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In addition to this catalog, our 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 fifth 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.

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Sincerely,

Alan Walker
Vice President, Higher Education Marketing
Penguin Random House
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Legend

Audio Book
Discussion Guide Available

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Penguin Random House Education is excited to bring you our first ever virtual Fall Author Event, as well as our annual author events at the FYE® Conference in Orlando in February 2022. We will be reaching out in the near future with more details on participating authors, dates and times, and look forward to introducing you to our latest authors and titles that we think will resonate for your Common Reading programs.

Heather McGhee
THE SUM OF US
What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together

Judith Heumann
BEING HEUMANN
An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist

Mazie K. Hirono
HEART OF FIRE
An Immigrant Daughter’s Story

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A Memoir

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According to recent Audio Publishers Association and Edison Research surveys, more people are listening to audiobooks than ever before:

• 50% of Americans ages 12+ have listened to an audiobook.
• The average American listens 4 hours a day, 23% of that time to spoken word.
• More than 50% of audiobook listeners say they are making “new” time to listen to audiobooks and consuming more books.
• Digital audiobook circulation in libraries continues to rise.

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Digital audiobook circulation in libraries continues to rise.

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George Takei has captured hearts and minds worldwide with his captivating stage presence and outspoken commitment to equal rights. But long before he braved new frontiers in Star Trek, he woke up as a four-year-old boy to find his own birth country at war with his father’s—and their entire family forced from their home into an uncertain future.

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.

What does it mean to be American? Who gets to decide? When the world is against you, what can one person do? To answer these questions, George Takei joins co-writers Justin Eisinger & Steven Scott and artist Harmony Becker for the journey of a lifetime.

“Riveting...Takei has evolved into an increasingly powerful voice for oppressed communities, and Enemy finds him at peak moral clarity—an unflinching force in these divisive times.” —The Washington Post

New York Times Bestseller; Winner of the Asian/Pacific American Award for Young Adult Literature; Winner of the Eisner Award for Best Reality-Based Work

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.

Justin Eisinger is co-author of the New York Times Bestselling graphic memoir, They Called Us Enemy, George Takei’s story of childhood internment. Born in Akron, Ohio, Eisinger lives in San Diego, California.

Steven Scott has worked regularly in comics since publishing his debut book in 2010. His writing has appeared in publications by Archie Comics, Arcana Studios, and Heavy Metal magazine. As a blogger/columnist he has written for the pop culture sites Forces of Geek, Great Scott Comics, and PopMatters.

Harmony Becker is an artist and illustrator. She is the creator of the comics Himawari Share, Love Potion, and Anemone and Catharus. Her work often deals with the theme of the language barrier and how it shapes people and their relationships.

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Beautiful Country
A Memoir
By Qian Julie Wang

Beautiful Country is the moving story of an undocumented child living in poverty in the richest country in the world. When seven-year-old Qian arrives in New York City in 1994, she is overwhelmed by crushing fear and scarcity. In China, Qian’s parents were professors; in America, her family is “illegal” and it will require all the determination and small joys they can muster to survive. In Chinatown, Qian’s parents work in sweatshops and sushi factories. Instead of laughing at her jokes or watching her sing and dance, they fight constantly. Qian goes to school hungry, where she teaches herself English through library books, her only source of comfort. At home, Qian’s headstrong and resilient Ma Ma ignores her own pain until she’s unable to stand, too afraid of the cost and attention a hospital visit might bring. And yet, young Qian, now acting as her mother’s nurse, her family’s translator, a student and a worker, cannot ask for help. The number-one rule in America still stands: To be noticed is to risk losing everything.

Searing and unforgettable, Beautiful Country is an essential American story about a family fracturing under the weight of invisibility, and a girl coming of age in the shadows, who never stops seeking the light.

Beautiful Country rings with power and authenticity. Wang’s searing exploration reveals how she and her family were forced to navigate the yawning cracks in the American Dream. An eloquent, thought-provoking and touching memoir.”
—Jean Kwok, author of The Resisters

“Extraordinary... Consider this remarkable memoir a new classic.”—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

“A haunting memoir of people and places that will stay with readers long after the last page.”—Library Journal

Qian Julie Wang is a graduate of Yale Law School and Swarthmore College. Formerly a commercial litigator, she is now managing partner of Gottlieb & Wang LLP, a firm dedicated to advocating for education and civil rights. Her writing has appeared in major publications such as the New York Times and the Washington Post. She lives in Brooklyn.

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Twitter: @QianJulieWang
Video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4eeE9_Muzg

To request examination copies, email commonreads@prh.com
When Mondiant Dogon, a Bagogwe Tutsi born in Congo, was just three years old, his father’s lifelong friend, a Hutu man, came to their home and warned the family they were to be killed within hours. Mondiant’s family fled into the forest, beginning a long and dangerous journey into Rwanda. They made their way to the first of several UN tent cities in which they would spend decades.

For much of his life, Mondiant and his family ate barely enough to keep themselves from starving. He fled back to Congo in search of the better life that had been lost, but there he was imprisoned and then forced to work as a child soldier. For most refugees, the camp starts as an oasis but soon becomes quicksand, impossible to leave. Yet Mondiant managed to be one of the few refugees he knew to go to college. Though he hid his status from his fellow students out of shame, eventually he would emerge as an advocate for his people.

“This book should be read world-wide to counter the rhetoric of refugees as nothing but helpless, unable to do anything for their lives. This book shows otherwise.”—Abdi Nor Iftin, author of Call Me American

A Beginner’s Guide to America
For the Immigrant and the Curious
By Roya Hakakian

A Beginner’s Guide to America is a stirring, witty, and poignant glimpse into the bewildering American immigrant experience from someone who has lived it. This perfectly timed book gives us a portrait of what the new immigrant experience in America is really like. Written as a "guide" for the newly arrived, and providing "practical information and advice," Roya Hakakian, an immigrant herself, reveals what those who settle here love about the country, what they miss about their homes, the cruelty of some Americans, and the unceasing generosity of others. Hakakian shatters myths and embraces painful contradictions that are unique to America.

“A striking and beautiful work . . . and a deeply personal account of Arrival—an event that underlies nearly every American life. Roya Hakakian provides a timely, entertaining, historically rich reminder of the hope and opportunity this country has offered to so many, for so long, and the rewards it has reaped in return.”—Jennifer Egan, author of Manhattan Beach
Made in China
A Memoir of Love and Labor
By Anna Qu

As a teen, Anna Qu is sent by her mother to work in her family’s garment factory in Queens. At home, she is treated as a maid and suffers punishment for doing her homework at night. Her mother wants to teach her a lesson: she is Chinese, not American, and such is their tough path in their new country. But instead of acquiescing, Qu alerts the Office of Children and Family Services, an act with consequences that impact the rest of her life.

Nearly twenty years later, estranged from her mother and working at a Manhattan start-up, Qu requests her OCF/S report. When it arrives, key details are wrong. Faced with this false narrative, and on the brink of losing her job as the once-shiny start-up collapses, Qu looks once more at her life’s truths, from abandonment to an abusive family to seeking dignity and meaning in work.

Made in China is a fierce memoir unafraid to ask thorny questions about trauma and survival in immigrant families, the meaning of work, and the costs of immigration.

“Made In China is a sympathetic, brave portrayal of the confusions, difficulties, and hurts that come with growing up between worlds. Anna Qu’s writing about her journey as an immigrant deftly shows how our origins . . . have lasting effects on the ways we approach family, work, and self.”—Alexandra Chang, author of Days of Distraction

App Kid
How a Child of Immigrants Grabbed a Piece of the American Dream
By Michael Sayman

As his parents watched their restaurant business collapse in the wake of the Great Recession, Michael Sayman was googling “how to code.” Within a year, he had launched an iPhone app that raked in thousands of dollars a month, enough to keep his family, recent immigrants from Peru, afloat—and in America. Entirely self-taught, Sayman headed from high school straight into the professional world, and by the time he was seventeen, he was Facebook’s youngest employee ever, building new features that wowed its founder Mark Zuckerberg and are now being used by more than half a billion people every day. Sayman pushed Facebook to build its own version of Snapchat’s Stories and, as a result, engagement on the platform soared across all demographics. Three years later, Sayman jumped ship for Google.

App Kid is an inspiring and deeply personal coming-of-age memoir about a young Latino who excelled in the cutthroat world of Silicon Valley and went on to become an inspiration to thousands of kids everywhere by following his own extraordinary path. Sayman shares the successes and failures of his remarkable journey. His book is essential and affirming reading for anyone marching to the beat of their own drum.
In this exquisite story of family, food, grief, and endurance, Michelle Zauner tells of growing up one of the few Asian American kids at her school in Eugene, Oregon; of treasured months spent in her grandmother’s tiny apartment in Seoul, where she and her mother would bond, late at night, over heaping plates of food.

As she grew up, moving to the East Coast for college, finding work in the restaurant industry, and performing gigs with her fledgling band, her Koreanness began to feel ever more distant, even as she found the life she wanted to live. It was her mother’s diagnosis of terminal cancer, when Michelle was twenty-five, that forced a reckoning with her identity and brought her to reclaim the gifts of taste, language, and history her mother had given her.

“This story is a nuanced portrayal of a young person grappling with what it means to embody familial and cultural histories, to be fueled by creative pursuits, to examine complex relationships with place, and to endure the acute pain of losing a parent just on the other side of a tumultuous adolescence . . . Crying in H Mart is not to be missed.”—The Seattle Times

Speak, Okinawa
A Memoir
By Elizabeth Miki Brina

Speak, Okinawa is a searing, deeply candid memoir about a young woman’s journey to understanding her complicated parents—her mother an Okinawan war bride, her father a Vietnam veteran—and her own, fraught cultural heritage.

“In Speak, Okinawa, Elizabeth Miki Brina beautifully combs a lifetime of memory, love, loss, and the connections that bind us to one another. In exploring how one comes to be, Brina’s prose illuminates and dazzles—and we see, in the end, what was intangible made clear in her writing. Speak, Okinawa is indelible, and Brina’s words are unforgettable.”—Bryan Washington, author of Memorial

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

Told in dual first-person by the acclaimed Vietnamese-American novelist, Lan Cao, and her thoroughly American teenage daughter, Harlan Margaret Van Cao, Family in Six Tones speaks to the unique struggles of refugees and to the universal tug-of-war between mothers and daughters.

“This memoir will forever trouble the water of the American Dream, complicating it and clarifying it of the myths and masks of survival, assimilation, and success.”—Monique Truong, author of The Book of Salt
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.

Selected for Common Reading at:
California State University, Sacramento; Florida International University; University of Wisconsin, Madison; and more.

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Theme: Immigrant & First-Generation Stories

Funny in Farsi
A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America
By Firoozeh Dumas

In 1972, when she was seven, Firoozeh Dumas and her family moved from Iran to Southern California, arriving with no firsthand knowledge of this country beyond her father’s glowing memories of his graduate school years here. More family soon followed, and the clan has been here ever since. *Funny in Farsi* chronicles the American journey of Dumas’s family in an unforgettable story of identity, discovery, and the power of family love.

Selected for Common Reading at:
California State University, Sacramento; Florida International University; University of Wisconsin, Madison; and more.

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Video: tiny.cc/97m2uz

Theme: Immigrant & First-Generation Stories

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. As Isabel Allende writes: “This is a twenty-first-century Odyssey. If you are going to read only one nonfiction book this year, it has to be this one.”

Selected for Common Reading at:
Georgia State University; Michigan State University; Texas A&M University; University of Wisconsin, Madison, and more.

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Facebook: AuthorSoniaNazario

Theme: Immigrant & First-Generation Stories

Concepcion
An Immigrant Family’s Fortunes
By Albert Samaha

A journalist’s powerful and incisive account of the forces steering the fate of his sprawling Filipino American family reframes how we comprehend the immigrant experience.

“Absolutely extraordinary. . . . A landmark in the contemporary literature of the diaspora.”—Jia Tolentino, author of *Trick Mirror*

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Theme: Immigrant & First-Generation Stories

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What does it mean to lose your roots—within your culture, within your family—and what happens when you find them?

Nicole Chung was born severely premature, placed for adoption by her Korean parents, and raised by a white family in a sheltered Oregon town. From childhood, she heard the story of her adoption as a comforting, prepackaged myth. She believed that her biological parents had made the ultimate sacrifice in the hope of giving her a better life, that forever feeling slightly out of place was her fate as a transracial adoptee. But as Nicole grew up—facing prejudice her adoptive family couldn’t see, finding her identity as an Asian American and as a writer, becoming ever more curious about where she came from—she wondered if the story she’d been told was the whole truth.

“This book should be required reading for anyone who has ever had, wanted, or found a family—which is to say, everyone.”—Celeste Ng, author of Little Fires Everywhere

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What does it mean to lose your roots—within your culture, within your family—and what happens when you find them?

Poet and essayist Cathy Park Hong fearlessly and provocatively blends memoir, cultural criticism, and history to expose fresh truths about racialized consciousness in America. Binding these essays together is Hong’s theory of “minor feelings.” As the daughter of Korean immigrants, Cathy Park Hong grew up steeped in shame, suspicion, and melancholy. She would later understand that these “minor feelings” occur when American optimism contradicts your own reality—when you believe the lies you’re told about your own racial identity.

With sly humor and a poet’s searching mind, Hong uses her own story as a portal into a deeper examination of racial consciousness in America today. This intimate and devastating book traces her relationship to the English language, to shame and depression, to poetry and female friendship. A radically honest work of art, Minor Feelings forms a portrait of one Asian American psyche—and of a writer’s search to both uncover and speak the truth.

Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Autobiography, Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction

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Selected for Common Reading at: University of Virginia School of Education and Human Development
Black Is the Body
Stories from My Grandmother’s Time,
My Mother’s Time, and Mine
By Emily Bernard

In these twelve deeply personal, connected essays, Emily Bernard details her experiences with race and discovers a new way of telling the truth as she has lived it.

“These formidable, destined-to-be-studied essays mark the emergence of an extraordinary voice on race in America.”—Oprah Magazine

“Bernard proves herself to be a revelatory storyteller of race in America.”—Maureen Corrigan, Fresh Air

Theme: Race & Identity

A Mind Spread Out
on the Ground
By Alicia Elliott

Alicia Elliott’s memoir 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 connections both large and small between the past and present, the personal and political.

“In her raw, unflinching memoir . . . she tells the impassioned, wrenching story of the mental health crisis within her own family and community.”—New York Times Book Review

Theme: Race & Identity

My Broken Language
A Memoir
By Quiara Alegria Hudes

Quiara Alegria Hudes is the Pulitzer Prize–winning playwright of Water by the Spoonful, wrote the book for the Tony-winning Broadway musical In the Heights, and later adapted it for the screen. In her memoir, she tells her lyrical story of coming of age against the backdrop of an ailing Philadelphia barrio, with her sprawling Puerto Rican family as the collective muse that supported her as she developed into the artist she is today.

Theme: Race & Identity
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.

Theme: Race & Identity

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A Promised Land
By Barack Obama

In the stirring, highly anticipated first volume of his presidential memoirs, Barack Obama tells the story of his improbable odyssey from young man searching for his identity to leader of the free world, describing in strikingly personal detail both his political education and the landmark moments of the first term of his historic presidency—a time of dramatic transformation and turmoil.

Theme: Race & Identity

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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.

Theme: Race & Identity

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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

Winner of the Thurber Prize for American Humor

Theme: Race & Identity

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One World | Paperback
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In this spirited account, Billie Jean King details her life’s journey to find her true self. She recounts her groundbreaking tennis career—six years as the top-ranked woman in the world, twenty Wimbledon championships, thirty-nine grand-slam titles, and her watershed defeat of Bobby Riggs in the famous “Battle of the Sexes.” She poignantly recalls the cultural backdrop of those years and the profound impact on her worldview from the women’s movement, the assassinations and anti-war protests of the 1960s, the civil rights movement, and, eventually, the LGBTQ+ rights movement.

She describes the myriad challenges she’s hurdled—entrenched sexism, an eating disorder, near financial peril after being outed—on her path to publicly and unequivocally acknowledging her sexual identity at the age of fifty-one. And she talks about how her life today remains one of indefatigable service. Hers is the story of a pathbreaking feminist, a world-class athlete, and an indomitable spirit whose impact has transcended even her spectacular achievements in sports.

“All In is a must-read about an authentic American hero, and one of the twentieth century’s most consequential figures in the fight for gender equality and human rights.”

—Brenda Barrera, Booklist (starred review)

“Billie Jean King is the most important woman to ever play sports. She has fought for opportunity, equality and inclusion every day of her adult life. . . . Every girl and woman—for that matter, every boy and man—owes Billie Jean King a debt of gratitude. Her impact on our culture has been enormous and, thankfully, continues to this day.”—Christine Brennan, USA Today
Untamed
By Akwaeke Emezi

In this extraordinary memoir, the bestselling author of *The Death of Vivek Oji* reveals the harrowing yet resolute truths of their own life. Through candid, intimate correspondence with friends, lovers, and family, Emezi traces the unfolding of a self and the unforgettable journey of a creative spirit stepping into power in the human world. Their story weaves through transformative decisions about their gender and body, their precipitous path to success as a writer, and the turmoil of relationships on an emotional, romantic, and spiritual plane, culminating in a book that is as tender as it is brutal.

Theme: Gender

Website: www.akwaeke.com
Twitter: @azemezi
Facebook: glennondoyle

Untamed
By Glennon Doyle

Soulful and uproarious, forceful and tender, Untamed is both an intimate memoir and a galvanizing wake-up call. It is the story of navigating divorce, forming a new blended family, and discovering that the brokenness or wholeness of a family depends not on its structure but on each member’s ability to bring her full self to the table. And it is the story of how each of us can begin to trust ourselves enough to set boundaries, make peace with our bodies, honor our anger and heartbreak, and unleash our truest, wildest instincts.

Theme: Gender

Website: momastery.com
Twitter: @GlennonDoyle
Facebook: glennondoyle

Untamed
By Karina Manta

Figure skating champion Karina Manta’s insightful memoir about her life as a bisexual professional athlete, is not only the story of the first female figure skater on Team USA to come out as queer. It is also story about her struggle with body image, panic attacks and first crushes, and about feeling different than everybody around her and then realizing that everyone else felt different too.

“Resolute and hopeful, this memoir swells with emotion. Raw, kind, and close to the heart.”—Kirkus Reviews

Theme: Gender

Twitter: @KarinaMantras
Instagram: @KarinaManta

Believing
Our Thirty-Year Journey to End Gender Violence
By Anita Hill

From the woman who gave the landmark testimony against Clarence Thomas as a sexual menace, Believing is a new manifesto about the origins and course of gender violence in our society. Anita Hill offers a combination of memoir, personal accounts, law, and social analysis, and a powerful call to arms from one of our most prominent and poised survivors.

