

2020 AFRICAN AMERICAN BOOKLIST



African Americans in U.S. Politics: 150 Years



2020 AFRICAN AMERICAN BOOKLIST

The Detroit Public Library has published its African American Booklist for 52 years. This bibliography provides a selected list of books by and/or about African Americans. The works of fiction and nonfiction for adults, children and young adults were reviewed and recommended by librarians of the Detroit Public Library.

The African American Booklist began as a way to commemorate Black History Month and since that time has continued to feature the accomplishments of African Americans in the literary world. Our booklist has become an annual tradition in the community and continues to be a highly anticipated publication for book lovers all across the nation.

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"The First Colored Senator and Representatives, in the 41st and 42nd Congress of the United States," New York: Currier & Ives, 1872. Group portrait of African American legislators: Robert C. De Large, Jefferson H. Long, H.R. Revels, Benjamin S. Turner, Josiah T. Walls, Joseph H. Rainey, and R. Brown Elliot. Digital image provided by the Cator Collection, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD.

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BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM

LIFT EV'RY VOICE AND SING

Lyrics by: James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand.
True to our God,
True to our native land.

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PHOTO CREDIT: KATHRYN DOWGIEWICZ

A presidential election will be held in November 2020, and this year is also the 150th anniversary of the Reconstruction Era (1870-1877). For these reasons, our 2020 African American Booklist focuses in part on when and where African Americans entered the historical record as elected officials.

Dr. Dianne Pinderhughes' enlightening essay chronicles the lives of many African American politicians who played major roles in reshaping American politics during the past 150 years. Dr. Pinderhughes is the University of Notre Dame Presidential Faculty Fellow, and Professor in the Department of Africana Studies and the Department of Political Science. In 2014, she co-authored "Uneven Roads: An Introduction to US Racial and Ethnic Politics" and in 2016, she co-authored Contested Transformation: Race, Gender, and Political Leadership in 21st Century America.

On the subject of Reconstruction and beyond, Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr., the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and Director of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University, has contributed an extensive bibliography. Dr. Gates' documentary "Reconstruction: America after the Civil War," earned rave reviews in 2019 when it was presented on PBS. Additionally, Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow and Dark Sky Rising: Reconstruction and the Dawn of Jim Crow with Tonya Bolden, his two books on the subject, were published in 2019.

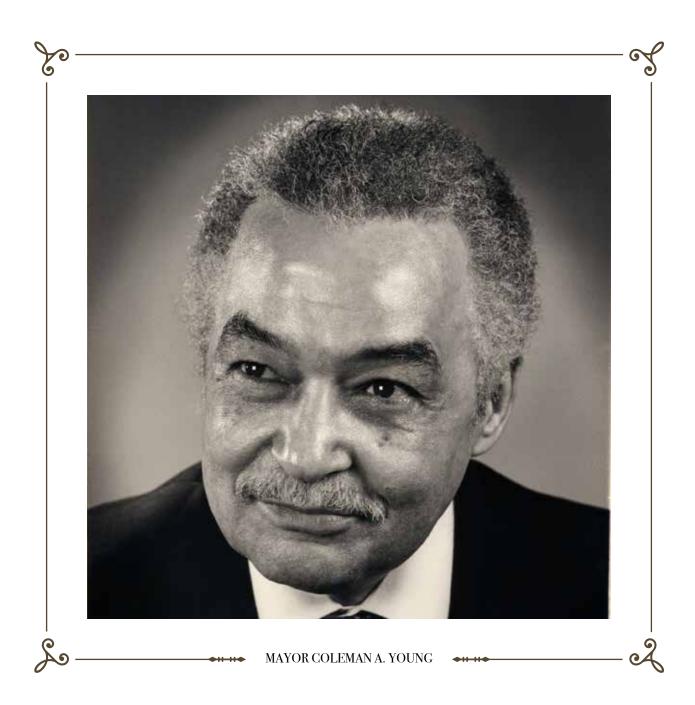
Detroit has a rich history of African Americans' involvement in national and local politics. Indeed, Detroit's Congressmen Charles C. Diggs Jr., and John Conyers Jr., were among the original founders of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1971. In the 1880s, Samuel C. Watson was the first African American elected to the Detroit City Council. It would be 75 years later before another African American, William T. Patrick, was elected to Council in 1957. Erma Henderson was the first African American woman elected to Council in 1972.

Locally, there's no more significant figure than Detroit's first African American mayor, Coleman Alexander Young, who served from 1973-1992. The essay by Khary Kimani Turner, the executive director of the Coleman A. Young Foundation, is a reflection on Mayor Young's leadership. He writes, "Coleman Young, like him or not, was remarkable. And his legacy is a template for anyone who desires to lead passionately, and unapologetically."

