help address the world you have helped create. In Tools and Weapons, Smith and Carol Ann Browne bring us a captivating narrative from the cockpit of one of the world’s largest and most powerful tech companies as it finds itself in the middle of some of the thorniest emerging issues of our time, including privacy, cybercrime and cyberwar, social media, the moral conundrums of artificial intelligence, big tech’s relationship to inequality, and the challenges for democracy, far and near.

Theme: Being Connected

Soonish
Ten Emerging Technologies That’ll Improve and/or Ruin Everything
By Kelly and Zach Weinersmith

In this smart and funny book, celebrated cartoonist Zach Weinersmith and noted researcher Dr. Kelly Weinersmith give us a snapshot of what’s coming next: from robot swarms to nuclear fusion powered-toasters. By weaving together their own research, interviews with the scientists who are making these advances happen, and Zach’s trademark comics, the Weinersmiths investigate why these technologies are needed, how they would work, and what is standing in their way.

Theme: Being Connected
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