Theme: Gender

On Top of Glass
My Stories as a Queer Girl in Figure Skating
By Karina Manta

Figure skating champion Karina Manta’s insightful memoir about her life as a bisexual professional athlete, is not only the story of the first female figure skater on Team USA to come out as queer. It is also story about her struggle with body image, panic attacks and first crushes, and about feeling different than everybody around her and then realizing that everyone else felt different too.

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Theme: Gender

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“Resolute and hopeful, this memoir swells with emotion. Raw, kind, and close to the heart.”—Kirkus Reviews

Theme: Gender

Twitter: @KarinaMantras
Instagram: @KarinaManta
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

Selected for Common Reading at: California State University, Northridge; California State University, Sacramento; Illinois Wesleyan University; University of Houston-Clear Lake; and more

Website: www.amyellisnutt.com
Twitter: @amyellisnutt
Video: tiny.cc/xam2z

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.

Theme: Gender

Website: mtalusuan.com
Twitter: @1demerith
Video: tiny.cc/MeredithTalusanVideo

SHOUT
By Laurie Halse Anderson

Laurie Halse Anderson is known for the unflinching way she writes about, and advocates for, survivors of sexual assault. Now, she has written a poetry memoir that is as vulnerable as it is rallying, as timely as it is timeless. In free verse, Anderson shares reflections, rants, and calls to action woven among deeply personal stories. Praised as “captivating,” “powerful,” and “essential” by critics, this searing and soul-searching memoir is a denouncement of our society’s failures and a love letter to all the people with the courage to say #MeToo and #TimesUp, whether aloud, online, or only in their own hearts.

Theme: Gender

Website: madwomanintheforest.com
Twitter: @HalseAnderson

Salt in My Soul
An Unfinished Life
By Mallory Smith

Salt in My Soul: An Unfinished Life is a collection of journal entries by Mallory Smith written over the course of 10 years, beginning at age 15 and ending with her death. Mallory was an intelligent, resilient young woman living with cystic fibrosis, who wrote about invisible and visible illness, mental health, and the challenges those with acute and/or chronic illness face, along with typical coming-of-age issues that all young people can relate to, like body image, fear of not fitting in, and finding the right college.

Theme: Resilience

Website: www.saltinnmysoulbook.com
Video: tiny.cc/3bm2z

To request examination copies, email commonreads@prh.com
How I Survived a Chinese Reeducation Camp
A Uyghur Woman Speaks Out
By Gulbahar Haitiwaji and Rozenn Morgat; Translated by Edward Gauvin

Born in 1966 in Ghulja in the Xinjiang region, Gulbahar Haitiwaji was an executive in the Chinese oil industry before leaving for France in 2006 with her husband and children, who obtained the status of political refugees. In 2017 she was summoned in China for an administrative issue. Once there, she was arrested and spent more than two years in a re-education camp. Thanks to the efforts of her family and the French foreign ministry she was freed and was able to return to France where she currently resides.

Since 2017, more than one million Uyghurs have been deported from their homes in the Xinjiang region to "re-education camps." The brutal repression of the Uyghurs, a Turkish-speaking Muslim ethnic group, has been denounced as genocide, and reported widely in media around the world. The Xinjiang Papers, revealed by the New York Times in 2019, reveal the brutal repression of the Uyghur ethnicity by means of forced mass detention—the biggest since the time of Mao.

Her name is Gulbahar Haitiwaji and she is the first Uyghur woman to escape from the Chinese re-education camps who has dared to speak out. For three years Gulbahar Haitiwaji endured hundreds of hours of interrogations, torture, hunger, police violence, brainwashing, forced sterilization, freezing cold, rats, and nights under blinding neon light in her prison cell.

These camps are to China what the Gulags were to the USSR. The Chinese government denies that they are concentration camps, seeking to legitimize their existence in the name of the "total fight against Islamic terrorism, infiltration and separatism," and calls them "schools." But none of this is true. Gulbahar only escaped thanks to the relentless efforts of her daughter. Her courageous memoir is a terrifying portrait of the atrocities she endured in the Chinese gulag and how the treatment of the Uyghurs at the hands of the Chinese government is just the latest example of their oppression of independent minorities within Chinese borders.

The Xinjiang region where the Uyghurs live is where the Chinese government wishes there to be a new "silk route," connecting Asia to Europe, considered to be the most important political project of president Xi Jinping.

"I have written what I lived. The atrocious reality."—Gulbahar Haitiwaji to Paris Match
Heart of Fire
An Immigrant Daughter’s Story
By Mazie K. Hirono

Mazie Hirono is one of the most fiercely outspoken Democrats in Congress, but her journey to the U.S. Senate was far from likely. Raised on a rice farm in rural Japan, she was seven years old when her mother, Laura, left her abusive husband and sailed with her two elder children to Hawaii. In this deeply personal memoir, Hirono traces her remarkable life from her earliest days in Hawaii, when the family lived in a single room in a Honolulu boarding house while her mother worked two jobs to keep them afloat, to her emergence as a highly effective legislator whose determination to help the most vulnerable was grounded in her own experiences of economic insecurity, lack of healthcare access, and family separation. Finally, it chronicles Hirono’s recent transformation from dogged yet soft-spoken public servant into the frank and fiery advocate we know her as today.

The compelling and moving account of a woman coming into her own power over the course of a lifetime in public service, and of the mother whose courageous choices made her life possible, Heart of Fire is the story of a uniquely American journey, told by one of those fighting hardest to ensure that a story like hers is still possible in this country.

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 will forever transform the way we think about sexual assault, challenging our beliefs about what is acceptable and speaking truth to the tumultuous reality of healing. Entwining pain, resilience, and humor, this memoir will stand as a modern classic.

“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
1000 Years of Joys and Sorrows
A Memoir
By Ai Weiwei

Ai Weiwei is one of the world’s most famous artists and activists and his sculptures and installations have been viewed by millions around the globe, and his architectural achievements include helping to design the iconic Bird’s Nest Olympic Stadium in Beijing. In his widely anticipated memoir, he tells a century-long epic tale of China through the story of his own extraordinary life and the legacy of his father, Ai Qing, the nation’s most celebrated poet.

Theme: Resilience

Sacrifice
A Gold Star Widow’s Fight for the Truth
By Michelle Black

When Green Beret Bryan Black was killed in an ambush in Niger in 2017, his wife Michelle saw her worst nightmare become a reality. She was left alone with her grief and with two young sons to raise. But what followed Bryan’s death was an even more difficult journey for the young widow. After receiving very few details about the attack that took her husband’s life, it was up to Michelle to find answers. It became her mission to learn the truth about that day in Niger—and Sacrifice is the result of that mission.

Theme: Resilience

Whistleblower
My Unlikely Journey to Silicon Valley and Speaking Out Against Injustice
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 is a source of inspiration for all.

Theme: Resilience

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, psychically. 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.

Theme: Resilience
The Ugly Cry
A Memoir
By Danielle Henderson

Abandoned by her mother at ten years old, Danielle was raised by her grandparents. She grew up Black, weird, and overwhelmingly uncool in a mostly white neighborhood in upstate New York. Under the eye-rolling, foul-mouthed, loving tutelage of her uncompromising grandmother, Danielle grew into an awkward teenager who wore black eyeliner as lipstick and was struggling with the aftermath of her mother’s choices.

“The funniest memoir I have ever read. It is also achingly sad. And powerfully redemptive.”—Augusten Burroughs, author of Running with Scissors

Call Me American
A Memoir
By Abdi Nor Iftin

Here is Abdi Nor Iftin’s memoir of falling in love with America from afar and, in a stroke of luck, winning entrance to the U.S. in the annual visa lottery. His story is a reminder of why America still beckons to those looking for a better life.

“[Abdi Nor Iftin] had to endure famine, war, a precarious life as a refugee, and a visa-rejecting bureaucracy before a green-card lottery win, in 2014, enabled him to emigrate. His narrative is both panoramic and particular, full of irreverent asides, and suffused with appreciation for the humanity of others.”—The New Yorker

The Loneliest Americans
By Jay Caspian Kang

The Loneliest Americans is a riveting blend of family history and original reportage from New York Times Magazine writer Jay Caspian Kang that tells the unforgettable story of Kang, his family, and the existential loneliness in himself and in other Asian Americans who try to locate themselves in the country’s racial binary. In response, he calls for a new form of immigrant solidarity—one rooted not in bubble tea and elite college admissions but in the struggles of refugees and the working class.

Golem Girl
A Memoir
By Riva Lehrer

Golem Girl is the vividly told, gloriously illustrated memoir of an artist born with disabilities who searches for freedom and connection in a society afraid of strange bodies. With the author’s magnificent portraits featured throughout, Riva Lehrer invites us to stretch ourselves toward a world where bodies flow between all possible forms of what it is to be human.
Becoming
By Michelle Obama

In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world’s most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, telling her full story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms.

Winner of the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work – Non-Fiction

This Is Ear Hustle
Unflinching Stories of Everyday Prison Life
By Nigel Poor and Earlonne Woods

This Is Ear Hustle is an illuminating portrait of prison life, as told by currently and formerly incarcerated people, from the co-creators and co-hosts of the Peabody- and Pulitzer-nominated podcast Ear Hustle. Nigel Poor and Earlonne Woods share their own stories of how they came to California’s San Quentin State Prison, how they created their phenomenally popular podcast amid extreme limitations, and what has kept them collaborating season after season.

Crown | Hardcover
978-0-593-23886-8
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ebook: 9780593238875

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ebook: 9780593238875

Canyon Dreams
A Basketball Season on the Navajo Nation
By Michael Powell

Deep in the heart of northern Arizona, in a small and isolated patch of the vast 17.5-million-acre Navajo reservation, sits Chinle High School. Here, basketball is passion, passed from grandparent to parent to child.

Michael Powell brings us the moving story of one season for the Chinle High School basketball team, showing how important sports can be to youth in struggling communities and painful realities that confront Native Americans living on reservations.

Blue Rider Press | Paperback
978-0-525-53534-6
272 pp. | $18.00 / $24.00 Can.
ebook: 9780525535353

One Life
By Megan Rapinoe with Emma Brockes

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.”

Penguin Books | Paperback
978-1-9848-8118-2
240 pp. | $18.00 / $24.00 Can.
ebook: 9781984881175
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.

Educated
A Memoir
By Tara Westover
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 followed, and her quest for knowledge took 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.

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. While incarcerated, he 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 and worked his plan every day until his mid-thirties when he convinced a judge to reduce his sentence to become a free man. Today Chris is a successful entrepreneur, a mentor, and public speaker.

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.

Theme: Resilience

Website: math.mit.edu/~urschel
Video: tiny.cc/JohnUrschelVideo20
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Selected for Common Reading at: Nichols College

Website: tarawestover.com
Twitter: @tarawestover
Facebook: TaraWestoverLit
Video: tiny.cc/44m2uz

Selected for Common Reading at: Harvard University, New York University, University of California, Berkeley, University of South Carolina, and more

Website: chriswilson.biz
Twitter: @ChrisWilsonbalt
Video: tiny.cc/ChrisWilsonVideo20

Selected for Common Reading at: East Stroudsburg University, Boston College, Northeastern State University, Loyola University of Maryland

Website: valariekaur.com
Twitter: @valariekaur
Facebook: valarie.kaur.page

Selected for Common Reading at: One World

To request examination copies, email commonreads@prh.com
Honor Bound
An American Story of Dreams and Service
By Amy McGrath with Chris Peterson

Here is the inspiring story of the first female Marine to fly a combat mission in an F/A-18, and the transformative events that led to her bold decision to take on the most powerful man in the U.S. Senate. Honor Bound is a moving, inspiring American story of courage, determination, and large dreams.

"Amy McGrath's is a great American story. Rarely have I met someone with such drive, tenacity, and accomplishments—and yet, in equal measure, kindness and decency and humility."—Michael O'Hanlon, Senior Fellow at Brookings, author of The Art of War in an Age of Peace

Defiant
Growing Up in the Jim Crow South
By Wade Hudson

Defiant is Wade Hudson’s story of growing up in Mansfield, Louisiana, and an homage to the people there who nurtured and loved him even as they fought for their own survival under Jim Crow. It is a memoir about a young person trying to find meaning and purpose in a defining era where issues such as civil rights, women’s rights, immigrant rights, and resistance against the Vietnam War played out regularly on the news.

The Good Hand
A Memoir of Work, Brotherhood, and Transformation in an American Boomtown
By Michael Patrick F. Smith

Like thousands of restless men left unmoored in the wake of the 2008 economic crash, Michael Patrick Smith arrived in the fracking boomtown of Williston, North Dakota homeless, unemployed, and desperate for a job. The Good Hand is a saga of fear, danger, exhaustion, suffering, loneliness, and grit that explores the struggles of America’s marginalized boomtown workers.

“Remarkable . . . this is the book that Hillbilly Elegy should have been.”—Kirkus Reviews

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
Learning by Heart
An Unconventional Education
By Tony Wagner

“An irresistible coming-of-age memoir that is an extended reverie on education—what it is, what it's not, and why it matters. This story of mental, emotional, and moral awakening will touch your heart.”—Daniel H. Pink, author of When and Drive

“A... moving account of how a wayward student became a master teacher as well as a thought leader in education.”—Howard Gardner, author of Mind, Work, and Life

The Anthropocene Reviewed
Essays on a Human-Centered Planet
By John Green

The Anthropocene is the current geologic age, in which humans have profoundly reshaped the planet and its biodiversity. In this remarkable symphony of essays adapted and expanded from his groundbreaking podcast, John Green reviews different facets of the human-centered planet on a five-star scale—from the QWERTY keyboard and sunsets to Canada geese and Penguins of Madagascar.

“What Green is really telling us with these unexpected stories... is how much there is to love in the world and why that love is worth the effort.”—NPR.com

Uprooted
Recovering the Legacy of the Places We’ve Left Behind
By Grace Olmstead

In the tiny farm town of Emmett, Idaho, there are two kinds of people: those who leave and those who stay. Those who leave go in search of greener pastures, better jobs, and college. Those who stay are left to contend with thinning communities, punishing government farm policy, and environmental decay. Grace Olmstead, now a journalist in Washington, DC, is one who left. Part memoir, part journalistic investigation, Uprooted wrestles with the questions of what we owe the places we come from and what we are willing to sacrifice for profit and progress.

The Empathy Diaries
A Memoir
By Sherry Turkle

For decades, Sherry Turkle has shown how we remake ourselves in the mirror of our machines. Here, she illuminates our present search for authentic connection in a time of uncharted challenges. In this vivid and poignant narrative, Turkle ties together her coming-of-age and her pathbreaking research on technology, empathy, and ethics.

“Compelling... In every way, this is a book about an education.”—Rachel Hadas, PhD, Board of Governors Professor of English, Rutgers University–Newark
There Plant Eyes
A Personal and Cultural History of Blindness
By M. Leona Godin

There Plant Eyes challenges the deeply ingrained ideas about what it means to be “blind.” M. Leona Godin—who began losing her vision at age ten—illuminates the often-surprising history of both the condition of blindness and the myths and ideas that have grown up around it over the course of generations. She combines an analysis of blindness in art and culture (from King Lear to Star Wars) with a study of the science of blindness and key developments in accessibility (the white cane, embossed printing, digital technology) to paint a vivid personal and cultural history.

“There Plant Eyes is so graceful, so wise, so effortlessly erudite, I learned something new and took pleasure in every page. All hail its originality, its humanity, and its ‘philosophical obsession with diversity in all its complicated and messy glory.’”—Maggie Nelson, author of The Argonauts

“Godin guides readers through the surprising twists and turns in Western blind history, from ancient seers to contemporary scientists. The lively writing style and memorable personal anecdotes are delightful. This book is a gift to both blind and sighted readers.”—Haben Girma, human rights lawyer and author of Haben: The Deaf Blind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law

Website: drm1godin.com
Twitter: @DrMLGodin

What You Have Heard is True
By Carolyn Forché

A devastating, lyrical, and visionary memoir about a young woman’s brave choice to engage with horror in order to help others.

“Carolyn Forché asks us not only to hear, but to see, the scale of human and moral devastation in El Salvador. For those of us who are citizens and residents of the United States, Forché’s powerful, moving, and disturbing memoir also demands that we recognize our country’s responsibility. . . . As is the case with her poetry, Forché’s nonfiction asserts the need for truth—in our politics, in our writing, in our witnessing.”—Viet Thanh Nguyen, author of The Sympathizer

March: Book Three
John Lewis and Andrew Aydin
Illustrated by Nate Powell

To carry out their nonviolent revolution, Lewis and an army of young activists launch a series of innovative campaigns, including the Freedom Vote, Mississippi Freedom Summer, and an all-out battle for the soul of the Democratic Party waged live on national television. But fractures within the movement are deepening . . . even as 25-year-old John Lewis prepares to risk everything in a historic showdown high above the Alabama river, in a town called Selma.

New York Times Bestseller; National Book Award Winner; Coretta Scott King Author Award
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.

"In Our History Is the Future historian Nick Estes tells a spellbinding story of the 10 month Indigenous resistance at Standing Rock in 2016, animating the lives and characters of the leaders and organizers, emphasizing the powerful leadership of the women. Alone this would be a brilliant analysis of one of the most significant social movements of this century. But embedded in the story and inseparable from it is the centuries long history of the Oceti Sakowin’ resistance to United States’ genocidal wars and colonial institutions. And woven into these entwined stories of Indigenous resistance is the true history of the United States as a colonialist state and a global history of European colonialism."—Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz, author of An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States

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

In 2013, Alicia Garza wrote what she called “a love letter to Black people” on Facebook, in the aftermath of the acquittal of the man who murdered 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. Garza wrote: Black people. I love you. I love us. Our lives matter. With the speed and networking capacities of social media, #BlackLivesMatter became the hashtag heard ’round the world. But Garza knew even then that hashtags don’t start movements—people do.

Long before #BlackLivesMatter became a rallying cry for this generation, Garza had spent the better part of two decades learning and unlearning some hard lessons about organizing. The Purpose of Power 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.