I deeply appreciate the fine work of the many librarians who recommended the best of 2019 fiction and non-fiction, and for the devoted editing and design team. Please visit your favorite DPL location to check out the huge selection of titles. While some readers prefer traditional books, others are committed to e-books or audio books. Whatever your preference, just keep reading!

Jo Anne G. Mondowney Executive Director

anne & Mondowney



Mayor Coleman A. Young: A Legacy of Leadership

By Khary Kimani Turner

Mayor Coleman Alexander Young was the right leader for Detroit, at the right time. He moved the city into an era of surging African-American population and political power. His own struggles with racism and his progressive organizing, facilitated a keen concern for justice, equity and inclusion for Detroiters, particularly its oppressed classes. Born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in 1918, to a barber (father) and a teacher (mother), his family moved to Detroit in 1923. He graduated second in his class from Eastern High School and, soon after, was accepted to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

U of M offered Young an academic scholarship, but rescinded its offer of room and board after learning that he was black. He declined to enroll. Later, he was drafted to serve in the armed forces during World War II. He became a lieutenant, and a member of the iconic Tuskegee Airmen. Young was arrested, along with 100 other black officers, for trying to integrate an all-white officers club.

The war ended, and the federal government began monitoring Young's organizing activity. In 1952, he was ordered to appear before the House Un-American Activities Committee. He became the first witness to confront the committee, and his testimony was broadcast on radio. This made him a hero.

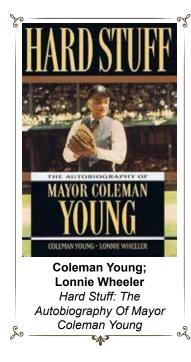
It also got him blacklisted. For years, he struggled to find work. He drove a cab, worked as a dry cleaner, and a wall washer. He couldn't afford adequate healthcare and, without it, his pregnant wife Marion miscarried their child. Their marriage soon after collapsed.



"Politics might be described as the art of getting along with people in group and amassing enough people on your side to advance in a given direction at a given moment, or failing to do so, losing you're a *s at a given moment."

- From The Quotations of Mayor Coleman A. Young, New Edition, Wayne State University Press, 2005.

YOUNG (con't)



Young entered into politics in the 1960s, was elected to the Michigan State Senate in 1964, and became Detroit's first African-American mayor in 1973. He immediately resolved to cure the city of police brutality issues that led to the 1967 Rebellion, and integrating the city's police and fire departments were among his first accomplishments. This signaled a new day, one driven by bold decisions, bolder pronouncements, and contentious relations with the surrounding suburbs, and the press. But Detroiters had a leader who looked, and lived, like them. And they loved him.

Mayor Young had little respect or patience for spin when it came to race, or issues that hurt the middle class. He practiced fairness and inclusion whether or not the cameras were trained on him. His administration still stands as the most diverse the city of Detroit has seen. His own security detail always consisted of equal numbers of black and white officers. He appointed more women to his administration than any mayor before him.

The Detroit in which we live today can trace the seeds of its growth to some of Mayor Young's initiatives. Convincing the late Mike Ilitch to purchase and renovate the Fox Theater, and then move his Little Caesars pizza headquarters there, instead of to the suburbs, made the Fox the cornerstone of a reestablished entertainment district. Today, Detroit's is among the largest such districts east of the Mississippi. All three of its major sports franchises

 the Detroit Pistons, Tigers and Lions – play today in separate stadiums located within three blocks of one another. And a host of performance venues, parks, restaurants, businesses large and small, ice skating rinks, and more, make it a walkable environment.

Similarly, Mayor Young convinced the Detroit Red Wings to stay in the city by pitching a new arena. He then pulled money from the city's surplus and, without financing in place, dug a small crater on the city's riverfront. Joe Louis Arena ended up filling that hole. He later did the same thing after deciding that a new African American Museum, located then on Frederick Street, in the city's cultural district, was too small. Under the same financial circumstances, the Mayor backed the digging of another hole, one block south, on Warren Avenue. The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History was built there, and it was the largest institution of its kind until the National Museum of African American History and Culture opened in Washington D.C. in 2016.

Mayor Young's steely resolve sometimes persevered in spite of his own base. The Dodge Main Plant on East Jefferson Avenue was built despite a great deal of community opposition. Resident concerns were understandable. Building the plant meant razing schools, churches, homes, uprooting and relocating people who had lived in the area for decades. How do you, in a time before social media and analytics, explain to an entire neighborhood data that predicts up to 30 years of economic decline and joblessness if some form of industry is not established in the area? The plant employed 3,000 people. The Chevy Volt was made there, and said decline was avoided.