“Black lives matter’ was Alicia Garza’s love letter read around the world. The Purpose of Power is another love letter that should be read around the world. It speaks to all that molded Garza, all that molds organizers, all that molds movements.”—Ibram X. Kendi, author of How To Be an Antiracist

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Rutgers University - Newark

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Tell Me Who You Are  
A Road Map for Cultivating Racial Literacy  
By Winona Guo and Priya Vulchi

S
purred 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

When Truth Is All You Have  
A Memoir of Faith, Justice, and Freedom for the Wrongly Convicted  
By Jim McCloskey with Philip Lerman

W
hen Truth Is All You Have is Jim McCloskey’s inspirational story, as well as those of the unjustly imprisoned for whom he has fought. Spanning the nation, it is a chronicle of triumphant success and shattering failure. It candidly exposes a life of searching and struggle, uplifted by McCloskey’s certainty that he had found what he was put on earth to do.

McCloskey tells his story of helping an innocent inmate gain his freedom and establishing Centurion Ministries, the first group in America devoted to overturning wrongful convictions. Together with his staff and a team of forensic experts, lawyers, and volunteers—through tireless investigation and an unflagging dedication to justice—Centurion has freed sixty-five innocent prisoners who had been sentenced to life or death.

“Jim McCloskey and Centurion are pioneers in the struggle to expose the tragedy of innocent people wrongly convicted and sent to prison in America. . . . No one has illuminated this problem more thoughtfully and persistently than Rev. McCloskey and his extraordinary team at Centurion. There are important stories we have yet to hear about what we’ve done in America and no one is better positioned to tell them than Jim McCloskey.”—Bryan Stevenson, author of Just Mercy

Social Justice  
Theme: Race & Identity

Website: tiny.cc/TellMeWhoYouAreFYE  Video: tiny.cc/TellMeWhoYouAreVideo

Website: centurion.org  FYE Video: tiny.cc/uak2uz  Twitter: @CenturionFree  Facebook: tiny.cc/qak2uz
The Sum of Us
What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together

By Heather McGhee

Heather McGhee’s specialty is the American economy—and the mystery of why it so often fails the American public. From the financial crisis to rising student debt to collapsing public infrastructure, she found a common root problem: racism. But how did we end up here? And is there a way out?

McGhee embarks on a deeply personal journey across the country from Maine to Mississippi to California, tallying what we lose when we buy into the zero-sum paradigm—the idea that progress for some of us must come at the expense of others. But McGhee also finds proof of what she calls the Solidarity Dividend: gains that come when people come together across race, to accomplish what we simply can’t do on our own.

The Sum of Us is a brilliant analysis, marshaling economic and sociological research, of how we arrived here: divided and self-destructing, materially rich but spiritually starved and vastly unequal. With startling empathy, this heartfelt message from a Black woman to a multiracial America leaves us with a new vision for a future in which we finally realize that life can be more than a zero-sum game.

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.

A Knock at Midnight
A Story of Hope, Justice, and Freedom

By Brittany K. Barnett

Brittany K. Barnett was only a law student when she came across the case that would change her life forever—that of Sharanda Jones, a single mother serving a life sentence without parole for a first-time drug offense. Moved by Sharanda’s plight, Brittany set to work to gain her freedom. 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.
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.

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

Winner of the National Book Award for Nonfiction; Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in General Nonfiction

White Fragility
Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism
By Robin DiAngelo

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.

New York Times Bestseller

Biased
Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do
By Jennifer L. Eberhardt, PhD

What role do our institutions play in creating, maintaining, and magnifying those inequities? With a perspective that is at once scientific, investigative, and informed by personal experience, Dr. Jennifer Eberhardt offers us the language we need to face one of the biggest and most troubling issues of our time. She exposes racial bias at all levels of society—in our neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and criminal justice system. Yet she also offers us tools to address it. Eberhardt shows us how we can be vulnerable to bias but not doomed to live under its grip.
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. 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.

Website: www.ibramxkendi.com
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Selected for Common Reading at: Cornell University, Temple University College of Public Health, University of Denver, University of Michigan-Dearborn, and more

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Say It Loud!
On Race, Law, History, and Culture
By Randall Kennedy

Say It Loud! is a collection of provocative essays exploring the key social justice issues of our time—from George Floyd to antiracism to inequality and the Supreme Court. Informed by sharpness of observation, deep fellow feeling, decency, and wit, Say It Loud! includes essays such as “The George Floyd Moment: Promise and Peril,” “Isabel Wilkerson, the Election of 2020, and Racial Caste,” and “The Princeton Ultimatum: Antiracism Gone Awry,” among other topics. In each essay, Kennedy is mindful of complexity, ambivalence, and paradox, and he is always stirring and enlightening.

Theme: Race & Identity

The Conversation
How Seeking and Speaking the Truth About Racism Can Radically Transform Individuals and Organizations
By Robert Livingston

In The Conversation, Harvard Kennedy School professor Robert Livingston addresses three simple but profound questions: What is racism? Why should everyone be more concerned about it? What can we do to eradicate it? Founded on principles of psychology, sociology, management, and behavioral economics, The Conversation is a road map for uprooting entrenched biases and sharing candid, fact-based perspectives on race that will lead to increased awareness, empathy, and action.

Theme: Race & Identity

The Inner Work of Racial Justice
Healing Ourselves and Transforming Our Communities Through Mindfulness
By Rhonda V. Magee; Foreword by Jon Kabat-Zinn

In a society where unconscious bias, microaggressions, institutionalized racism, and systemic injustices are so deeply ingrained, healing is an ongoing process. Through the practice of embodied mindfulness—paying attention to our thoughts, feelings, and physical sensations in an open, nonjudgmental way—we increase our emotional resilience, recognize our own biases, and become less reactive when triggered. Rhonda V. Magee shows that embodied mindfulness calms our fears and helps us to exercise self-compassion.

Theme: Race & Identity

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eBook: 9780525504702
Five Days
The Fiery Reckoning of an American City
By Wes Moore with Erica L. Green

In the wake of a long history of police abuse in Baltimore, the killing of Freddie Gray at the hands of the police in April 2015 led to a week of protests that set the entire city on edge and caught the nation’s attention. Wes 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, creating an invaluable record of a pivotal moment in the history of the ongoing fight for racial justice.

American Poison
How Racial Hostility Destroyed Our Promise
By Eduardo Porter

American Poison is an examination of how American racism has broken the country’s social compact, eroded America’s common goods, and damaged the lives of every American—and a look at how these wounds might heal.

“American Poison is a devastating, brutally honest, wonderfully researched read. It is also necessary and incredibly timely. . . . Porter has crafted a narrative that ultimately becomes a statement: What we’ve done so far is wrong, and it’s time to change it.”—Gabino Iglesias, NPR

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.

Winner of the Carnegie Medal for Nonfiction and the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work – Non-Fiction

Shoutin’ in the Fire
An American Epistle
By Danté Stewart

In 2016, Stewart was a rising leader at the predominantly white evangelical church he and his family were attending in Augusta, Georgia, and he was excited to break barriers as the church’s first Black preacher. But when Donald Trump began his campaign, this community of faith became the place where he and his family now found themselves most alone. In this book, Stewart uses these experiences as a vehicle to reclaim and reimagine virtues like rage, resilience, and remembrance—and explores how they might function as a work of love against an unjust, unloving world.
Between Everything and Nothing
The Journey of Seidu Mohammed and Razak Iyal and the Quest for Asylum
By Joe Meno

Long before their chance meeting at a Minneapolis bus station, Ghanaian asylum seekers Seidu Mohammed and Razak Iyal had already crossed half the world in search of a new home. Seidu, who identifies as bisexual, lived under constant threat of exposure and violence in a country where same-sex acts are illegal. Razak’s life was also threatened after corrupt officials contrived to steal his rightful inheritance. Forced to flee their homeland, both men embarked on separate odysseys through the dangerous jungles and bureaucracies of South, Central, and North America. Like generations of asylum seekers before, they presented themselves legally at the U.S. border, hoping for sanctuary. Instead, they were imprisoned in private detention facilities, released only after their asylum pleas were denied. Fearful of returning to Ghana, Seidu and Razak saw no choice but to attempt one final border crossing. Their journey north to Canada in the harsh, unforgiving winter proved more tragic than anything they had experienced before.

Based on extensive interviews, Joe Meno’s intimate account builds upon the international media attention Seidu and Razak’s story has already received, highlighting the harrowing journey of asylum seekers everywhere while adding dimension to one of the greatest humanitarian concerns facing the world.

New York Times Book Review Editors’ Choice

Joe Meno is a fiction writer and journalist who lives in Chicago. He is the winner of the Nelson Algren Literary Award, a Pushcart Prize, and the Great Lakes Book Award and was a finalist for the Story Prize. The bestselling author of seven novels and two short story collections, including Marvel and a Wonder, The Boy Detective Fails, and Hairstyles of the Damned, he is a professor in the English and creative writing department at Columbia College Chicago.

Website: joemeno.com

“The most important book I’ve read in a long time, Between Everything and Nothing vividly dramatizes what the world needs to know about the tragic effects of our corrupt and dehumanizing immigration system. Though harrowing, the story of Seidu Mohammed and Razak Iyal is also deeply inspiring, revealing how two powerless but fiercely courageous asylum seekers, battered by years of injustice and cruelty, held fast to their religious faith, their dignity, and their love and hope for humanity.”

—Sigrid Nunez, author of The Friend
Not “A Nation of Immigrants”
Settler Colonialism, White Supremacy, and a History of Erasure and Exclusion
By Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Many Americans will say proudly that we are a nation of immigrants. In this bold new book, historian Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz asserts this ideology is harmful and dishonest because it serves to mask and diminish the US’s history of settler colonialism, genocide, white supremacy, slavery, and structural inequality, all of which we still grapple with today.

She explains that the idea that we are living in a land of opportunity—founded and built by immigrants—was a convenient response by the ruling class and its brain trust to the 1960s demands for decolonialization, justice, reparations, and social equality. Moreover, Dunbar-Ortiz charges that this inaccurate story promotes a benign narrative of progress, obscuring that the country was founded in violence as a settler state, and imperialist since its inception.

While some of us are immigrants or descendants of immigrants, others are descendants of white settlers who arrived as colonizers to displace those who were here since time immemorial, and still others are descendants of those who were kidnapped and forced here against their will. This paradigm shifting book charges that we need to stop believing and perpetuating this simplistic and historical idea and embrace the real history of the United States.

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.

"Required reading for anyone trying to understand the challenges of getting to and surviving in the United States. . . . What makes this book so different from other works that tell similar stories is the talent and doggedness of Goudeau, who . . . brings an insider’s authority to the page."—The New York Times Book Review

Winner of the Anthony J. Lukas Book Prize

Website: jessicagoudeau.com
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White Borders
The History of Race and Immigration in the United States from Chinese Exclusion to the Border Wall
By Reece Jones

In a sweeping account, Reece Jones reveals that although the US is often mythologized as a nation of immigrants, it has a long history of immigration restrictions that are rooted in the racist fear of the “great replacement” of whites with non-white immigrants. After the arrival of the first slave ship in 1619, the colonies that became the United States were based on the dual foundation of open immigration for whites from northern Europe and racial exclusion of slaves from Africa, Native Americans, and, eventually, immigrants from other parts of the world.

Connecting past to present, Jones uncovers the link between the Chinese Exclusion laws of the 1880s, the “Keep America American” nativism of the 1920s, and the “Build the Wall” chants initiated by former president Trump in 2016. Along the way, we meet a bizarre cast of characters, such as John Tanton, Cordelia Scaife May, and Stephen Miller, who moved fringe ideas about “white genocide” and “race suicide” into mainstream political discourse. Through gripping stories and in-depth analysis, Jones explores the connections between anti-immigration hate groups and the Republican Party, exposing the lasting impacts of white supremacist ideas on United States law.
**Social Justice**

**The Ungrateful Refugee**  
**What Immigrants Never Tell You**  
*By Dina Nayeri*

Aged eight, Dina Nayeri fled Iran along with her mother and brother and lived in the crumbling shell of an Italian hotel–turned–refugee camp. Eventually she was granted asylum in America. She settled in Oklahoma, then made her way to Princeton University. In this book, Nayeri weaves together her own vivid story with the stories of other refugees and asylum seekers in recent years, bringing us inside their daily lives and taking us through the different stages of their journeys, from escape to asylum to resettlement.

**Ink Knows No Borders**  
**Poems of the Immigrant and Refugee Experience**  
*Edited By Patrice Vecchione and Alyssa Raymond*

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.

**American Made**  
**What Happens to People When Work Disappears**  
*By Farah Stockman*

What happens when Americans lose their jobs? In this illuminating story of ruin and reinvention, Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist Farah Stockman follows three workers whose lives unravel when the factory they have dedicated so much to closes down. *American Made* is the story of a community struggling to reinvent itself. It is also a story about race, class, and American values, and how jobs serve as a bedrock of people’s lives and drive powerful social justice movements.

**My Brother Moochie**  
**Regaining Dignity in the Face of Crime, Poverty, and Racism in the American South**  
*By Issac J. Bailey*

At the age of nine, Issac J. Bailey saw his hero, his eldest brother, taken away in handcuffs, not to return from prison for thirty-two years. Bailey tells the story of their relationship and of his experience living in a family suffering guilt and shame. 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—including half of the ten boys in his own family—end up in the criminal justice system.
My Time Will Come
A Memoir of Crime, Punishment, Hope, and Redemption
By Ian Manuel

The United States is the only country in the world that sentences thirteen- and fourteen-year-old offenders, mostly youth of color, to life in prison without parole, regardless of the scientifically proven singularities of the developing adolescent brain—a heinous wrinkle in the scandal of mass incarceration. In 1991, Ian Manuel, then fourteen, was sentenced to life without parole for a non-homicide crime.

Capturing the fullness of his humanity, here is Manuel’s powerful testimony of growing up homeless in Central Park Village in Tampa, Florida—a neighborhood riddled with poverty, gang violence, and drug abuse—and of his efforts to rise above his circumstances, only to find himself, partly through his own actions, imprisoned for two-thirds of his life, eighteen years of which were spent in solitary confinement. Here is the at once wrenching and inspiring story of how he endured the savagery of the United States prison system, and how his victim, an extraordinary woman, forgave him and bravely advocated for his freedom, which was achieved by a crusade on the part of the Equal Justice Initiative to address the barbarism of our judicial system and bring about “just mercy.”

Full of unexpected twists and turns as it describes a struggle to attain the glory of redemption, My Time Will Come is a paean to the capacity of the human will to transcend adversity through determination and art—in Ian Manuel’s case, through his dedication to writing poetry.

“Ian is magic. His story is difficult and heartbreaking, but he takes us places we need to go to understand why we must do better.”
—Bryan Stevenson, author of Just Mercy

Ian Manuel lives in New York City. He is a motivational speaker at schools and social organizations nationwide.
Disability Visibility
First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century
By Alice Wong

One in five people in the United States lives with a disability. Some disabilities are visible, others less apparent—but all are underrepresented in media and popular culture.

In Disability Visibility, Alice Wong brings together this urgent, galvanizing collection of contemporary essays by disabled people.

From Harriet McBryde Johnson’s account of her debate with Peter Singer over her own personhood to original pieces by authors like Keah Brown and Haben Girma; from blog posts, manifestos, and eulogies to Congressional testimonies, and beyond: this anthology gives a glimpse into the rich complexity of the disabled experience, highlighting the passions, talents, and everyday lives of this community. It invites readers to question their own understandings. It celebrates and documents disability culture in the now. It looks to the future and the past with hope and love.

“As a Deaf Asian American, it wasn’t until recent years that I started considering myself disabled. This is a very informed starting point for anyone who, like myself, would like to get a better understanding of disability as a massive and beautifully nuanced spectrum.”

—Christine Sun Kim, artist

Alice Wong is a disabled activist, media maker, and research consultant based in San Francisco, California. She is the founder and director of the Disability Visibility Project, an online community dedicated to creating, sharing, and amplifying disability media and culture. Alice is also the host and co-producer of the Disability Visibility podcast and co-partner in a number of collaborations such as #CripTheVote and Access Is Love. From 2013 to 2015, Alice served as a member of the National Council on Disability, an appointment by President Barack Obama.

Selected for Common Reading at:
Cuyahoga Community College; Northern State University; University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

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Website: tiny.cc/xem2uz
Twitter: @SFdirewol and @DisVisibility
Facebook: tiny.cc/z7k2uz

“Disability rights activist Alice Wong brings tough conversations to the forefront of society with this anthology. It sheds light on the experience of life as an individual with disabilities, as told by none other than authors with these life experiences.”—Chicago Tribune

“If we’re going to talk about diversity in earnest then we must acknowledge the contributors in Alice Wong’s anthology and how their essays encapsulate intersectional dialogue, intellectual thought, and intimate details. Disability Visibility is the perfect name for this collection because the authors words resound loudly and deserve to be heard. Books like this showcase why change is needed, what needs to be part of the larger political consciousness, and who is often left out of the conversation. This book is a celebration and a source of deep education for many to bear witness (and feel seen by) the vastness of disabled stories, voices, and backgrounds.”—Jennifer Baker, editor of Everyday People: The Color of Life—A Short Story Anthology
SoCiAL JUSTiCE

Theme: Inequality

Being Heumann
An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist
By Judith Heumann with Kristen Joiner

Selected for Common Reading at:
University of Missouri, Law School
and Berry College

Beacon Press | Paperback
978-0-8070-0280-3 | 232 pp. | $16.00 / $22.00 Can.
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Judith Heumann is an internationally recognized leader in the Disability Rights Independent Living Movement. Her work with a wide range of activist organizations (including the Berkeley Center for Independent Living and the American Association of People with Disabilities), NGOs, and governments since the 1970s has contributed greatly to the development of human rights legislation and policy benefiting disabled people. She has advocated for disability rights at home and abroad, serving in the Clinton and Obama administrations and as the World Bank’s first adviser on disability and development.

Website: judithheumann.com
Twitter: @judithheumann
Video: tiny.cc/JudithHeumann

“A marvelous memoir by a disability hero who has paved the way for many of us. Full of fascinating stories from the disability rights movement, this book will guide future leaders as we work toward a barrier-free world.”

—Haben Girma, author of the bestseller Haben: The Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law

A story of fighting to belong in a world that wasn’t built for all of us and of one woman’s activism—from the streets of Brooklyn and San Francisco to inside the halls of Washington—Being Heumann recounts Judy Heumann’s lifelong battle to achieve respect, acceptance, and inclusion in society.

Paralyzed from polio at eighteen months, Judy’s struggle for equality began early in life. From fighting to attend grade school after being described as a “fire hazard” to later winning a lawsuit against the New York City school system for denying her a teacher’s license because of her paralysis, Judy’s actions set a precedent that fundamentally improved rights for disabled people.

As a young woman, Judy rolled her wheelchair through the doors of the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in San Francisco as a leader of the Section 504 Sit-In, the longest takeover of a governmental building in US history. Working with a community of over 150 disabled activists and allies, Judy successfully pressured the Carter administration to implement protections for disabled peoples’ rights, sparking a national movement and leading to the creation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Candid, intimate, and irreverent, Judy Heumann’s memoir about resistance to exclusion invites readers to imagine and make real a world in which we all belong.

“Judy’s advocacy for disability rights began as a fight for her own future and then, as a leader of the movement, spanned the nation and the globe. As secretary of state, I relied on Judy’s insights, knowledge, sass, and wit to elevate advocacy for disability rights in our diplomacy. This important book will help ensure that every person gets a chance to live up to their full potential and will always have a place at the table.”—Hillary Clinton

To request examination copies, email commonreads@prh.com
The Queering of Corporate America
How Big Business Went from LGBTQ Adversary to Ally
By Carlos A. Ball

Legal scholar Carlos Ball tells the overlooked story of how LGBTQ activism aimed at corporations since the Stonewall riots helped turn them from enterprises either indifferent to or openly hostile toward sexual minorities and transgender individuals into reliable and powerful allies of the movement for queer equality. As a result of street protests and boycotts during the 1970s, AIDS activism directed at pharmaceutical companies in the 1980s, and the push for corporate nondiscrimination policies and domestic partnership benefits in the 1990s, LGBTQ activism changed big business’s understanding and treatment of the queer community. By the 2000s, corporations were frequently and vigorously promoting LGBTQ equality, both within their walls and in the public sphere. Large companies such as American Airlines, Apple, Google, Marriott, and Walmart have been crucial allies in promoting marriage equality and opposing anti-LGBTQ regulations such as transgender bathroom laws.

At a time when the LGBTQ movement is facing considerable political backlash, The Queering of Corporate America complicates the narrative of corporate conservatism and provides insights into the future legal, political, and cultural implications of this unexpected relationship.

There’s a Revolution Outside, My Love
Letters from a Crisis
Edited by Tracy K. Smith and John Freeman

This kaleidoscopic portrait of an unprecedented time brings together forty of our most treasured writers today including Edwidge Danticat, Layli Long Soldier, Monica Youn, Julia Alvarez, Reginald Dwayne Betts, and Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, to give voice to the unthinkable grief and hopeful possibilities born in an era of revolution and change.

There’s a Revolution Outside, My Love captures and articulates all of the roiling sentiments unleashed by a profound national reckoning during the Covid-19 pandemic and protests for Black lives. Composed of searing letters, essays, poems, reflections, and screeds it offers a deeply felt view of survival, grief, and the search for joy. Noisy with beauty, they plead for safety and justice and ring louder and clearer than ever before.

"Angry, rueful, and defiant, the impressive roster of award-winning writers and academics portrays a nation wracked by pain... An eloquent and urgent collection."—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

"Perhaps you will open this book and find solace during a time of consternation. Or perhaps it will serve a use for you like that of a road map for a nation that is no longer idling."—Tracy K. Smith, from the preface
Redeeming Justice
From Defendant to Defender, My Fight for Equity on Both Sides of a Broken System
By Jarrett Adams

Jarrett Adams was 17 when an all-white jury sentenced him to prison for a crime he didn’t commit. Now a pioneering lawyer, he recalls the journey that led to his exoneration—and inspired him to devote his life to fighting the many injustices in our legal system. In this story of hope and redemption, Adams draws on his life and the cases of his clients to provide an unforgettable firsthand account of the limits—and possibilities—of our country’s system of law.

Website: jarrettadamslaw.com
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Facebook: JarrettAdamsEsq

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Theme: Inequality

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.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction, Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction, PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award for Nonfiction, and National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction

Website: www.evictedbook.com
Video: tiny.cc/7km2uz
Twitter: @just_shelter

Selected for Common Reading at: Michigan State University, Montana State University, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Virginia Commonwealth University, and more

Crown | Paperback | 978-0-553-44745-3 | 448 pp. | $18.00 / $24.00 Can.
eBook: 9780553447446

Theme: Inequality

Golden Gates
The Housing Crisis and a Reckoning for the American Dream
By Conor Dougherty

Journalist Conor Dougherty chronicles America’s housing crisis from its West Coast epicenter, peeling back the decades of history and economic forces that brought us here and taking readers inside the activist movements that have risen in tandem with housing costs.

“In deeply-reported and fast-paced... Dougherty brings a novel perspective to one of the nation’s most urgent problems.”—Matthew Desmond, author of Evicted

Twitter: @Conordougherty

Penguin Books | Paperback
978-0-525-56023-4
304 pp. | $18.00 / $21.00 Can.
eBook: 9780525560227

Theme: Inequality

Invisible Child
Poverty, Survival & Hope in an American City
By Andrea Elliott

Invisible Child follows eight dramatic years in the life of a girl, Dasani, whose imagination is as soaring as the skyscrapers near her Brooklyn shelter. By turns heartbreaking and inspiring, Invisible Child tells an astonishing story about the power of resilience, the importance of family, and the cost of inequality. Based on nearly a decade of reporting, Invisible Child illuminates some of the most critical issues in contemporary America through the life of one remarkable girl.

Twitter: @andreafelliott

Random House | Hardcover
978-0-8129-8894-5
624 pp. | $30.00 / $40.00 Can.
eBook: 9780812988969

Theme: Inequality
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

Mine!
How the Hidden Rules of Ownership Control Our Lives
By Michael Heller and James Salzman

With stories that are eye-opening, mind-bending, and sometimes infuriating, Mine! reveals the rules of ownership that secretly control our lives.

“Who owns what underlies human conflicts, economic development, innovation, and international relations. With vivid stories and memorable insights, Heller and Salzman decode legal rules about ownership much as Freakonomics decodes economics and psychological rules of incentives.”—Martha Minow, Former Dean, Harvard Law School

For the People
A Story of Justice and Power
By Larry Krasner

For the People is not just a story about Larry Krasner’s remarkable early life as a defense lawyer and his innovative grassroots campaign; it’s also a larger exploration of how power and injustice conspired to create a carceral state unprecedented in the world. Readers follow Krasner’s life-long journey through the streets and courtrooms and election precincts of one American city all the way up to his swearing-in ceremony as district attorney of Philadelphia to see how our system of injustice was built—and how we might dismantle it.

Waiting for an Echo
The Madness of American Incarceration
By Christine Montross, M.D.

Dr. Christine Montross has spent her career treating the most severely ill psychiatric patients. Several years ago, she set out to investigate why so many of her patients got caught up in the legal system when discharged from her care—and what happened to them therein. Waiting for an Echo is a riveting, rarely seen glimpse into American incarceration. It is also a damning account of policies that have criminalized mental illness, shifting large numbers of people who belong in therapeutic settings into punitive ones.
To request examination copies, email commonreads@prh.com

**SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**The Velvet Rope Economy**
How Inequality Became Big Business  
*By Nelson D. Schwartz*

*The Velvet Rope Economy* is a bold and urgent investigation of division between the wealthy and everyone else in every arena of American life.

“Through vivid illustrations and systematic analysis, this brilliantly argued book demonstrates the corrosive impact of growing inequality on society. Almost everywhere one looks—amusement parks, stadiums, planes, college admissions, and health care—we are being segregated into castes. A must read.”—Emmanuel Saez, Professor of Economics, University of California, Berkeley

**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 Basic Laws of Human Stupidity**
*By Carlo M. Cipolla*

Throughout history, a powerful force has hindered the growth of human welfare and happiness. Carlo M. Cipolla created this vitally important book to detect and neutralize the threat of human stupidity.

“Cipolla’s subtle tongue-in-cheek humor made this book an underground classic in Italy. Today, under current worldwide political trends, it reads more like black humor. Keep in mind: reliable statistical data shows that 98% of the people seriously believe that they are far less stupid than the average.”—Carlo Rovelli, author of *Seven Brief Lessons on Physics*

**The System**
Who Rigged It, How We Fix It  
*By Robert B. Reich*

*The System* is an urgent analysis of how the “rigged” systems of American politics and power operate, how this status quo came to be, and how average citizens can enact change. Robert B. Reich’s objective is to demystify the system so that we might instill fundamental change and demand that democracy works for the majority once again.

“Robert Reich is one of the most important voices in America, fighting for an economy that works for all people and not just those at the top. . . . Robert Reich is an exceptional teacher.”—Sen. Bernie Sanders

Website: www.katemanne.net  
Twitter: @kate_manne

Website: robertreich.org  
Twitter: @RBReich
We Should All Be Feminists
By Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

In this personal, eloquently argued essay—adapted from her much-admired TEDx talk of the same name—Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, award-winning author of Americanah, offers readers a unique definition of feminism for the twenty-first century, one rooted in inclusion and awareness. Drawing extensively on her own experiences and her deep understanding of the often masked realities of sexual politics, here is one remarkable author’s exploration of what it means to be a woman now—and an of-the-moment rallying cry for why we should all be feminists.

"Adichie is so smart about so many things."—San Francisco Chronicle

"Adichie makes her arguments quietly but skillfully. A moving essay that should find its way into the hands of all students and teachers to provoke new conversation and awareness."—Kirkus

"In addition to being angry, I am also hopeful, because I believe deeply in the ability of human beings to remake themselves for the better," she writes. This is what is so wonderful about We Should All Be Feminists, and what makes it such a perfect introductory text for those who haven’t been exposed to feminism and those who distrust it. She’s angry, yes, but Adichie consistently chooses empathy over anger."—Bustle

Selected for Common Reading at: George Mason University; Portland Community College; Siena Heights University; SUNY Cortland; Sweet Briar College; Thomas College; Wagner College

Demystifying Disability
What to Know, What to Say, and How to Be an Ally
By Emily Ladau

People with disabilities are the world’s largest minority, an estimated 15 percent of the global population. But many of us—disabled and nondisabled alike—don’t know how to act, what to say, or how to be an ally to the disability community. Authored by celebrated disability rights advocate, speaker, and writer Emily Ladau, this practical, intersectional guide offers all readers a welcoming place to understand disability as part of the human experience.

Woke Racism
How a New Religion Has Betrayed Black America
By John McWhorter

Americans on the left and the right are secretly asking themselves the same question: how has the conversation on race in America gone so crazy? According to McWhorter, the problem is that a well-meaning but pernicious form of antiracism has become, not a progressive ideology, but a religion that’s illogical, unreachable, and unintentionally neoracist. McWhorter reveals how this religion is harming his fellow Black Americans by infantilizing Black people, setting Black students up for failure, and passing policies that disproportionately damage Black communities.
How does one approach Blackness, masculinity, otherness, and the perils of young adulthood? For G’Ra Asim, punk music offers an outlet to express himself freely. As his younger brother, Gyasi, grapples with finding his footing in the world, G’Ra gifts him with a survival guide for tackling the sometimes treacherous cultural terrain particular to being young, Black, brainy, and weird in the form of a mixtape.

Boyz n the Void: a mixtape to my brother blends music and cultural criticism and personal essay to explore race, gender, class, and sexuality as they pertain to punk rock and straight edge culture. Using totemic punk rock songs on a mixtape to anchor each chapter, the book documents an intergenerational conversation between a millennial in his 30s and his zoomer teenage brother. Author, punk musician, and straight edge kid, G’Ra Asim weaves together memoir and cultural commentary, diving into the depths of everything from theory to comic strips, to poetry to pizza commercials to mapping the predicament of the Black creative intellectual.

With each chapter dedicated to a particular song and placed within the context of a fraternal bond, Asim presents his brother with a roadmap to self-actualization in the form of a Doc Martened foot to the behind and a sweaty, circle-pit-side-armed hug.

Website: graasim.com Twitter: @notjadedpunk
Humor, Seriously
Why Humor Is a Secret Weapon in Business and Life
(And how anyone can harness it. Even you.)
By Jennifer Aaker and Naomi Bagdonas
Based on Jennifer Aaker and Naomi Bagdonas’s popular class at Stanford’s Graduate School of Business, *Humor, Seriously* draws on findings by behavioral scientists, world-class comedians, and inspiring business leaders to reveal how humor works and—more important—how you can harness the power of humor in business and life.

Professional Troublemaker
The Fear-Fighter Manual
By Luvvie Ajayi Jones
Luvvie Ajayi Jones is known for her trademark wit, warmth, and perpetual truth-telling. But even she’s been challenged by the enemy of progress known as fear. We’re all afraid. We’re afraid of asking for what we want because we’re afraid of hearing “no.” We’re afraid of being different, of being too much or not enough. But in order to do the things that will truly, meaningfully change our lives, we have to become professional troublemakers: people who are committed to not letting fear talk them out of the things they need to do or say to live free.

What Color Is Your Parachute? for College
Pave Your Path from Major to Meaningful Work
By Katharine Brooks, EdD
What Color Is Your Parachute? for College is the only guide students need for making the most of their college career from start to finish. Based on the bestselling job-hunting system in the world, created by Richard N. Bolles, it covers deciding on a major, designing a four-year plan with a student’s interests and values in mind, developing a resume that stands out in a crowd, and making invaluable connections to the workplace.

Range
Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World
By David Epstein
David Epstein examined the world’s most successful athletes, artists, musicians, inventors, forecasters and scientists. He discovered that in most fields—especially those that are complex and unpredictable—generalists, not specialists, are primed to excel. Generalists often find their path late, and they juggle many interests rather than focusing on one. They’re also more creative, more agile, and able to make connections their more specialized peers can’t see.

“*Range* is a convincing, engaging survey of research and anecdotes that confirm a thoughtful, collaborative world is also a better and more innovative one.”—NPR
Life Is in the Transitions
Mastering Change at Any Age
By Bruce Feiler

Bruce Feiler spent the last few years collecting hundreds of life stories in all fifty states from Americans who’d been through major life changes—from losing jobs to losing loved ones, from changing careers to changing relationships; from getting sober to getting healthy to simply looking for a fresh start. What Feiler discovered was a world in which transitions are becoming more plentiful and mastering the skills to manage them is more urgent for all of us. He provides us a powerful new tool kit for navigating these pivotal times. He lays out specific strategies each of us can use to reimagine and rebuild our lives, often stronger than before.

Think Again
The Power of Knowing What You Don’t Know
By Adam Grant

Intelligence is usually seen as the ability to think and learn, but in a rapidly changing world, there’s another set of cognitive skills that might matter more: the ability to rethink and unlearn. Too many of us favor the comfort of conviction over the discomfort of doubt. In *Think Again*, Adam Grant examines the critical art of rethinking: learning to question your opinions and open other people’s minds.

“In an increasingly divided world, the lessons in this book are more important than ever.”—Bill and Melinda Gates

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.

“This collection of essays exhorts Americans to love the nation they have by becoming the nation they want.”—*The Washington Post*

Rationality
What It Is, Why It Seems Scarce, Why It Matters
By Steven Pinker

Today humanity is reaching new heights of scientific understanding—and also appears to be losing its mind. How can a species that developed vaccines for Covid-19 in less than a year produce so much fake news, medical quackery, and conspiracy theorizing? *Rationality* explores how the rational pursuit of self-interest, sectarian solidarity, and uplifting mythology can add up to crippling irrationality in a society.
Creative Acts for Curious People
How to Think, Create, and Lead in Unconventional Ways
By Sarah Stein Greenberg
Foreword by David M. Kelley
At Stanford University’s Hasso Plattner Institute of Design, aka “the d.school,” students and faculty bring together diverse perspectives to tackle ambitious projects; this book contains the experiences designed to help them do it. Curated by executive director Sarah Stein Greenberg, after being honed in the classrooms of the d.school, these exercises will help students develop the behaviors and deepen the mindsets that can turn their curiosity into ideas, and their ideas into action.

The Optimist’s Telescope
Thinking Ahead in a Reckless Age
By Bina Venkataraman
Today more than ever, all of us need to know how we can make better long-term decisions in our lives, businesses, and society. Bina Venkataraman sees the way forward. In The Optimist’s Telescope, she draws from stories she has reported around the world and new research in biology, psychology, and economics to explain how we can make decisions that benefit us over time.

“As fascinating as it is important.”—Adam Grant, author of Think Again

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.

“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

Post Corona
From Crisis to Opportunity
By Scott Galloway
The pandemic has not been a change agent so much as an accelerant of trends already well underway. Scott Galloway outlines the contours of the crisis and the opportunities that lie ahead. Some businesses will thrive as a result of the disruption. Other industries will struggle to maintain a value proposition that no longer makes sense when we can’t stand shoulder to shoulder. The pandemic has accelerated deeper trends in government and society, exposing a widening gap between our vision of America as a land of opportunity, and the troubling realities of our declining wellbeing.
To request examination copies, email commonreads@prh.com

**INSPIRATION**

**Theme:** Resilience

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### Spirit Run

**A 6,000-Mile Marathon Through North America’s Stolen Land**

**By Noé Álvarez**

Growing up in Yakima, Washington, Noé Álvarez worked at an apple-packing plant alongside his mother, who “slouched over a conveyor belt of fruit, shoulder to shoulder with mothers conditioned to believe this was all they could do with their lives.” A university scholarship offered escape, but as a first-generation Latino college-goer, Álvarez struggled to fit in.

At nineteen, he learned about a Native American/First Nations movement called the Peace and Dignity Journeys, epic marathons meant to renew cultural connections across North America. He dropped out of school and joined a group of Dené, Secwépemc, Gitxsan, Dakelh, Apache, Tohono O’odham, Seri, Purépecha, and Maya runners, all fleeing difficult beginnings. Telling their stories alongside his own, Álvarez writes about a four-month-long journey from Canada to Guatemala that pushed him to his limits. He writes not only of overcoming hunger, thirst, and fear—dangers included stone-throwing motorists and a mountain lion—but also of asserting Indigenous and working-class humanity in a capitalist society where oil extraction, deforestation, and substance abuse wreck communities.

Running through mountains, deserts, and cities, and through the Mexican territory his parents left behind, Álvarez forges a new relationship with the land, and with the act of running, carrying with him the knowledge of his parents’ migration, and—against all odds in a society that exploits his body and rejects his spirit—the dream of a liberated future.

*New York Times Book Review Editors’ Choice*

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Noé Álvarez was born to Mexican immigrant parents and raised working-class in Yakima, Washington. He holds degrees in philosophy and creative writing from Whitman College and Emerson College, respectively. He studied conflict analysis, peacemaking, and conflict resolution at American University and in Northern Ireland, received a fellowship at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School, and researched U.S. drug policy, military aid, and human rights issues in Colombia’s Putumayo jungles. He lives in Boston, where, until recently, he worked as a security officer at the Boston Athenæum.