The Detroit Free Press absolved Young of its past rancor when it published an exhaustive 2015 study titled, "How Detroit Went Broke: The answers may surprise you - and don't blame Coleman Young." The report used data to show that Young was the most fiscally responsible Mayor in the 20th century, and the only one in that timeframe to leave Detroit with a budget surplus.

Interestingly, one of his greatest achievements never garnered the same headlines as the rumors. Mayor Young decided in 1982, ten years before leaving office, to essentially give his wealth, approximately \$3 million, away. He established the Coleman A. Young Endowed Chair at Wayne State University, with a portion of it. Today, the Chair operates in Wayne's Urban Studies department.

He also established Coleman A. Young Foundation. Since its founding, also in 1982, the nonprofit has developed leadership among Detroit youth through scholarships, mentoring and other supports for their personal growth. The organization awards scholarships valued up to \$22,000, and then mentors recipients until they graduate from college.

The late Bob Berg, Mayor Young's press secretary during his second decade in office, said that Young, sitting at a table during one of CAYF's early scholarship banquets, leaned toward a colleague and said, "Of all the things I have done, I think this might be the best thing I accomplished." More than 500 college graduates, and more than 3,000 youth, might agree.

Coleman Young, like him or not, was remarkable. And his legacy is a template for anyone who desires to lead passionately, and unapologetically.





Khary Kimani Turner is the Executive Director of the Coleman A. Young Foundation.

| African Americans in U.S. Politics: 150 Years | 2

by Dianne M. Pinderhughes, PhD

INTRODUCTION

The essay for this year's African American Booklist explores the complex framework within which African American politics operate. In this 150th Anniversary of the passage of the 15th Amendment, the last of the post-Civil War Constitutional Amendments, the nation faces the 2020 presidential election. After the centuries of slavery and *de jure* segregation, as well as the challenges and successes of the 20th century Civil Rights Movement and 1960s civil rights legislation, the transition to the exciting years of an African American presidency was remarkable for most African American political observers.

African American partisan politics has undergone dramatic transitions from the 19th to the mid-20th century. Blacks, long affiliated with the Party of Lincoln, began the shift toward the Democratic Party as President Franklin Roosevelt created the social welfare policies that Lyndon Johnson's support for the 1965 Voting Rights Act and War on Poverty completed. Johnson's support for electoral and social welfare reform simultaneously led to the migration of southern whites and northern immigrants out of the Democratic party, and into affiliation with an increasingly conservative Republican Party in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.



The essay is organized to review the Reconstruction period, 20th century electoral politics and election to office, 21st century black elected officials and concludes with a discussion of 2020 presidential politics and 21st century challenges.

THE RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD: 1867 - 1877 AND ITS AFTERMATH

The years and decades of post-Civil War Reconstruction laid the foundation for electoral change and political participation by African Americans. The passage of the Civil War Constitutional Amendments, the 13th Amendment in 1865, the 14th Amendment in 1868, and the 15th Amendment in 1870, along with the Civil Rights Act of 1866, provided a framework for radically reforming the American political environment. The 13th Amendment declared slavery illegal throughout the United States. The 14th Amendment established citizenship for all including those formerly enslaved, and the 15th Amendment prevented state governments from denying the right to vote by race. These changes led to the first generation of black elected officials in the United States.

Reconstruction era laws racially democratized, or attempted to democratize, Southern society and politics from its aristocratic and elitist bearings by passing voter and other citizenship laws that were race-neutral. In a number of ways, it involved or mobilized large numbers of African Americans in processes that permitted them to deliberate and to make decisions about their futures at levels heretofore not possible. Union leagues were social and civic organizations partly comprised of veterans that recruited blacks to support the Republican Party and to use their newly won right to vote. Black political conventions and assemblies were held in a number of states and locales. They often included men and women and, both formally, and informally, debated prospective state constitutional revisions among other measures.

Because of this widespread black mobilization, the size of Reconstruction-era black populations (in three states blacks comprised a majority of eligible voters), as well as the temporary denial of the vote to white ex-confederates who had not yet sworn loyalty to the Union, black voters elected an unprecedented 1,465 black men to public office between 1867 and 1877. The journey of African American political freedom has many twists and turns; more blacks held office in the U.S. in 1873 than ninety years later in 1963. The African Americans elected to the U.S. Congress represented the southern states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina and Virginia. The range of offices held under Reconstruction years (1867-77) is impressive. Fourteen blacks were elected to Congress, one African American (Hiram Revels of Mississippi) served as a U.S. Senator. One African American (P.B.S. Pinchback of Louisiana) served briefly as governor of Louisiana and six served as lieutenant governors. In Mississippi and South Carolina, a majority of the state legislatures were black for a time, including 112 senators and 683 representatives. Four blacks served as state superintendents of education

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and at least one (Jonathan Wright of South Carolina) sat upon a state supreme court. There were 41 black sheriffs, 5 black mayors, 31 black coroners, and even 4 black police chiefs. Black state legislators discussed and attempted to enact a number of reforms in these states including compulsory public education for the first time, land reforms that would redistribute former plantation properties, and civil rights laws. More often than not, their proposals and actions were blocked or reversed by white lawmakers who regained state political control as well as by federal officials who did not enforce fairness. ¹

The end of black representation occurred because of the end of national level protections of the post-Civil War policies related to federal reconstruction, marked most dramatically by the compromise over the 1876 presidential election. A second factor was the restructuring of southern state constitutions beginning in the 1880s. The state constitutions were rewritten to create barriers to black political participation without specifically limiting participation by race, and thereby violating the Civil War Constitutional Amendments. The grandfather clause, poll taxes, literacy tests, complicated and inconsistent voter registration procedures, and a variety of procedures that were 'race neutral' had the intended effect of limiting black registration and electoral participation, but also exerted a dramatic change in black electoral participation. The combination of withdrawal of support for black political participation by the federal government, and the creation and imposition of state constitutional constraints on black voter registration and participation, eliminated black voters' influence on electoral involvement, and for election to local, state and national office by the end of the 19th century. It was not until large numbers



Hiram Revels

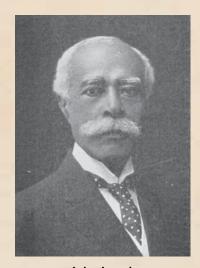
of African Americans began to settle in northern cities such as Chicago and New York, that new African American congressional representatives were elected. Why was this period important? Who were these first Black Representatives and the first Black Senator at the National Level?

The only senator of this era was **Hiram Revels** of Mississippi who served from 1869 - 1871. Revels had been elected to the Mississippi State Senate after the war; the primary task for the State Senate was to elect representatives to the U.S. Senate, since direct election of senators (17th Amendment) wasn't implemented until 1913. Revels was a free man born of free parents; he was ordained in the AME Church in 1845, elected into the AME Indiana Conference in 1849, and attended Knox College from 1855-57. He ran for the Mississippi State Senate in 1869. Elected by the Mississippi State Senate to serve in the U.S. Senate, the Senate "voted 48-8 to seat Revels, who subsequently received assignments to the Committee on Education and Labor

¹ The text for the previous two paragraphs is drawn from Shaw, DeSipio, Pinderhughes and Travis, *Uneven Roads, An Introduction to US Racial and Ethnic Politics*. 2nd Edition. Sage CQ Press, 2019, 100-102. Data on 19th century elected officials in these paragraphs is from Foner, *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877*, 281-91.

and the Committee on the District of Columbia."² He served until March 1871, after which he became President of Alcorn University, the first land-grant for black students. He also pastored an AME Church in Holly Springs, Mississippi.

John Roy Lynch, also of Mississippi, served three terms in Congress and had encouraged Hiram Revels to run for office. He was mixed race (his father was an Irish immigrant and his mother described as "a mulatto slave.") Named justice of the peace after the war, he served in the Mississippi State House of Representatives in 1869, and in 1872 was elected speaker of the house at age 24. He was elected to a seat representing the southern quarter of the state, including Natchez. He served on the Committee on Mines and Committee on Expenditures in the Interior Department. He was a strong supporter of the Civil Rights Bill of 1875, which passed. Lynch was defeated in his next race, after the Democrats redistricted and placed most of the Republicans in a narrow "shoestring district" along the Mississippi, thereby reducing the likelihood of his re-election. Yet he won re-election to the 47th Congress after a highly contested



John Lynch

election and Lynch's appeal to the Committee on Elections. During his terms of office, he proposed legislation "to reimburse depositors who lost money when the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company failed...but it died in the House Rules Committee." Lynch failed to win election afterwards, but remained active in the Republican Party. The McKinley "administration appointed him a major in the US Army and paymaster of volunteers in the Spanish-American War. ... [He also served] in Cuba, San Francisco, Hawaii and the Philippines."3

Joseph Hayne Rainey of South Carolina was the first African American who served in the U.S. House, and served for five Congressional terms. "Born into slavery, Joseph Rainey was the first African American to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, the first African American to preside over the House, and the longest-serving African American during the tumultuous Reconstruction period."4

Rainey's father, a barber, was legally allowed to "work independently if he shared some of his profits" with his owner. He bought the "family's freedom in the early 1840s, and in 1846 the family moved [from Georgetown] to Charleston, South Carolina, where Edward became a barber at the exclusive Mills House Hotel." Joseph married a free woman from Philadelphia and

Hiram Revels. United States House of Representatives. Black Americans in Congress https://history.house.gov/People/

John Roy Lynch. United States House of Representatives Black Americans in Congress.