“A spellbinding narrative of his coming to terms with his place in America today . . . This literary tour de force beautifully combines outdoor adventure with a sharp take on immigration.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

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

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**Website:** spiritrunbook.com

**Twitter:** @noealvarez509
Welcome Home
A Guide to Building a Home for Your Soul
By Najwa Zebian

In Welcome Home, poet Najwa Zebian shares her personal story for the first time, powerfully weaving memoir, poetry, and deeply resonant teachings into her storytelling, from leaving Lebanon at 16, to coming of age as a young Muslim woman in Canada, to building a new identity for herself as she learned to speak her truth. With practical tools, poetry, and prompts for journaling and meditation to lead to self-understanding in each chapter, Zebian shows readers how to build each room in their inner house.

Flamin’ Hot
The Incredible True Story of One Man’s Rise from Janitor to Top Executive
By Richard P. Montañez

Having taken a job mopping floors at Frito-Lay’s California factory to support his family, Montañez took his future into his own hands and created the world’s hottest snack food: Flamin’ Hot Cheetos. When a top food scientist at Frito-Lay sent out a memo telling sales and marketing to kill the new product before it made it to the store shelves, Montañez was forced to go rogue once again to save his idea. Through creative thinking, community building, and a few powerful mindset shifts, he outsmarted the naysayers who tried to get in his way.

Fierce Love
A Bold Path to Ferocious Courage and Rule-Breaking Kindness That Can Heal the World
By Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

Sharing stories that trace her personal reckoning with racism as well as the arc of her journey to an inclusive and service-driven faith, Dr. Jacqui Lewis shows that kindness, compassion, and inclusive thinking are muscles that can be exercised and strengthened. With the goal of mending our inextricable human connection, Fierce Love is a manifesto for all generations: a bighearted, healing antidote to our rancorous culture.

The War for Kindness
Building Empathy in a Fractured World
By Jamil Zaki

In this groundbreaking book, Stanford psychologist 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. 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.
INSPIRATION

Theme: Being Connected

Acts of Faith
The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation, With a New Afterword
By Eboo Patel

Acts of Faith is Eboo Patel’s remarkable account of coming of age and coming to understand what led him toward religious pluralism rather than hatred. His story is a hopeful and moving testament to the power and passion of young people, and to the notion that we find the fulfillment of our identities in the work we do in the world. In the new edition of Acts of Faith, a new foreword is included.

The afterword to this new edition brings readers into the next decade of political and religious division in America, midway through President Trump’s first and only term in office and in the aftermath of an election that brought our political and religious dividing lines to the forefront of our actions. Despite the distinct challenges of divisive times, Patel reminds us that true interfaith leadership involves embracing the tools and knowledge passed down by others to reinforce lifelong habits of tolerance and change. In building interfaith institutions that bring people of differing belief systems and identities, we can move one step away from homogeneous extremism and one step closer to a more accepting society committed to pluralist change.

Website: ifyc.org
Twitter: @EbooPatel
Selected for Common Reading at: Franklin College; St. Louis University; Colgate University; and many others

The Spirit of Music
The Lesson Continues
By Victor L. Wooten

The Spirit of Music is Grammy Award winner Victor Wooten’s inspiring parable of the importance of music and the threats that it faces in today’s world. In this fable-like story three musicians from around the world are mysteriously summoned to Nashville, the Music City, to join together with Victor to do battle against the “Phasers,” whose blinking “music-cancelling” headphones silence and destroy all musical sound. Only by coming together, connecting, and making the joyful sounds of immediate, “live” music can the world be restored to the power and spirit of music.

"[A] bit like Carlos Castaneda’s shamanist tales, a bit like tween fiction, a bit like websites on, say, sonic healing through principles of sacred geometry and—at its best—an enactment of epiphanies told in the ping-pong dialogue. . . . It’s a book that stands happily against traditional music pedagogy and canned notions of achievement. This is to its great credit.”—Ben Ratliff, The Washington Post

"Wooten, bassist for Béla Fleck and the Flecktones, delivers a remarkable fable in which music is dying. . . . This allegorical foray into the power of music is both heartfelt and wildly imaginative. Music lovers will adore this sparkling manifesto.”—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

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Selected for Common Reading at: Franklin College; St. Louis University; Colgate University; and many others

To request examination copies, email commonreads@prh.com
Connect
Building Exceptional Relationships with Family, Friends, and Colleagues
By David Bradford and Carole Robin

David Bradford and Carole Robin taught interpersonal skills to MBA candidates for a combined 75 years in their legendary Stanford Graduate School of Business course Interpersonal Dynamics and have coached and consulted hundreds of executives for decades. In Connect, they show readers how to take their relationships from shallow to exceptional by cultivating authenticity, vulnerability, and honesty, while being willing to ask for and offer help, share a commitment to growth, and deal productively with conflict.

Website: connectandrelate.com
Currency | Hardcover
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eBook: 9780593237106

This Book Will Make You Kinder
An Empathy Handbook
By Henry James Garrett

This timely, insightful guide lays out the case for developing a strong, courageous, moral kindness, one that will make the world a more empathetic place. Building on his academic studies in metaethics and using his signature animal cartoons, Garrett explores the sources and limitations of human empathy and the many ways 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

Website: henryjgarrett.com

This Could Be Our Future
A Manifesto for a More Generous World
By Yancey Strickler

Western society is trapped by three assumptions: 1) That the point of life is to maximize your self-interest and wealth, 2) That we’re individuals trapped in an adversarial world, and 3) That this is natural and inevitable. These ideas separate us, keep us powerless, and limit our imagination for the future. It’s time we replace them with something new. This Could Be Our Future is about how we got here, and how we change course.

Website: ystrickler.com
Twitter: @ystrickler

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.

Website: jennyodell.com
Twitter: @the_jennitaur

NPR Best Book of the Year; TIME Best Book of the Year, The New Yorker Best Book of the Year
Transcendent Kingdom
By Yaa Gyasi

Yaa Gyasi’s stunning follow-up to her acclaimed novel Homegoing is a powerful, raw, intimate, deeply layered novel about a Ghanaian family in Alabama.

Gifty is a sixth-year PhD candidate in neuroscience at the Stanford University School of Medicine studying reward-seeking behavior in mice and the neural circuits of depression and addiction. Her brother, Nana, was a gifted high school athlete who died of a heroin overdose after an ankle injury left him hooked on OxyContin. Her suicidal mother is living in her bed.

Gifty is determined to discover the scientific basis for the suffering she sees all around her. But even as she turns to the hard sciences to unlock the mystery of her family’s loss, she finds herself hungering for her childhood faith and grappling with the evangelical church in which she was raised, whose promise of salvation remains as tantalizing as it is elusive.

“Elegant. . . . Burrows into the philosophical, exploring with complexity what it might mean for us to live without firm answers to the mysteries that wound us. . . . The measured restraint of Gyasi’s prose makes the story’s challenging questions all the more potent.”—The San Francisco Chronicle

“Yaa Gyasi’s profoundly moving second novel takes place in the vast, fragile landscape where the mysteries of God and the certainties of science collide. Through deliberate and precise prose, the book becomes an expansive meditation on grief, religion, and family.”—The Boston Globe

“Transcendent Kingdom trades the blazing brilliance of Homegoing for another type of glory, more granular and difficult to name.”—The New York Times Book Review

“Haunting. . . . Astute and timely. . . . [A] meditation on life’s big themes of love and loss, and one woman’s quest to understand the human condition as she grapples with both.”—The Women’s Review of Books

Finalist for the Women’s Prize in Fiction

Yaa Gyasi was born in Ghana and raised in Huntsville, Alabama. Her debut novel, Homegoing, won her the National Book Critics Circle’s John Leonard Award for best first book, the PEN/Hemingway Award for a first book of fiction, the National Book Foundation’s “5 under 35” honors for 2016, and the American Book Award. She lives in Brooklyn.

Selected for Common Reading at:
College of St. Scholastica; Davidson College; Northeastern University; Simmons University; Tulane University; University of Wisconsin, Madison

Vintage | Paperback | 978-1-9848-9976-7
304 pp. | $16.00
eBook: 9780525658191

Also Available: Homegoing 978101971062

Video: tiny.cc/7ak2uz
Facebook: tiny.cc/6ak2uz

“An evocative portrayal of the immigrant experience and an astutely written character study of an individual reconciling with her past, along with her struggle with faith and science.”—Chicago Review of Books

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FICTION

Theme: Race & Identity

The Vanishing Half
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?

"Bennett’s gorgeously written second novel, an ambitious meditation on race and identity, considers the divergent fates of twin sisters, born in the Jim Crow South, after one decides to pass for white. Bennett balances the literary demands of dynamic characterization with the historical and social realities of her subject matter."—The New York Times

Selected for Common Reading at:
Luther College; Monroe Community College; Cedar Crest College; University of California - Irvine

Website: britbennett.com
Video: tiny.cc/britbennettvideo
Twitter: @britrbennett

Also Available: The Mothers 9780399184529

Theme: Race & Identity

The Hill We Climb
An Inaugural Poem for the Country
By Amanda Gorman

On January 20, 2021, Amanda Gorman became the sixth and youngest poet to deliver a poetry reading at a presidential inauguration. Her poem “The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem for the Country” celebrates the promise of America, overcoming adversity and challenges, and affirms the power of poetry.

“Stunning.”—CNN
“Dynamic.”—NPR
“Deeply rousing and uplifting.”—Vogue

Amanda Gorman is the youngest presidential inaugural poet in US history. She is a committed advocate for the environment, racial equality, and gender justice. Amanda’s activism and poetry have been featured on The Today Show, PBS Kids, and CBS This Morning, and in The New York Times, Vogue, Essence, and O, The Oprah Magazine. In 2017, Urban Word named her the first-ever National Youth Poet Laureate of the United States. After graduating cum laude from Harvard University, she now lives in her hometown of Los Angeles. Her debut picture book, Change Sings, will be published in September 2021 and the breakout poetry collection The Hill We Climb and Other Poems in January 2022.

Website: themandagorman.com
Video: tiny.cc/Gorman
Twitter: @TheAmandaGorman

Selected for Common Reading at: Simmons University, Rivier University

Also Available: Change Sings 9780593203224
FICTION

Theme: Race & Identity

Stereo(TYPE)
Poems
By Jonah Mixon-Webster

This is a radical, urgent collection of poems about Blackness, the self, and the dismantling of corrupt powers in the fight for freedom.

Jonah Mixon-Webster works at the intersections of space and the body, race and region, sexuality and class. Stereo(TYPE), his debut collection of poetry, is a reckoning, a revision of our most sacred mythologies, and a work of documentary reporting from Mixon-Webster’s hometown of Flint, Michigan, where clean tap water remains an uncertainty and the aftermath of racist policies persist.

Challenging stereotypes through scenes that scatter with satire, violence, and the extreme vagaries of everyday life, Mixon-Webster invents visual/sonic forms, conceptualizes poems as transcripts and frequently asked questions, and dives into dreamscapes and modern tragedies, deconstructing the very foundations America is built on. Interrogating language and the ways we wield it as both sword and shield, Stereo(TYPE) is a rapturous collection of vital and beautiful poems.

“Mixon-Webster is a master of experimentation, for his work reads across multiple genres, creating new hybrids: poem-plays, poem-myths, poem-dreams, poem-dialogues, and more. This work is alive, demanding to be reckoned with, respected, and recognized.”—Fatimah Asghar, author of If They Come for Us

Winner of the PEN America Literary Award

Website: www.jonahmixon-webster.com   Twitter: @jmixweb

Theme: Race & Identity, Native American

There There
By Tommy Orange

Tommy Orange’s shattering novel follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to each other in ways they may not yet realize. Together, this chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native American—grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism. Hailed as an instant classic, There There is at once poignant and laugh-out-loud funny, utterly contemporary and always unforgettable.

“Powerful. . . . There There has so much jangling energy and brings so much news from a distinct corner of American life that it’s a revelation.”—The New York Times

“An astonishing literary debut.”—Margaret Atwood

Winner of the PEN/Hemingway Award; Winner of the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize; Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize

Video: tiny.cc/Oak2uz   Twitter: @thommyorange

Selected for Common Reading at: College of William & Mary; Duke University; South Dakota State University; Stanford University; University of California, Berkeley; University of Idaho, University of Montana, and many more
FiCTioN

Theme: Race & Identity

Angel & Hannah
A Novel in Verse
By Ishle Yi Park

Told across the changing seasons, Angel & Hannah is a reimagining of Romeo and Juliet, a sweeping, unforgettable story of an interracial couple in 1990s New York City who are determined to protect their love against all odds.

Following Hannah, a Korean American girl from Queens, and Angel, a Puerto Rican boy from Brooklyn, Angel & Hannah holds all of the tension and cadence of blank verse while adding dynamic and expressive language rooted in a long tradition of hip-hop and spoken word, creating new and magnetic forms. The poetry of Angel and Hannah’s relationship is dynamic, arresting, observant, and magical, conveying the intimacies and sacrifices of love and family and the devastating realities of struggle and loss.

“These fresh and absolutely necessary poems of a cross-racial romance need to be trumpeted from the rooftops, overtaking the canonized Romes and Juliets and Heathcliffs and Catherines. I love this book.”—Cathy Park Hong, award-winning author of Minor Feelings

Video: tiny.cc/xtn2uz
Facebook: IshleYiParkakaLAnI

Interior Chinatown
By Charles Yu

Infinately inventive and deeply personal, exploring the themes of pop culture, assimilation, and immigration—Interior Chinatown is Charles Yu’s is a playful but heartfelt, send-up of Hollywood tropes and Asian stereotypes.

“Yu’s text is an overwhelming work of brilliance—not only are the cleverness of his textual construction and chosen metaphors stunning, but the deeper message behind Willis’s narrative cuts to the core of just what it means to be Asian in America, but what is means to be Not White in America. Everyone who seeks to have engaged, critical conversations about race in the U.S. should aim to read Interior Chinatown, whether they are Asian American or not. Yu’s message on our self-imprisonment in particular racial roles is a radical, important one.”—Harvard Crimson

Winner of the National Book Award

Selected for Common Reading at:
Connecticut College; Santa Rosa Junior College; Stony Brook University

Video: tiny.cc/s8k2uz
tinyurl.com/sbppnhde
Twitter: @charles_yu
Facebook: tiny.cc/r8k2uz
FICTION

Chlorine Sky
By Mahogany L. Browne

With gritty and heartbreaking honesty, a critically acclaimed author and poet delivers a novel-in-verse about broken promises, fast rumors, and when growing up means growing apart from your best friend.

“A story about heart and backbone, and one only Mahogany L. Browne could bring forth.”—Jason Reynolds, #1 New York Times bestselling author of Long Way Down

“A coming-of-age novel for Black girls who have been told they’re too much and yet never enough.”—Kirkus Reviews

Theme: Race & Identity

The Water Dancer
By Ta-Nehisi Coates

Young Hiram Walker was born into bondage, but a brush with death births an urgency in him and a daring scheme: to escape from the only home he’s ever known. So begins an unexpected journey that takes Hiram from the coffin of the Deep South to dangerously idealistic movements in the north. 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.

Theme: Race & Identity

Home Is Not a Country
By Safia Elhillo

From the acclaimed poet featured on Forbes Africa’s “30 Under 30” list, this powerful novel-in-verse captures one girl, caught between cultures, on an unexpected journey to face the ephemeral girl she might have been. Woven through with moments of lyrical beauty, this is a tender meditation on family, belonging, and home.

“Artfully profound and achingly beautiful”—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

“Movingly unravels themes of belonging, Islamophobia, and the interlocking oppressions thrust upon immigrant women.”—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

Theme: Race & Identity

The Office of Historical Corrections
A Novella and Stories
By Danielle Evans

Evans introduces us to Black and multiracial characters who are experiencing the universal confusions of lust and love, and getting walloped by grief—all while exploring how history haunts us, personally and collectively. Ultimately, she provokes us to think about the truths of American history—about who gets to tell them, and the cost of setting the record straight.

Theme: Race & Identity

To request examination copies, email commonreads@prh.com
**Huda F Are You?**
*By Huda Fahmy*

From the creator of the hugely popular webcomic *Yes I’m Hot In This* comes a graphic novel about a young American Muslim growing up and figuring out who she is.

Huda and her family just moved to Dearborn, Michigan, a small town with a big Muslim population. But Huda doesn’t fit in—when everyone is Muslim, there’s no Muslim clique like there was in her last town, and Huda’s not a sporty hijabi or a fashionista hijabi or a gamer hijabi. She’s just Huda, and she’s not sure what that means. She tries on all kinds of identities and friends, but nothing fits quite right. Until she realizes she can get back to the basics.

**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.

**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.

**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*
Exit West
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 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 exploits fiction’s capacity to elicit empathy and identification to imagine a better world.—Viet Thanh Nguyen, The New York Times Book Review

Theme: Immigrant & First-Generation Stories

Songbirds
By Christy Lefteri

Living on the island of Cyprus, Nisha is far from her native Sri Lanka and working as a nanny and maid for a wealthy widow, Petra, to support the family she left behind. But when she vanishes and the police refuse to pursue the case, Petra takes on the investigation herself, revealing the darker side of a migrant’s life, where impossible choices leave them vulnerable, captive, and worse. Inspired by the real-life disappearance of domestic workers in Cyprus, Christy Lefteri has crafted a poignant, deeply empathetic narrative of the human stories behind the headlines.

Theme: Immigrant & First-Generation Stories

On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous
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.

Theme: Immigrant & First-Generation Stories

How Much of These Hills Is Gold
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: Immigrant & First-Generation Stories

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

Theme: Inequality, Prejudice, Justice

A Burning
By Megha Majumdar

Jivan is a Muslim girl from the slums, determined to move up in life, who is accused of executing a terrorist attack on a train because of a careless comment on Facebook. PT Sir is an opportunistic gym teacher who hitches his aspirations to a right-wing political party and finds that his own ascent becomes linked to Jivan’s fall. Lovely—an irresistible outcast whose exuberant voice and dreams of glory—has the alibi that can set Jivan free, but it will cost her everything she holds dear.

"Powerful. . . . Propulsive. . . . This is a book to relish for its details, for the caress of the writer’s gaze against the world. . . . The interplay of choice and circumstance has always been the playing field of great fiction, and on this terrain, a powerful new writer stakes her claim."—Parul Sehgal, The New York Times

"A scorching and intimate look at those who find themselves bearing the full brunt of an enormous, diverse society’s prejudices and passions. . . . A Burning is a taut, propulsive and devastating debut novel."—San Francisco Chronicle

Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle John Leonard Prize
Shortlisted for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction

Videos: tiny.cc/j7k2uz  youtu.be/bTf3rPhGkTA
Twitter: @MeghaMaj
Instagram: @megha.maj

How Beautiful We Were
By Imbolo Mbue

Set in the fictional African village of Kosawa, How Beautiful We Were is the story of a people struggling against environmental degradation wrought by an American oil company. Told from the perspective of a generation of children, it is a masterful exploration of what happens when the reckless drive for profit, coupled with the ghost of colonialism, comes up against one community’s determination to hold on to its ancestral land.