Joseph Hayne Rainey. United States House of Representatives Black Americans in Congress.

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had three children. Rainey served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, but he and his wife escaped to Bermuda where they ran businesses until the end of the war when they returned to Charleston, and eventually moved to Georgetown, S.C., his birthplace. He quickly became politically active, as the Republican county chairman, in the 1868 state constitutional convention, as a census taker, and was elected to the state senate in 1870. He was nominated and elected to the U.S. House after an incumbent resigned in the wake of "having been charged with selling appointments to U.S. military academies." He was elected to five terms from the 41st through the 45th Congress, although his later re-elections were frequently challenged because of conflicts in the conduct of elections within the state of South Carolina.

Rainey served on committees on Freedmen's Affairs, Indian Affairs and Invalid Pensions, as well as select committees on the Centennial Celebration, the Freedmen's Bank, and the Committee for the proposed National Census of 1875. He supported Sen. Charles Sumner's Civil Rights Bill of 1875, which among other elements "outlawed racial discrimination on juries, in schools, on transportation, and in public accommodations." He retired from Congress March 3, 1879 after he was defeated by Democrat John Richardson for election to the 46th Congress after the end of federal support for reconstruction.⁵

Robert Smalls was born a slave in Beaufort, South Carolina where he initially worked in his slave master's house until he was moved to Charleston. There he was "hired out on the waterfront as a lamplighter, stevedore, foreman, sail maker, rigger, and sailor, and became an expert navigator of the South Carolina and Georgia coasts." Smalls and Hannah Jones married in 1856, and had three children. During the Civil War, Smalls was drafted into service by the Confederacy "aboard the *Planter*, an ammunitions transport ship... On May 13, 1862 a black crew captained by Smalls hijacked the well-stocked ship and turned it over to the Union Navy." Afterwards "Smalls spent the remainder of the war balancing his roles as a spokesperson for African Americans with his service in the Union Armed Forces. Smalls used his intimate knowledge of the South Carolina Sea Islands to advance the Union military campaign *in nearly 17 engagements*."



Robert Smalls



⁵ All quotations from "Biography" Joseph Hayne Rainey 1832-1887" *Black Americans in Congress* 1870-Present, URL: https://history.house.gov/

⁶ Robert Smalls, United States House of Representatives, Black Americans in Congress.

⁷ Robert Smalls, *United States House of Representatives, Black Americans in Congress.* Emphasis added by author.

After the Civil War, Smalls was active in multiple arenas, as a newspaper publisher, as delegate to the 1868 South Carolina constitutional convention, as a businessman and educator. He was elected to the State House of Representatives, and then to the State Senate. He then was elected to the U.S. House in 1874, addressing issues related to the South Carolina coast, to the military such as army reorganization, and proposing an antidiscrimination amendment. He was convicted of charges of bribery from his days in the South Carolina state senate, but only served three days in jail. Returning to Washington, he also faced a challenge from his Democratic opponent; Smalls held onto his seat, but was defeated in the 1878 election for the 46th Congress. Through a complex process, even as Democrats gained more control over the electoral process, Smalls won his seat to the 47th, 48th and 49th Congresses. After his defeat, Smalls returned to state and national politics. He chaired the Republican state convention in 1890. Presidents Harrison and McKinley appointed him Beaufort's port collector in 1889 and 1898.

North Carolina's George White was the last African American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, serving from 1897-1901, until Chicago elected Oscar De Priest in 1928. He graduated from Howard University in 1877 and became a member of the North Carolina bar in 1879.

White served in the North Carolina House of Representatives, and as a delegate to the Republican National Convention. He won election to the U.S. House when William McKinley was elected to the presidency. White offered a number of proposals addressing the racial violence that was very present in North Carolina and the South during the period; he also invited President McKinley to "discuss honoring black soldiers fighting in the Spanish American War," as well as "federal funding for an exhibit on black achievement at the 1900 Paris Exposition." In his final term, White introduced legislation "to make lynching a federal crime," although it languished in the Judiciary Committee. In his last months in office, White offered the following statement: "This Mr. Chairman, is perhaps the negroes' temporary farewell to the American Congress...but let me say, Phoenix-like he will rise up someday and come again." 8

George Henry White, United States House of Representatives, Black Americans in Congress.



ELECTORAL POLITICS IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Twentieth Century black electoral participation began with the all-white southern electorate and the U.S. Supreme Court's recognition of *de jure* discrimination in the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision. By the end of the century, the Supreme Court had pushed against *de jure* policies in the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. While the Court was inconsistent on its support for school desegregation, and many constraints remain on these reform policies, the overall framework had changed dramatically. The first three decades in the century were marked by an absence of any African American national electoral representation. However, by the end of the century the total number of black elected officials had risen to 9,040,9 and black members in Congress had reached 39.

By the late 1920s, the black population had grown substantially in northern cities such as Chicago, New York, and Detroit. Local, state and congressional black representation expanded, and was marked by the 1928 election of Oscar De Priest to the U.S. House of Representatives. Chicago has elected black representation to the U.S. House from the Illinois 1st congressional district in unbroken succession, and the size of the Congressional delegation has grown to three and for a period also included U.S. Senators Carol Moseley Braun (1993-1999), Barack Obama (2005-2009) and Roland Burris (2009 -2011). While De Priest held the seat for three terms, and his successor Arthur Mitchell (the first Democrat) for four terms (74th – 77th), the next black member, William Dawson, served for 14 terms from the 78th – 91st (1943 – 1971).

New York City elected its first African American congressman, the Rev. Adam Clayton Powell Jr. in 1945; Powell served for 12 terms, (79th – 91st) except when the U.S. House "voted – 307-116 - to exclude him from the 90th Congress (1967-69)."¹⁰ Both Powell and Dawson, long serving members, chaired significant committees, Education and Labor and Government Operations respectively, and exerted great influence in their roles in Congress.

After World War II, Detroit, Philadelphia and Los Angeles elected African American Congressional representatives. Detroit's Charles Diggs was first elected in 1955, served until 1981, and attended the trial of Emmett Till's murderers. He was joined in the House by John Conyers a decade later in 1965. Conyers served for 27 terms (89th – 115th) resigned from Congress in December 2017, and died in 2019. Diggs argued for home rule for the District of Columbia and exercised influence in African Affairs, serving on the Foreign Affairs-International Relations Committee, and the Committee on the District of Columbia for most of his career. As the first chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (1971-73), Diggs called the new caucus "the first departure from the individualistic policies that characterized black congressmen in the past."

⁹ Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, *Black Elected Officials, A Statistical Summary.* Table 1, p. 17 "Black Elected Officials in the U.S. by Category of Office, 1970-2000.

¹⁰ Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. US House of Representatives, Black Americans in Congress.

Conyers served on the Judiciary Committee, eventually chairing it in 2007, as well as on the Government Operations and the Small Business Committee. Both Conyers and Diggs played important roles in Civil Rights policy, with Conyers employing Rosa Parks as a staff member in his district office for many years; he "introduced the resolution that led to Parks lying in repose in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol" after her death in 2005. Conyers was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1971.

Representatives began to be elected from other cities, including Robert Nix from Philadelphia in 1957 (for 11 terms), and Augustus Hawkins from Los Angeles in 1963 (for 14 terms). A member of the Education and Labor Committee, Hawkins chaired the Committee, and in earlier years chaired the House Administration Committee, the Joint Committee on the Library and the Joint Committee on Printing. During the Johnson administration, Hawkins played an important role in the creation of the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978, also known as the Humphrey-Hawkins Act...[to reduce] the unemployment rate to 4 percent by 1983."12

After the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the numbers of African American members of Congress increased significantly, as the numbers of blacks in cities across the country grew rapidly. While black voting and registration grew in the South, southern jurisdictions worked hard to limit the effectiveness of the black vote for several years. It was not until the Voting Rights coalition addressed southern states' strategies to dilute the minority vote in the 1982 campaign in support of the 1982 Voting Rights Act extension, that southern black congressional representation began to rise in late 1980s and 1990s.¹³

Shirley Chisholm of Brooklyn, the first woman member, William Clay Sr. of St. Louis, George Collins of Chicago and Louis Stokes of Cleveland all were elected to the House in the 91st Congress in 1969. The 92nd Congress saw the election of Ralph Metcalfe from Chicago, Parren Mitchell from Baltimore and Charles Rangel. Rangel from New York, defeated the legendary Adam Clayton Powell. Three women also joined the House in the 93rd Congress in 1973 with the election of Yvonne Brathwaite Burke of Los Angeles, Cardiss Collins of Chicago after her husband George was killed in a plane crash, and Barbara Jordan of Houston. Andrew Young was elected from Atlanta, the first elected from a southern district since Reconstruction. A second



Shirley Chisholm



John Conyers, Jr. U.S. House of Representatives, *Black Americans in Congress*.