"Sweeping and quietly devastating . . . How Beautiful We Were charts the ways repression, be it at the hands of a government or a corporation or a society, can turn the most basic human needs into radical and radicalizing acts. . . . Profoundly affecting."—The New York Times Book Review (cover review)

Website: www.imbolombue.com
Video: tiny.cc/zun2uz
Facebook: imbolombue

Selected for Common Reading at:
University of Evansville Honors Program

Also Available: Behold the Dreamers 9780525509714
Anna is at a stage of her life when she’s beginning to wonder who she really is. She has separated from her husband, her daughter is all grown up, and her mother—the only parent who raised her—is dead.

Searching through her mother’s belongings one day, Anna finds clues about the African father she never knew. His student diaries chronicle his involvement in radical politics in 1970s London. Anna discovers that he eventually became the president—some would say dictator—of a small nation in West Africa. And he is still alive . . .

When Anna decides to track her father down, a journey begins that is disarmingly moving, funny, and fascinating. Like the metaphorical bird that gives the novel its name, Sankofa expresses the importance of reaching back to knowledge gained in the past and bringing it into the present to address universal questions of race and belonging, the overseas experience for the African diaspora, and the search for a family’s hidden roots.

“Astounding . . . Onuzo stands on the shoulders of Chinua Achebe and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and from her perch offers her own fresh, but assured view.”—Margaret Wilkerson Sexton, author of The Revisioners

Catapult | Hardcover | 978-1-64622-083-0
304 pp. | $26.00 / $34.00 Can.
eBook: 9781646220847

Video: tiny.cc/Chibundu Twitter: @ChibunduOnuzo

Catapult | Hardcover | 978-0-593-11876-4
eBook: 9780593118788

Website: ishmaelbeah.com Video: tiny.cc/Beah Twitter: @IshmaelBeah

Riverhead Books | Paperback | 978-0-7352-1178-0 | 272 pp. | $17.00 / $23.00 Can.
eBook: 9780735211797

Website: kcjohnsonwrites.com Video: tiny.cc/JohnsonFYE Twitter: @kcjohnsonwrites

Random House Books for Young Readers | Hardcover
eBook: 9780593118788
One night aboard an oil drilling platform in the Atlantic, Waclaw returns to his cabin to find that his bunkmate and companion, Mátyás, has gone missing. A search of the rig confirms his fear that Mátyás has fallen into the sea. Grief-stricken, he embarks on an epic emotional and physical journey that takes him to Morocco, to Budapest and Mátyás’s hometown in Hungary, to Malta, Italy, and finally to the mining town of his childhood in Germany. Waclaw’s encounters along the way with other lost and yearning souls—Mátyás’s angry, grieving half-sister; lonely rig workers on shore leave; a truck driver who watches the world change from his driver’s seat—bring us closer to his origins while also revealing the problems of a globalized economy dependent on waning natural resources.

High as the Waters Rise is a stirring exploration of male intimacy, the nature of memory and grief, and the cost of freedom—the story of a man who stands at the margins of a society from which he has profited little, though its functioning depends on his labor. "It is unexpected to encounter a modern-day Moby-Dick with the same dangerous stakes, but, for workers under global capitalism, the sea remains as treacherous as ever. Capitalism’s disregard for human life is as deadly now as it was on the Pequod. . . . Kampmann uses her gifts not to make the ugliness of global capitalism palatable, but to resist it, in the tradition of Audre Lorde . . . This novel fulfills the essentially radical task of poetry."—Fiona Bell, Chicago Review

National Book Award Finalist; NPR Best Book of the Year

Anja Kampmann was born in Hamburg and resides in Leipzig. She wrote for radio before writing a dissertation on musicality and silence in the late works of Samuel Beckett. She is the author of a collection of poems in German. High as the Waters Rise is her first novel, for which she received the Mara Cassens Prize for best German debut novel, and the Lessing Promotion Prize. She was also awarded the Bergen–Enkheim prize and was nominated for the Leipzig Book Fair Prize and the German Book Prize.

“This first novel by an established poet examines the marginalized lives of European laborers. . . . Although Kampmann addresses current events, such as environmental degradation and the precariousness of modern Europe, her focus is on how ideas of masculinity affect one man’s ability to grieve.”

—The New Yorker
To his customers and neighbors on 125th street, Ray Carney is an upstanding salesman of reasonably priced furniture, making a decent life for himself and his family. He and his wife Elizabeth are expecting their second child, and if her parents on Striver’s Row don’t approve of him or their cramped apartment across from the subway tracks, it’s still home.

Cash is tight, especially with all those installment-plan sofas, so if his cousin Freddie occasionally drops off the odd ring or necklace, Ray doesn’t ask where it comes from. He knows a discreet jeweler downtown who doesn’t ask questions, either.

Thus begins the internal tussle between Ray the striver and Ray the crook. As Ray navigates this double life, he begins to see who actually pulls the strings in Harlem. Can Ray avoid getting killed, save his cousin, and grab his share of the big score, all while maintaining his reputation as the go-to source for all your quality home furniture needs?

Harlem Shuffle’s smartly crafted story plays out in a beautifully recreated New York City of the early 1960s. It’s a family saga masquerading as a crime novel, a hilarious morality play, a social novel about race and power, and ultimately a love letter to Harlem.

“Two-time Pulitzer winner Whitehead returns with a sizzling heist novel set in civil rights–era Harlem. . . . It’s a superlative story, but the most impressive achievement is Whitehead’s loving depiction of a Harlem 60 years gone—‘that rustling, keening thing of people and concrete’—which lands as detailed and vivid as Joyce’s Dublin. Don’t be surprised if this one wins Whitehead another major award.”—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

“Whitehead delivers a portrait of Harlem in the early ‘60s, culminating with the Harlem Riot of 1964, that is brushed with lovingly etched detail and features a wonderful panoply of characters who spring to full-bodied life, blending joy, humor, and tragedy. A triumph on every level.”—Booklist (starred review)
Sabrina & Corina
Stories
By Kali Fajardo-Anstine

Kali Fajardo-Anstine’s magnetic 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. 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.

Theme: Gender

Website: www.kalifajardoanstine.com
Video: tiny.cc/4vn2uz
Twitter: @QuirkyRican
Facebook: kalifajardoanstine

Selected for Common Reading at:
- Metropolitan State University
- Regis University
- University of Colorado Boulder

Dial Books | Paperback
978-0-593-10819-2
eBook: 9780593108185

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 her favorite feminist writer—what’s sure to be a life-changing experience.

“Dazzling, funny as hell, poignant, all the things.”—Roxane Gay, author of Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body

Theme: Gender

Website: gabbyrivera.com
Video: tiny.cc/Rivera
Twitter: @QuirkyRican

The Girl with the Louding Voice
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.

Theme: Resilience

Website: deliaowens.com

Where the Crawdads Sing
By Delia Owens

“A painfully beautiful first novel that is at once a murder mystery, a coming-of-age narrative and a celebration of nature. . . . Owens here surveys the desolate marshlands of the North Carolina coast through the eyes of an abandoned child. And in her isolation that child makes us open our own eyes to the secret wonders—and dangers—of her private world.”—The New York Times Book Review

Theme: Resilience

Website: deliaowens.com

Business Insider Defining Book of the Decade

G.P. Putnam’s Sons | Paperback
978-0-7352-1910-6
400 pp. | $18.00 / $24.00 Can.
eBook: 9780735219113

64 First-Year & Common Reading 2022
Klara and the Sun

By Kazuo Ishiguro

Here is the first novel by Kazuo Ishiguro since he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. It tells the story of Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, who, from her place in the store, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, hopeful that a customer will soon choose her. Klara and the Sun is a book that offers a look at the changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, and one that explores the fundamental question: what does it mean to love?

“One of the most affecting and profound novels Ishiguro has written… I’ll go for broke and call Klara and the Sun a masterpiece that will make you think about life, mortality, the saving grace of love: in short, the all of it.”—Maureen Corrigan, NPR

“Few writers who’ve ever lived have been able to create moods of transience, loss and existential self-doubt as Ishiguro has—not art about the feelings, but the feelings themselves.”—The Los Angeles Times

Longlisted for the Booker Prize

Knopf | Hardcover | 978-0-593-31817-1
320 pp. | $28.00

eBook: 9780593318188

Also Available: Never Let Me Go 9781400078776

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.

Beacon Press | Paperback
978-0-8070-8369-7
264 pp. | $16.00 / $18.00 Can.
eBook 9780807083703

Also Available: Parable of the Sower 9781609807191

A Beautifully Foolish Endeavor

By Hank Green

In this sequel to An Absolutely Remarkable Thing, the Carls disappeared the same way they appeared, in an instant. April May’s friends must learn to navigate a post-Carl world. Just as it is starting to seem like the gang may never learn the real story behind the events that changed their lives forever, a series of clues arrive—mysterious books that seem to predict the future and control the actions of their readers—all of which seems to suggest that April could be very much alive.

Dutton | Paperback
978-1-5247-4349-9
480 pp. | $12.00 / $16.00 Can.
eBook 9781524743482

Also Available: An Absolutely Remarkable Thing 9781524743468
**Aria**
*By Nazanine Hozar*

Aria is a saga about an orphan girl coming of age in Iran at a time of dramatic upheaval.

“A sweeping saga about the Iranian revolution as it explodes... A Doctor Zhivago of Iran.”—Margaret Atwood

“A beautiful book set against the pains and passions of the Iranian Revolution... It is a book about a particular time and place yet also, and perhaps more importantly, about the common hopes and intimate longings of lives so forcibly invaded by national events.”—Hisham Matar, author of *The Return*

**Deacon King Kong**
*By James McBride*

In September 1969, a fumbling, cranky church deacon known as Sportcoat shuffles into the courtyard of the Cause Houses housing project in south Brooklyn, pulls a .38 from his pocket, and shoots the project’s drug dealer at point-blank range. James McBride brings to vivid life the people affected by the shooting: the victim, the residents who witnessed it, their white neighbors, the local cops assigned to investigate, the members of the Five Ends Baptist Church, the neighborhood’s Italian mobsters, and Sportcoat himself.

**The Book of Form and Emptiness**
*By Ruth Ozeki*

One year after the death of his beloved musician father, thirteen-year-old Benny Oh begins to hear voices. At first, Benny tries to ignore them, but soon the voices follow him outside the house, onto the street and at school, driving him at last to seek refuge in the silence of a large public library, where objects are well-behaved and know to speak in whispers. There, Benny discovers a strange new world.

**The Constant Rabbit**
*By Jasper Fforde*

England, 2022. There are 1.2 million human-size rabbits living in the UK. They can walk, talk, drive cars, and they like to read Voltaire, the result of an Inexplicable Anthropomorphizing Event fifty-five years before. An inimitable blend of satire, fantasy, and thriller, *The Constant Rabbit* is the latest dazzlingly original foray into Jasper Fforde’s ever-astonishing creative genius.
FICTION

Theme: Alternate Worlds: Speculative Fiction

Something New Under the Sun
By Alexandra Kleeman

East Coast novelist Patrick Hamlin comes to Hollywood to oversee the production of a film adaptation of one of his books, but California is not as he imagined: Drought, wildfire, and corporate corruption are omnipresent, and the company behind a mysterious new brand of synthetic water seems to be at the root of it all. Patrick partners with actress Cassidy Carter to investigate the sun-scorched city's darker crevices, where they discover that catastrophe resembles order until the last possible second.

In this often-witty and all-too-timely story, Alexandra Kleeman grapples with the corruption of our environment in the age of alternative facts. Something New Under the Sun is a meticulous and deeply felt accounting of our very human anxieties, liabilities, dependencies, and, ultimately, responsibility to truth.

Website: www.alexandrkleeman.com
Twitter: @AlexKleeman

Phase Six
By Jim Shepard

Phase Six is a spare and gripping novel about the next pandemic—completed by the award-winning Jim Shepard before COVID-19 even emerged—that reads like a fictional sequel to the current crisis. Both a chamber piece of multiple intimate perspectives and a more omniscient glimpse into the megastructures (political, cultural, and biological) that inform such a disaster, the novel is a reminder of the crucial bonds that form in the midst of catastrophe.

“If you’ve been waiting for the great novel of the COVID-19 era, it’s in your hands. I read Phase Six with a galloping heart. With heroic humor and a poet’s ear and eye for what makes humanity worth saving, Shepard’s polyphonic novel of contagion and collapse is also the story of love’s unlikely survival in the most hostile conditions.”—Karen Russell, author of Swamplandia!

“[Jim Shepard] excavates the twin crises of our era—climate change and pathogens—and builds a story that is as poignant as it is true. The writing is stunning. The research is stunning. The after-effect is stunning. Phase Six is a great book for our times: the past, the present and those that—we hope—are yet to come.”—Colum McCann, author of Apeirogon

Website: tiny.cc/79k2uz
The 1619 Project
A New Origin Story

Created by Nikole Hannah-Jones & The New York Times Magazine

A dramatic expansion of a groundbreaking work of journalism, The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story offers a profoundly revealing vision of the American past and present.

In late August 1619, a ship arrived in the British colony of Virginia bearing a cargo of 20 to 30 enslaved people from Africa. Their arrival led to the barbaric and unprecedented system of American chattel slavery that would last for the next 250 years. This is sometimes referred to as the country’s original sin, but it is more than that: It is the source of so much that still defines the United States.

The New York Times Magazine’s award-winning “1619 Project” issue reframed our understanding of American history by placing slavery and its continuing legacy at the center of our national narrative. This new book substantially expands on that work, weaving together 18 essays that explore the legacy of slavery in present-day America with 36 poems and works of fiction that illuminate key moments of oppression, struggle, and resistance. The essays show how the inheritance of 1619 reaches into every part of contemporary American society, from politics, music, diet, traffic, and citizenship to capitalism, religion, and our democracy itself.

This is a book that speaks directly to our current moment, contextualizing the systems of race and caste within which we operate today. It reveals long-glossed-over truths around our nation’s founding and construction—and the way that the legacy of slavery did not end with emancipation, but continues to shape contemporary American life.

Nikole Hannah-Jones is a Pulitzer Prize–winning reporter covering racial injustice for The New York Times Magazine, and creator of the landmark 1619 Project. In 2017, she received a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, known as the Genius Grant, for her work on educational inequality. She has also won a Peabody Award, two George Polk Awards, three National Magazine Awards, and the 2018 John Chancellor Award for Excellence in Journalism from Columbia University. In 2016, Hannah-Jones co-founded the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting, a training and mentorship organization geared toward increasing the number of investigative reporters of color.

The 1619 Project is an ongoing initiative from The New York Times Magazine that began in August 2019, the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. It is led by Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones, along with New York Times Magazine editor-in-chief Jake Silverstein, Ilena Silverman, and Caitlin Roper.

Website: 1619books.com
Twitter: @nhannahjones
Video: tiny.cc/fvn2uz
Beginning with pre-Revolutionary America and moving into the movement for Black lives and contemporary Indigenous activism, Afro-Indigenous historian, Kyle T. Mays argues that the foundations of the US are rooted in antiblackness and settler colonialism, and that these parallel oppressions continue into the present. He explores how Black and Indigenous peoples have always resisted and struggled for freedom, sometimes together, and sometimes apart.

Whether to end African enslavement and Indigenous removal or eradicate capitalism and colonialism, Mays show how the fervor of Black and Indigenous peoples calls for justice have consistently sought to uproot white supremacy.

Mays uses a wide-array of historical activists and pop culture icons, “sacred” texts, and foundational texts like the *Declaration of Independence* and *Democracy in America*. He covers the civil rights movement and freedom struggles of the 1960s and 1970s, and explores current debates around the use of Native American imagery and the cultural appropriation of Black culture. Mays compels us to rethink both our history as well as contemporary debates and to imagine the powerful possibilities of Afro-Indigenous solidarity.
As Long as Grass Grows
The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice, from Colonization to Standing Rock
By Dina Gilio-Whitaker

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.

Begin Again
James Baldwin’s America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own
By Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

In these brilliant and stirring pages, Glaude finds hope and guidance in James Baldwin as he mixes biography—drawn partially from newly uncovered Baldwin interviews—with history, memoir, and poignant analysis of our current moment to reveal the painful cycle of Black resistance and white retrenchment. As Glaude bears witness to the difficult truth of racism’s continued grip on the national soul, Begin Again is a searing exploration of the tangled web of race, trauma, and memory.

Four Hundred Souls
A Community History of African America, 1619-2019
Edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain

Four Hundred Souls is a unique one-volume “community” history of African Americans. The editors, Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain, have assembled 90 brilliant writers, each of whom takes on a five-year period of that 400-year span. This is a history that illuminates our past and gives us new ways of thinking about our future, written by the most vital and essential voices of our present.

The Daughters of Kobani
A Story of Rebellion, Courage, and Justice
By Gayle Tzemach Lemmon

In 2014, northeastern Syria might have been the last place you would expect to find a revolution centered on women’s rights. But that year, an all-female militia faced off against ISIS in a little town few had ever heard of: Kobani.

“Brilliantly researched and respectfully reported, this book is a lesson in heroism, sacrifice, and the real meaning of sisterhood. I am so grateful that this story has been told.”—Elizabeth Gilbert, author of Big Magic and Eat, Pray, Love
HISTORY

Theme: Immigrant & First-Generation Stories

Facing the Mountain
A True Story of Japanese American Heroes in World War II
By Daniel James Brown; Foreword by Tom Ikeda, Executive Director of Densho

They came from across the continent and Hawaii. Their parents taught them to embrace both their Japanese heritage and the ways of America. They faced bigotry, yet they believed in their bright futures as American citizens. But within days of Pearl Harbor, the FBI was ransacking their houses and locking up their fathers. And within months many would themselves be living behind barbed wire.

Facing the Mountain is an unforgettable chronicle of war-time America and the battlefields of Europe. Based on Daniel James Brown’s extensive interviews with the families of the protagonists as well as deep archival research, it portrays the kaleidoscopic journey of four Japanese-American families and their sons, who volunteered for 442nd Regimental Combat Team and were deployed to France, Germany, and Italy, where they were asked to do the near impossible.