¹² Augustus Freeman Hawkins, U.S. House of Representatives, *Black Americans in Congress*.

¹³ Dianne Pinderhughes. "Black Interest Groups and the 1982 Extension of the Voting Rights Act," 203-224. *Blacks and the American Political System*, Edited by Huey L. Perry and Wayne Parent. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1995.

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94th Congress. Representation grew readily for many years, especially after the extensions of the Voting Rights Act in 1982 and 1992. The state of Mississippi sent to Congress in 1987 Michael Espy, followed by the election of Bennie Thompson in 1993.

John Lewis of Georgia, now known as a kind of Dean of the Congress, was first elected in 1987 in the 100th Congress. Eva Clayton of North Carolina was elected in the 102nd Congress, and Detroit's Barbara-Rose Collins served three terms also beginning in the 102nd Congress. Maxine Waters was first elected from Los Angeles in the 102nd Congress in 1991, and continues to serve. Connecticut's Gary Franks, the first Republican since Reconstruction was elected in 1990 and served three terms. J.C. Watts, a second Republican was elected from an Oklahoma district and served four terms beginning with the 104th Congress in 1995.

southern representative, Harold Ford, was elected from Memphis in the

Members who rose to important Democratic Party leadership positions were elected in the final decades of the 20th century. James Clyburn, of South Carolina, was elected to the 103rd Congress and continues to serve (14 terms and counting), while Elijah Cummings, was elected to the 104th Congress and began service in 1995. Cummings served 13 terms before his recent death in October 2019. He was Chair of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee. Clyburn is Democratic Whip and serves on the Appropriations Committee.



Patterns of congressional representation changed from the era after the Civil War when the 21 elected individuals rarely served more than one congressional term to the 20th when the number of terms lengthened so that members rarely served fewer than three or four terms.

By the late 20th and early 21st centuries, members also began to be elected from districts that weren't majority black. Patterns of election to office also changed, with some black Republicans elected. These included Gary Franks in Connecticut, and Julius Caesar (J.C.) Watts, from a southwest Oklahoma district that had been Republican for the previous 72 years. Watts decided not to run for re-election after four terms, while Franks was defeated at the end of his third term. Mia Love, also Republican, was elected to Congress from Salt Lake City, but lost her race for re-election.



John Lewis



In recent elections, nearly all the new black representatives were elected from majority white or highly mixed districts; in some cases the highly mixed districts were also strongly Democratic. Lisa Blunt Rochester was elected to Delaware's single at-large congressional district in 2016 and 2018, from a majority white district (68.8% white). Ilhan Omar was elected from Minnesota's 5th Congressional District after Keith Ellison resigned to run for and win office as Minnesota's Attorney General. Connecticut's 5th district elected Jahana Hayes although it is 79% white and is marginally 2% Democratic.¹⁴ In Colorado, Joseph Neguse, offspring of Eritrean immigrants, won election to the 116th Congress even though his district, which leans 9% Democratic, is over 90% white. 15

Joyce Beatty was elected in the 115th Congress in Ohio's majority white 3rd Congressional District which includes Columbus. The population is just under 60% white, but favors Democrats by more than 19%.16 Ayanna Pressley was elected in 2018 to the highly mixed, strongly Democratic 116th Congress in the 7th District of Massachusetts; her district is demographically diverse and favors Democrats by 34%.17 Aston Donald McEachin was elected in Virginia's 4th Congressional District, which is majority white, but also favors Democratic candidates by 10%. 18

Colin Allred from Texas's 32nd Congressional District, was elected from a highly mixed non-majority white district, even though it leans Republican by 5%. 19 Antonio Delgado was elected in New York's 19th Congressional District including Schenectady, which is 87.76% white; the district is marginally Republican, by about 2%.20

- 14 Demographic and partisan information from "Connecticut's 5th Congressional District", Ballotpedia, Encyclopedia of American Politics. URL: https://ballotpedia.org/
- Demographic and partisan information from "Colorado's 2nd Congressional District", Ballotpedia, Encyclopedia of American Politics. URL: https://ballotpedia.org/
- 16 "Ohio's 3rd Congressional District", Ballotpedia, Encyclopedia of American Politics.

URL: https://ballotpedia.org/

"Massachusetts' 7th Congressional District", Ballotpedia, Encyclopedia of American Politics.