But this is more than a war story. Brown also tells the story of these soldiers’ parents, immigrants who were forced to shutter the businesses, surrender their homes, and submit to life in concentration camps on U.S. soil. Woven throughout is the chronicle of a brave young man, one of a cadre of patriotic resisters who stood up against their government in defense of their own rights.

Website: danieljamesbrown.com
Video: tiny.cc/FacingtheMountain
Twitter: @dJamesbrown

Caste
The Origins of Our Discontents
By Isabel Wilkerson

In this book, the Pulitzer Prize-winning, bestselling author of The Warmth of Other Suns reveals how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings. 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 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.

Winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Current Interest; Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction and the PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award for Nonfiction; Longlisted for the PEN/Jean Stein Book Award

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Video: tiny.cc/oxn2uz

Selected for Common Reading at:
Georgia State University Honors College and more
**HiSTory**

**Theme:** Being Connected

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### The Motorcycle Diaries

**Notes on a Latin American Journey**

*By Ernesto Che Guevara*  
*Introduction by Cintio Vitier and Walter Salles; Foreword by Aleida Guevara*

The *Motorcycle Diaries* is Che Guevara’s diary of his journey to discover the continent of Latin America while still a medical student, setting out in 1952 on a vintage Norton motorcycle together with his friend Alberto Granado, a biochemist. It captures, arguably as much as any book ever written, the exuberance and joy of one person’s youthful belief in the possibilities of humankind tending towards justice, peace and happiness. After the release in 2004 of the exhilarating film of the same title, directed by Walter Salles, the book became a New York Times and international bestseller.

This edition includes a new introduction by Walter Salles and an array of new material that was assembled for the 2004 edition coinciding with the release of the film, including 24 pages of previously unpublished photos taken by Che, notes and comments by his wife, Aleida Guevara March, and an extensive introduction by the distinguished Cuban author, Cintio Vitier.

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### I, Rigoberta Menchú

**An Indian Woman in Guatemala**

*By Rigoberta Menchú; Edited by Elisabeth Burgos-Debray; Translated by Ann Wright*

The remarkable life of Rigoberta Menchú, a Guatemalan peasant woman, reflects on the experiences common to many Indian communities in Latin America. Menchú suffered gross injustice and hardship in her early life: her brother, father and mother were murdered by the Guatemalan military. She learned Spanish and turned to catechistic work as an expression of political revolt as well as religious commitment. Above all, these pages are illuminated by the enduring courage and passionate sense of justice of an extraordinary woman.

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### On Tyranny Graphic Edition

**Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century**

*By Timothy Snyder; Illustrated by Nora Krug*

Timothy Snyder’s *New York Times* bestseller *On Tyranny* uses the darkest moments in 20th-century history, from Nazism to Communism, to teach 20 lessons on resisting modern-day authoritarianism. In this graphic edition, Nora Krug breathes new life, color, and power into Snyder’s riveting historical references, turning a quick-read pocket guide of lessons into a visually striking rumination. In a time of great uncertainty and instability, this edition of *On Tyranny* emphasizes the importance of being active, conscious, and deliberate participants in resistance.

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Seven Stories Press | Paperback | 978-1-64421-068-0 | 192 pp. | $17.95 / $23.95 Can.  
eBook: 9781644210697

Also Available: Latin America Diaries 9781644211007; Diarios de Motocicleta 9781644211380

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Verso | Paperback  
978-1-84467-418-3 | 320 pp. | $23.95 / $31.95 Can.  
eBook: 9781844674718

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First-Year & Common Reading 2022
The World
A Brief Introduction
By Richard Haass

We are connected to this world in all sorts of ways. We need to better understand it, both its promise and its threats, in order to make informed choices, be it as students, citizens, or voters. *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 as history continues to unfold.

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.

Redbone
By Thibault Balahy; Christian Staebler; Sonia Paoloni

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.

On Diversity
The Eclipse of the Individual in a Global Era
By Russell Jacoby

It could be argued—and esteemed historian of ideas Russell Jacoby does so here—that the less diversity there is, the more we talk about it. But what does the term actually mean? Where does it come from? Moreover, how do we square our recognition of the importance of diversity with the fact that the world is becoming more and more, well, homogeneous? In fine prose and lucid argument, Jacoby puts our volatile present into historical context.

To request examination copies, email commonreads@prh.com
The eNViroNMeNT theme: Being Connected

Every Day the River Changes
Four Weeks Down the Magdalena

By Jordan Salama

A
n American writer of Argentine, Syrian, and Iraqi Jewish descent, Jordan Salama tells the story of the Rio Magdalena. Nearly one thousand miles long, it runs through the heart of Colombia: its territory belongs to Gabriel García Márquez as much as of the Middle Eastern immigrants who live by its banks. Following the river from its source high in the Andes to its mouth on the Caribbean coast, Salama writes against stereotype and toward the rich lives of those who live along its path, including a builder of wooden canoes, biologists who study wild hippopotamuses, a jeweler practicing the art of silver filigree, and a traveling librarian whose donkeys haul books to rural children.

Salama’s eye catches what’s surprising and hilarious, as well as what’s grim and undeniable—from his experience riding a motobalinera, a funny improvised vehicle which runs on train tracks, to the heartbreak of a village where the bodies of unknown victims of war are buried, and those bodies are now taken to be saints, bringing blessings and miracles. Every Day the River Changes is travel writing for a new generation of socially aware students and travelers who reject stereotypes about a much maligned place, and encourages us to look at what’s truthful.

Every Day the River Changes
Penguin Books | Paperback
978-0-14-313392-6
320 pp. | $18.00 / $24.00 Can.
eBook: 9780525505716

Unraveled
The Life and Death of a Garment
By Maxine Bédat

In Unraveled, entrepreneur, researcher, and advocate Maxine Bédat follows the life of a pair of jeans to reveal what really happens to give us our clothes. We visit a Texas cotton farm, weaving factories in China, and sewing floors in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Unraveled is not just the story of a pair of pants, but also the story of our global economy and our role in it. Told with piercing insight, it challenges us to reclaim our central role as citizens to refashion a society in which all people can thrive and preserve the planet for future generations.

Unraveled
Portfolio | Hardcover
978-0-593-08597-4
336 pp. | $27.00 / $36.00 Can.
eBook: 9780593085981

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.

Tales of Two Planets
Penguin Books | Paperback
978-0-14-313392-6
320 pp. | $18.00 / $24.00 Can.
eBook: 9780525505716
The Climate Diet
50 Simple Ways to Trim Your Carbon Footprint
By Paul Greenberg

The task of cutting down our carbon emissions feels overwhelming and the discipline required hard to summon. With The Climate Diet, food and environmental writer Paul Greenberg offers us the practical, accessible guide we all need. It contains fifty achievable steps we can take to live our daily lives in a way that’s friendlier to the planet—from what we eat, how we live at home, how we travel, and how we lobby businesses and elected officials to do the right thing.

Regeneration
Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation
By Paul Hawken

Regeneration describes how an inclusive movement can engage the majority of humanity to save the world from the threat of global warming, with climate solutions that directly serve our children, the poor, and the excluded. This means we must address current human needs with initiatives that include but go well beyond solar, electric vehicles, and tree planting to include such solutions as the fifteen-minute city, bioregions, azolla fern, food localization, fire ecology, decommodification, forests as farms, and the number one solution for the world: electrifying everything.

Under the Sky We Make
How to Be Human in a Warming World
By Kimberly Nicholas, PhD

After speaking to the international public for close to fifteen years about sustainability, climate scientist Dr. Nicholas realized that concerned people were getting the wrong message about the climate crisis. Yes, companies and governments are hugely responsible for the mess we’re in. But individuals can effect real, significant, and lasting change to solve this problem. Nicholas explores finding purpose in a warming world, combining her scientific expertise and her personal experience.

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 collects Greta’s 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.
Finding the Mother Tree
Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest
By Suzanne Simard

Suzanne Simard is a pioneer on the frontier of plant communication and intelligence; who has been compared to Rachel Carson, and hailed as a scientist who conveys complex, technical ideas in a way that is dazzling and profound. Her work has influenced filmmakers (the Tree of Souls of James Cameron’s Avatar) and her TED talks have been viewed by more than 10 million people worldwide. Simard writes how trees, living side by side for hundreds of years, have evolved, how they perceive one another, learn and adapt their behaviors, recognize neighbors, and remember the past; how they have agency about the future, compete and cooperate with one another with sophistication, characteristics ascribed to human intelligence.

Simard also writes of her own life, born and raised into a logging world in the rainforests of British Columbia, of her days as a child spent cataloging the trees from the forest and how she came to love and respect them. She writes of her scientific quest, making us understand how deeply human scientific inquiry exists beyond data and technology, that it is about understanding who we are and our place in the world, and, in writing of her own life, we come to see the true connectedness of the Mother Tree that nurtures the forest in the profound ways that families and human societies do.

“Simard’s dedication to unveiling nature’s complexity is rendered poignant in light of her candidly shared struggles against misogyny and cancer. Having proven scientifically what indigenous cultures have always known about nature’s glorious mutualism, Simard calls for the protection of all ecosystems so that all of life will endure. A masterwork of planetary significance.”—Booklist (starred review)

“It feels like a privilege to be let into her life.”—Emma Marris, Nature

Suzanne Simard was born in the Monashee Mountains of British Columbia and was educated at the University of British Columbia and Oregon State University. She is Professor of Forest Ecology in the University of British Columbia’s Faculty of Forestry.

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Video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=lizKniX0F_M
TEDx Video: tinyurl.com/3rnd5c5h

“The interplay of personal narrative, scientific insights, and the amazing revelations about the life of the forest make a compelling story. These are stories that the world needs to hear.”

—Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of Braiding Sweetgrass
Warmth
Coming of Age at the End of Our World
By Daniel Sherrell

Warmth is a new kind of book about climate change: not what it is or how we solve it, but how it feels to imagine a future—and a family—under its weight. In a fiercely personal account written from inside the climate movement, Sherrell lays bare how the crisis is transforming our relationships to time, to hope, and to each other. At once a memoir, a love letter, and an electric work of criticism, Warmth goes to the heart of the defining question of our time: how do we go on in a world that may not?

“Searchingly honest . . . the work of someone actively engaged in the most important fight of our time . . . and also of a writer able to establish the necessary distance. Dan Sherrell is smart, obviously, but he’s also something much more important: open, vulnerable, able to face fully that which we all must grapple with in this overheating century.”—Bill McKibben, New York Times bestselling author of Falter

“A moving, beautifully written memoir of an activist’s coming-of-age in this era of climate disruption. It is also a powerful and profound meditation on writing, language and story-telling, and their relationship to politics and activism.”—Amitav Ghosh, author of The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable

Penguin Books | Paperback
978-0-14-313653-8 | 272 pp. | $17.00 / $23.00 Can.
eBook: 9780525508052

All We Can Save
Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis
Edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson & Katharine K. Wilkinson

All We Can Save illuminates the expertise and insights of dozens of diverse women leading on climate in the United States—scientists, journalists, farmers, lawyers, teachers, and activists across generations, geographies, and race—and aims to advance a more representative, nuanced, and solution-oriented public conversation on the climate crisis. Intermixing essays with poetry and art, this book is both a balm and a guide for understanding what has been done to the world, and how we can fight for our collective future.

Website: www.allwecansave.earth
Twitter: @ayanaeliza @DrKWilkinson

Selected for Common Reading at:
Feather River College and Moraine Valley Community College

One World | Paperback
978-0-593-23708-3 | 448 pp. | $18.00 / $24.00 Can.
eBook: 9780593237076

The Uninhabitable Earth
Life After Warming
By David Wallace-Wells

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.

Selected for Common Reading at:
College of the Holy Cross

Tim Duggan Books | Paperback
978-0-525-57576-6 | 384 pp. | $18.00 / $24.00 Can.
eBook: 9780525575723

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

Theme: Health & Wellbeing, Climate Change

To request examination copies, email commonreads@prh.com
At a time when countless communities are resisting powerful corporations—from Flint, Michigan, to the Standing Rock Reservation, to Didipio in the Philippines, to the Gualcarque River in Honduras—*The Water Defenders* tells the inspirational story of a community that took on an international mining corporation at seemingly insurmountable odds and won not one but two historic victories.

In the early 2000s, many people in El Salvador were at first excited by the prospect of jobs, progress, and prosperity that the Pacific Rim mining company promised. However, farmer Vidalina Morales, brothers Marcelo and Miguel Rivera, and others soon discovered that the river system supplying water to the majority of Salvadorans was in danger of catastrophic contamination. With a group of unlikely allies, local and global, they committed to stop the corporation and the destruction of their home.

Based on over a decade of research and their own role as international allies of the community groups in El Salvador, Robin Broad and John Cavanagh unspool this untold story—a tale replete with corporate greed, a transnational lawsuit at a secretive World Bank tribunal in Washington, violent threats, murders, and—surprisingly—victory. The husband-and-wife duo immerses the reader in the lives of the Salvadoran villagers, the journeys of the local activists who sought the truth about the effects of gold mining on the environment, and the behind-the-scenes maneuverings of the corporate mining executives and their lawyers. *The Water Defenders* demands that we examine our assumptions about progress and prosperity, while providing valuable lessons for those fighting against destructive corporations in the United States and across the world.

“If you ever felt that your own contribution didn’t matter and that the powerful always win, this captivating saga will help you envision who truly has power if we unleash our imaginations and act together.”—Ai-jen Poo, executive director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance

Robin Broad is an expert in international development and was awarded a prestigious Guggenheim fellowship for her work surrounding mining in El Salvador, as well as two previous MacArthur fellowships. A professor at American University, she served as an international economist in the US Treasury Department, in the US Congress, and at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Broad and her husband, John Cavanagh, have been involved in the Salvadoran gold mining saga since 2009. They helped build the network of international allies that spearheaded the global fight against mining in El Salvador. They have co-authored several previous books together.

John Cavanagh is director of the Washington, DC-based Institute for Policy Studies, an organization that collaborates with the Poor People’s Campaign and other dynamic social movements to turn ideas into action for peace, justice, and the environment. Previously, he worked with the United Nations to research corporate power. Cavanagh and his wife, Robin Broad, have been involved in the Salvadoran gold mining saga since 2009. They helped build the network of international allies that spearheaded the global fight against mining in El Salvador. They have coauthored several previous books together.
The Future We Choose
The Stubborn Optimist’s Guide to the Climate Crisis
By Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac

Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac—who led negotiations for the United Nations during the historic Paris Agreement of 2015—have written a cautionary but optimistic book about the world’s changing climate and the fate of humanity.

The authors outline two possible scenarios for our planet. In one, they describe what life on Earth will be like by 2050 if we fail to meet the Paris climate targets. In the other, they lay out what it will be like to live in a carbon neutral, regenerative world. They argue for confronting the climate crisis head on, with determination and optimism. The Future We Choose presents our options and tells us, in no uncertain terms, what governments, corporations, and each of us can and must do to fend off disaster.

“The Paris Agreement was a landmark for humankind. In this timely and important book, two of the principal creators of that agreement show us why and how we can now realize its promise. I hope it is widely read and acted on.”
—Jane Goodall, author of In the Shadow of Man

“There could not be a more important book.”—Richard Branson

Website: tiny.cc/zem2uz
Twitter: @CFigueres / @tomcarnac

The Story of More
How We Got to Climate Change and Where to Go from Here
By Hope Jahren

In The Story of More, Hope Jahren illuminates the link between human habits and the imperiled planet. In concise, highly readable chapters, she explains the current and projected consequences of global warming—from superstorms to rising sea levels—and the actions that we all can take to fight back. At once an explainer on the mechanisms of global change and a lively, personal narrative, The Story of More is the essential pocket primer on climate change that will leave an indelible impact on everyone who reads it.

“Hope Jahren is the voice that science has been waiting for.”
—Nature

Website: hopejahrenssecurecanwrite.com
Video: tiny.cc/j9k2uz
Twitter: @HopeJahren
Facebook: tiny.cc/j9k2uz

Selected for Common Reading at: College of Charleston; Northwestern University; University of South Carolina Upstate

The Loneliest Polar Bear
A True Story of Survival and Peril on the Edge of a Warming World
By Kale Williams

Six days after giving birth, a polar bear named Aurora got up and walked away from her den at the Columbus Zoo, leaving her tiny squealing cub to fend for herself. The zookeepers entrusted with her care felt they had no choice: They would have to raise one of the most dangerous predators in the world by hand. The Loneliest Polar Bear explores the fraught relationship humans have with the natural world, the exploitative and sinister causes of the environmental mess we find ourselves in, and how the fate of polar bears is not theirs alone.

Website: www.kale-williams.com
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Facebook: kalesposts

To request examination copies, email commonreads@prh.com
How to Avoid a Climate Disaster
The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need
By Bill Gates

In this urgent, authoritative book, Bill Gates sets out a wide-ranging, practical—and accessible—plan for how the world can get to zero greenhouse gas emissions in time to avoid a climate catastrophe, suggesting not only policies that governments should adopt, but what we as individuals can do to keep our government, our employers, and ourselves accountable in this crucial enterprise. Drawing on his understanding of innovation, he describes the areas in which technology is already helping to reduce emissions, how the current technology can be made to function more effectively, where breakthrough technologies are needed, and who is working on these essential innovations.

"His expertise . . . is apparent in the book’s lucid explanations of the scientific aspects of climate change. The solutions he outlines are pragmatic and grounded in forward-thinking economic reasoning. Although he does not avoid the hard truths we must face as our climate changes, Gates remains optimistic and believes that we have the ability to avoid a total climate disaster.”—Miriam R. Aczel, Science

Under a White Sky
The Nature of the Future
By Elizabeth Kolbert

The Pulitzer Prize–winning author of The Sixth Extinction returns to humanity’s transformative impact on the environment, now asking: After doing so much damage, can we change nature, this time to save it?

In Under a White Sky, Elizabeth Kolbert meets biologists who are trying to preserve the world’s rarest fish, which lives in a single tiny pool in the middle of the Mojave; engineers who are turning carbon emissions to stone in Iceland; Australian researchers who are trying to develop a “super coral” that can survive on a hotter globe; and physicists who are contemplating shooting tiny diamonds into the stratosphere to cool the earth.

One way to look at human civilization, says Kolbert, is as a 10,000-year exercise in defying nature. In The Sixth Extinction, she explored the ways in which our capacity for destruction has reshaped the natural world. Now she examines how the very sorts of interventions that have imperiled our planet are increasingly seen as the only hope for its salvation. By turns inspiring, terrifying, and darkly comic, Under a White Sky is an utterly original examination of the challenges we face.
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
Superman’s Not Coming
Our National Water Crisis and What We the People Can Do About It

By Erin Brockovich

In her long-awaited book—her first to reckon with the condition of water on our planet—Erin Brockovich shows us what’s at stake. She writes powerfully of the fraudulent science disguising our national water crisis: Cancer clusters are not being reported. People in Detroit and the state of New Jersey don’t have clean water. The drinking water for more than six million Americans contains unsafe levels of industrial chemicals linked to cancer and other health issues. Yet communities and people around the country are fighting to make an impact, and Brockovich tells us their stories.

In Poughkeepsie, New York, a water operator responded to his customers’ concerns and changed his system to create some of the safest water in the country. Local moms in Hannibal, Missouri, became the first citizens in the nation to file an ordinance prohibiting the use of ammonia in their public drinking water. Like them, we can each protect our right to clean water by fighting for better enforcement of laws, new legislation, and stronger regulations. Superman’s Not Coming is a stirring call to action and a guidebook that gives us the tools we need to take action ourselves, to make our voices heard, to ensure our water is safe, and to finally bring about change.

“Brockovich urges people to continue to fight for what they believe in. . . . [Her] belief in individual activism . . . is the guiding theme in her new book. . . . Inspirational.”—People

“Brockovich shows how bad things are, but she never gives in or despair. Instead, she wants to educate people about their options, to give them the tools to start asking for changes. . . . An impeccably researched book that brings science, court cases, depositions, interviews, history, and personal experience to the table to make strong points about the dire state of many of our water systems.”—Gabino Iglesias, NPR

Erin Brockovich is the president of Brockovich Research & Consulting and the founder of the Erin Brockovich Foundation, a nonprofit organization created to educate and empower communities in their fight for clean water. She lives in Southern California.

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Facebook: tiny.cc/q9k2uz
Video: tiny.cc/s9k2uz

“The celebrated environmental activist details her continuing fight to keep chemicals out of groundwater, highlighting the stakes and offering advice to concerned citizens.”

—The New York Times Book Review

82 First-Year & Common Reading 2022
In Epidemic Illusions, Eugene Richardson, a physician and an anthropologist, contends that public health practices—from epidemiological modeling and outbreak containment to Big Data and causal inference—play an essential role in perpetuating a range of global inequities. Drawing on postcolonial theory, medical anthropology, and critical science studies, Richardson demonstrates the ways in which the flagship discipline of epidemiology has been shaped by the colonial, racist, and patriarchal system that had its inception in 1492.

Deploying a range of rhetorical tools, including ironism, "redescriptions" of public health crises, Platonic dialogue, flash fiction, allegory, and koan, Richardson describes how epidemiology uses models of disease causation that serve protected affluence (the possessing classes) by setting epistemic limits to the understanding of why some groups live sicker lives than others—limits that sustain predatory accumulation rather than challenge it. Drawing on his clinical work in a variety of epidemics, including Ebola in West Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo, leishmania in the Sudan, HIV/TB in southern Africa, diphtheria in Bangladesh, and SARS-CoV-2 in the United States, he concludes that the biggest epidemic we currently face is an epidemic of illusions—one that is propagated by the coloniality of knowledge production.
Every Minute Is a Day
A Doctor, an Emergency Room, and a City Under Siege
By Robert Meyer, MD, and Dan Koeppe

Every Minute Is a Day takes us into a hospital ravaged by Covid-19 and is filled with the stories of promises made that may be impossible to keep, of life or death choices for patients and their families, and of selflessness on the part of medical professionals who put themselves at incalculable risk. The result is an intimate record of historic turmoil and grief from the perspective of a remarkably resilient ER doctor.

Hidden Valley Road
Inside the Mind of an American Family
By Robert Kolker

This is the story of a midcentury American family with twelve children, six of them diagnosed with schizophrenia, that became science’s hope in the quest to understand the disease. “Kolker tells their story with great compassion, burrowing inside the particular delusions and hospitalizations of each brother while chronicling the family’s increasingly desperate search for help. But Hidden Valley Road is more than a narrative of despair, and some of the most compelling chapters come from its other half, as a medical mystery.”—Sam Dolnick, The New York Times Book Review

Hooked
Food, Free Will, and How the Food Giants Exploit Our Addictions
By Michael Moss

Pulitzer Prize–winning investigative reporter Michael Moss uses the latest research on addiction to uncover what the scientific and medical communities already know: that food, in some cases, is even more addictive than alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs. A gripping account of the legal battles, insidious marketing campaigns, and cutting-edge food science that have brought us to our current public health crisis, Hooked lays out all that the food industry is doing to exploit and deepen our addictions, and shows us why what we eat has never mattered more.

Resetting the Table
Straight Talk About the Food We Grow and Eat
By Robert Paarlberg

Resetting the Table is a corrective to the groundswell of misinformation about food and how it’s produced, examining local and organic food, food companies, environmental impact, and every other aspect from farm to table.

“Dr. Paarlberg cogently argues for the potential power and benefits of science in farming—while aptly wondering if we can trust ourselves to use this power responsibly. . . . And, he calls for America’s commercial farmers to help bridge that gap by joining the advocacy movement for better nutrition and health.”—Dariush Mozaffarian, Friedman School of Nutrition Science & Policy, Tufts University
The Plague Year
America in the Time of Covid
By Lawrence Wright

The Plague Year is an unprecedented, momentous account of Covid-19—its origins, its wide-ranging repercussions, and the ongoing global fight to contain it.

From the fateful first moments of the outbreak in China to the storming of the U.S. Capitol to the extraordinary vaccine rollout, The Plague Year tells the story of Covid-19 in authoritative detail and with the full drama of events on both a global and intimate scale, illuminating the medical, economic, political, and social ramifications of the pandemic. Lawrence Wright is a formidable guide, slicing through the dense fog of misinformation to give us a 360-degree portrait of the catastrophe we thought we knew as we lived through it.

“A virtuoso feat…[Wright has] given us a book of panoramic breadth, [ranging] from science to politics to economics to culture with a commanding scrutiny, managing to surprise us about even those episodes we have only recently lived through and thought we knew well. The story he tells is immediate and often piercingly intimate…The Plague Year has lively exchanges about spike proteins and nonpharmaceutical interventions and disease waves, [and] Wright’s storytelling dexterity makes all this come alive.”—Sonali Deraniyagala, The New York Times Book Review

A Shot to Save the World
Inside the Life-or-Death Race for a Covid-19 Vaccine
By Gregory Zuckerman

When COVID-19 hit, and the infection rate surged around the world, an unlikely group of heroes emerged, misfit nerds hurled into a life-or-death battle against both the virus and rival scientists gunning to make the first breakthrough. A Shot to Save the World is the heart-pounding story of scientists’ sprint for the COVID-19 vaccine, fulfilling decades of unheralded work on mRNA and immunology. Zuckerman takes us inside the top-secret laboratories and government negotiations that determined the trajectory of the pandemic.

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, and more than 20 percent of millennials say they have “no friends at all.” And technology isn’t the lone culprit. Rather, the crisis stems from the dismantling of civic institutions, the reorganization of the workplace, mass urban migration, and decades of policies that placed self-interest above the collective good. The Lonely Century diagnoses the problem and offers a vision for how to heal our communities and restore connection in our lives.
PUBLIC HEALTH
Themes: Resilience, Pandemic

Voices from the Pandemic
Americans Tell Their Stories of Crisis, Courage and Resilience
By Eli Saslow

Voices from the Pandemic is a powerful oral history and cathartic portrait of a country grappling with the Covid-19 pandemic—from fear and overload to extraordinary resilience—told through voices of people from all across America. The Covid-19 pandemic was a world-shattering event, affecting everyone in the nation. From its first ominous stirrings, renowned Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington Post journalist Eli Saslow began interviewing a cross-section of Americans, capturing their experiences in real time: An exhausted and anguished EMT risking his life in New York City; a grocery store owner feeding his neighborhood for free in locked-down New Orleans; an overwhelmed coroner in Georgia; a Maryland restaurateur forced to close his family business after forty-six years; an Arizona teacher wrestling with her fears and her obligations to her students; rural citizens adamant that the whole thing is a hoax, and retail workers attacked for asking people to wear masks; patients struggling to breathe and doctors desperately trying to save them.

Through Saslow’s masterful, empathetic interviewing, we are given a kaleidoscopic picture of a people dealing with the unimaginable and see Americans at their worst, and at their resilient best.

“The breadth of Saslow’s reporting astonishes, as does the directness and vulnerability of his interview subjects. This powerful, unputdownable account should be required reading.”—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

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Also Available: Rising Out of Hatred
9780525434955

Twitter: @elisaslow

Theme: Health & Wellbeing

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. Paced like a scientific thriller, 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.

What the Eyes Don’t See is a riveting account of a shameful disaster that became a tale of hope, the story of a city on the ropes that came together to fight for justice, self-determination, and the right to build a better world for all children.

Website: monahannaattisha.com
Twitter: @MonaHannaA
Facebook: MonaHannaA
Video: tiny.cc/d002uz

Selected for Common Reading at:
Tufts University School of Medicine,
University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy, University of Iowa College of Public Health, University of Kansas Medical Center, and more
In The Alchemy of Us, scientist and science writer Ainissa Ramirez examines eight inventions—clocks, steel rails, copper communication cables, photographic film, light bulbs, hard disks, scientific labware, and silicon chips—and reveals how they shaped the human experience. Ramirez tells the stories of the woman who sold time, the inventor who inspired Edison, and the hotheaded undertaker whose invention pointed the way to the computer. She describes, among other things, how our pursuit of precision in timepieces changed how we sleep; how the railroad helped commercialize Christmas; how the necessary brevity of the telegram influenced Hemingway’s writing style; and how a young chemist exposed the use of Polaroid’s cameras to create passbooks to track Black citizens in apartheid South Africa. These fascinating and inspiring stories offer new perspectives on our relationships with technologies.

“This book is full of interesting vignettes of inventions you might think you know about. However, you are unlikely to know the colorful histories of the people behind the stories or all the consequences of the inventions, as spelled out here.”—Professor Dame Athene Donald, Professor of Experimental Physics, University of Cambridge, and Master of Churchill College

Ainissa Ramirez is a materials scientist and sought-after public speaker and science communicator. A Brown and Stanford graduate, she has worked as a research scientist at Bell Labs and held academic positions at Yale University and MIT. She has written for Time, Scientific American, the American Scientist, and Forbes, and makes regular appearances on PBS’s SciTech Now.

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—Professor Dame Athene Donald, Professor of Experimental Physics, University of Cambridge, and Master of Churchill College

Selected for Common Reading at:
Yale School of the Environment

The Alchemy of Us
How Humans and Matter Transformed One Another

Ainissa Ramirez

In The Alchemy of Us, scientist and science writer Ainissa Ramirez examines eight inventions—clocks, steel rails, copper communication cables, photographic film, light bulbs, hard disks, scientific labware, and silicon chips—and reveals how they shaped the human experience. Ramirez tells the stories of the woman who sold time, the inventor who inspired Edison, and the hotheaded undertaker whose invention pointed the way to the computer. She describes, among other things, how our pursuit of precision in timepieces changed how we sleep; how the railroad helped commercialize Christmas; how the necessary brevity of the telegram influenced Hemingway’s writing style; and how a young chemist exposed the use of Polaroid’s cameras to create passbooks to track Black citizens in apartheid South Africa. These fascinating and inspiring stories offer new perspectives on our relationships with technologies.

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Twitter: @ainissaramirez

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—Professor Dame Athene Donald, Professor of Experimental Physics, University of Cambridge, and Master of Churchill College
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, MIT professor Sinan Aral tackles the critical question of just how much social media actually shapes our choices. Along the way, he covers a wide array of topics, including how the neuroscience of how social media affects our brains, and the real consequences of fake news. In mapping out strategies for being more thoughtful consumers of social media, The Hype Machine offers the definitive guide to understanding and harnessing for good the technology that has redefined our world overnight.

Numbers Don’t Lie
71 Stories to Help Us Understand the Modern World
By Vaclav Smil
Numbers Don’t Lie is an essential guide to understanding how numbers reveal the true state of our world—exploring a wide range of topics including energy, the environment, technology, transportation, and food production. From data about our societies and populations, through measures of the fuels and foods that energize them, to the impact of transportation and inventions of our modern world—and how all of this affects the planet itself—in Numbers Don’t Lie, Vaclav Smil takes us on a fact-finding adventure, using surprising statistics and illuminating graphs to challenge conventional thinking.

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.

Weapons of Math Destruction
How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy
By Cathy O’Neil
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 algorithms. In theory, this should lead to greater fairness. But as mathematician and data scientist Cathy O’Neil reveals, the mathematical models being used today are unregulated, uncontestable, and reinforce discrimination, undermining our democracy in the process. Welcome to the dark side of Big Data.
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. We are fairly well equipped to spot the sort of old-school falsehoods that are based in fancy rhetoric and weasel words, but most of us don’t feel qualified to challenge the avalanche of new-school misinformation 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.

Drawing on a deep well of expertise in statistics and computational biology, Bergstrom and West exuberantly unpack examples of selection bias and muddled data visualization, distinguish between correlation and causation, and examine the susceptibility of science to modern bullshit. We have always needed people who call bullshit when necessary, whether within a circle of friends, a community of scholars, or the citizenry of a nation. Now that bullshit has evolved, we need to relearn the art of skepticism.

Website: www.callingbullshit.org
Twitter: @CT_Bergstrom, @jevinwest

Grasp
The Science Transforming How We Learn

By Sanjay Sarma with Luke Yoquinto

In this groundbreaking look at the science of learning, Sanjay Sarma, head of Open Learning at MIT, draws from his own experience as an educator as well as the work of researchers and innovators at MIT and beyond, to show how we can harness this knowledge to discover our true potential.

The book takes readers across multiple frontiers, from fundamental neuroscience to cognitive psychology and beyond, as it considers the future of learning. It introduces scientists who study forgetting, exposing it not as a simple failure of memory but as a critical weapon in our learning arsenal. It examines the role curiosity plays in promoting a state of “readiness to learn” in the brain (and its troublesome twin, “unreadiness to learn”). Along the way, Grasp debunks long-held views such as the noxious idea of “learning styles,” equipping students with practical tools for absorbing and retaining information across a lifetime of learning.

“An amazing book. . . . The authors provide an overview of the neural and cognitive processes that support learning. . . . They make a convincing case that students have an amazing capacity to learn.”—Robert A. Bjork, Distinguished Research Professor of Psychology, UCLA

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**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

### 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.

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### Shape
*The Hidden Geometry of Information, Biology, Strategy, Democracy, and Everything Else*
*By Jordan Ellenberg*

From the *New York Times*-bestselling author of *How Not to Be Wrong*—himself a world-class geometer—a far-ranging exploration of the power of geometry, which turns out to help us think better about practically everything.

"Unreasonably entertaining. . . . Reveals how geometric thinking can allow for everything from fairer American elections to better pandemic planning."—*The New York Times*

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### A Quantum Life
*My Unlikely Journey from the Street to the Stars*
*By Hakeem Oluseyi and Joshua Horwitz*

Navigating poverty, violence, and instability, a young James Plummer had two guiding stars—a genius IQ and a love of science. In this memoir, James recounts how, once admitted to the elite physics PhD program at Stanford University and with the encouragement of his mentor and the sole Black professor in the department, he confronted his personal demons as well as the entrenched racism and classism of the scientific establishment. When he finally seized his dream of a life in astrophysics, he adopted a new name, Hakeem Muata Oluseyi, to honor his African ancestors.

[Website: hakeemoluseyi.com](https://hakeemoluseyi.com)
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### 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*

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Selected for Common Reading at: Georgia Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins University, Morehouse School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles, and more
**Handprints on Hubble**

*An Astronaut’s Story of Invention*

*By Kathryn D. Sullivan*

In *Handprints on Hubble*, 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. 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, shows us the view from a spacewalk, and recounts the temporary grounding of the shuttle program after the Challenger disaster.

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**Girl Decoded**

*A Scientist’s Quest to Reclaim Our Humanity by Bringing Emotional Intelligence to Technology*

*By Rana el Kaliouby with Carol Colman*

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. To combat the fundamental loss of emotional intelligence online, el Kaliouby cofounded Affectiva, the pioneer in the new field of Emotion AI, allowing technology to understand humans the way we understand one another. *Girl Decoded* chronicles el Kaliouby’s journey from being a “nice Egyptian girl” to becoming a woman, 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*
The Sirens of Mars
Searching for Life on Another World
By Sarah Stewart Johnson

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, with poetic precision, interlaces her own personal journey—as a female scientist and a mother—with tales of those who have come before her. In the process, she creates an unlikely natural history of a place where no human has ever set foot.

Livewired
The Inside Story of the Ever-Changing Brain
By David Eagleman

In Livewired, students will surf the leading edge of neuroscience atop the anecdotes and metaphors that have made David Eagleman one of the best scientific translators of our generation.

“Eagleman’s infectious enthusiasm, his use of fascinating anecdotes, and his clear, effortless prose render the secrets of the brain’s adaptability into a truly compelling page-turner.”—Khaled Hosseini, author of The Kite Runner

The Plant Hunter
A Scientist’s Quest for Nature’s Next Medicines
By Cassandra Leah Quave

Plants are the basis for an array of lifesaving and health-improving medicines we all now take for granted. No one understands this better than Dr. Cassandra Quave, whose groundbreaking research as a leading medical ethnobotanist—someone who identifies and studies plants that may be able to treat antimicrobial resistance and other threatening illnesses—is helping to provide clues for the next generation of advanced medicines. In The Plant Hunter, Dr. Quave weaves together science, botany, and memoir to tell us the extraordinary story of her own journey.

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. . . . Funny, edgy, fascinating, dismaying, reassuring, and overall, just incredibly smart.”—Deborah Blum, author of The Poison Squad
Inevitably, life on Earth will come to an end. To avoid extinction, we will have to find a new home planet, perhaps even a new solar system, to inhabit. In this provocative and fascinating book, Christopher Mason argues that we have a moral duty to do just that. As the only species aware that life on Earth has an expiration date, we have a responsibility to act as the shepherd of life-forms—not only for our species but for all species on which we depend and for those still to come.

As they are today, our frail human bodies could never survive travel to another habitable planet. Mason describes the toll that long-term space travel took on astronaut Scott Kelly, who returned from a year on the International Space Station with changes to his blood, bones, and genes. Mason proposes a ten-phase, 500-year program that would engineer the genome so that humans can tolerate the extreme environments of outer space—with the ultimate goal of achieving human settlement of new solar systems. He lays out a roadmap of which solar systems to visit first, and merges biotechnology, philosophy, and genetics to offer an unparalleled vision of the universe to come.
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