URL: https://ballotpedia.org/

- 18 "Virginia's 4th Congressional District," *Ballotpedia, Encyclopedia of American Politics*. URL: https://ballotpedia.org/
- 19 "Texas' 32nd Congressional District," *Ballotpedia, Encyclopedia of American Politics*. URL: https://ballotpedia.org/
- 20 "New York's 19th Congressional District," Ballotpedia, Encyclopedia of American Politics.

URL: https://ballotpedia.org/

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Lauren Underwood was elected to office from the 14th Congressional District in the western Chicago suburbs. The district both leans Republican, by about 5% and is majority 85.8% white.²¹

By the end of the 20th and early 21st centuries, African Americans, mostly in Democratic victories, began to win elections to the U.S. Senate. Carol Moseley Braun and Barack Obama won election to the seat representing Illinois in the U.S. Senate; Braun was defeated after her first Senate term while Obama moved on to the presidency. More recently, Kamala Harris and Corey Booker were elected to the U.S. Senate representing California and New Jersey. Tim Scott was elected to the Senate from South Carolina with its substantial black population even though he was Republican, and most black voters were Democrats.

THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), founded in 1971 with 13 members, has grown steadily as the size of the black delegation has expanded. By the 116th Congress in 2020, the CBC claimed 55 members, including 51 members in the House, two non-voting delegates and two U.S. Senators; Republican South Carolina Senator Tim Scott is not listed as a member. CBC leadership rotates with each Congress to the most senior member.

Another element that matured in the 21st century was the creation of the Congressional Tri-Caucus, composed of the alliance of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (founded in 1976) and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (founded in 1994). With 20 Asian American Pacific Islander members, 38 members in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and 51 House members in the CBC, the Tri-Caucus counts a total of 109 votes. A significant portion of the Tri-Caucus is Democratic, granting the group considerable influence over the 232 Democrats in the 116th Congress. The House Majority Whip is South Carolina's Jim Clyburn, elected to that role in 2019.

66

28 of the 40 black Congress members elected in the 21st century are female, a quite different pattern from the mid-20th century when Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman elected to the U.S. House in 1968

^{21 &}quot;Illinois' 14th Congressional District," *Ballotpedia, Encyclopedia of American Politics*. URL: https://ballotpedia.org/

WOMEN IN PUBLIC OFFICE

The proportion of black women in Congress has grown in recent decades. For example, five of the nine African American members elected in 2018, half of the six serving since 2017 (including Kamala Harris), and three of three serving since 2015, are female. In summary, 28 of the 40 black Congress members elected in the 21st century are female, a quite different pattern from the mid-20th century when Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman elected to the U.S. House in 1968.



Leffler, Warren K, photographer. Black, White people voting together - Md., 1962. November 6. Photograph. https://www.loc.gov/item/2016646466/

2020 PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS AND 21ST CENTURY CHALLENGES

After the exciting success of the Obama Presidential elections in 2008 and 2012, the election of Donald J. Trump left many African Americans with political expectations upended and in turmoil.

Some placed their hopes in the possibility of black or minority presidential candidates. Senators Kamala Harris, Corey Booker, and Julian Castro threw their hats in the ring early in the contest

POLITICS (con't)

for the Democratic nomination, but they did not fare well. Booker was in the race until early January, while Harris withdrew in December 2019. Castro announced he was out early in January 2020 and immediately endorsed Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. Deval Patrick, former Governor of Massachusetts and Clinton administration Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Civil Rights Division within the Department of Justice, entered the race in fall 2019, but ended his campaign in February 2020.

Other African American voters have affirmed their support for candidates such as Senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders of Vermont. South Bend's former Mayor Pete Buttigieg has been a controversial candidate, reportedly winning little, if any, support among African American voters. As the 2020 Presidential race unfolds, black voters and black elected officials will pay careful attention to several issues, including the ongoing controversies over police shootings.

Another matter relates to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and how the Congress responds to the Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*, which found Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, unconstitutional. Section 4 set the legal guidelines which allow control over southern states' voting procedures. Southern states covered by Section 5 were prohibited from making any new voting law changes unless reviewed by the federal courts or the Department of Justice. Once Section 4 was ruled unconstitutional in 2013, the federal courts and the Department of Justice, no longer had authority to use Section 5 object to southern and other jurisdictions' voting law changes. Florida and Texas, for example immediately passed voting legislation which would have been ruled unacceptable in previous months.

In an effort to overrule the Supreme Court, the U.S. House passed H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act in December 2019. ²² The legislation, approved 228-187, with only one Republican in support, moved "to bolster protections against racial discrimination enshrined in the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the landmark civil rights statute whose central provision was struck down by the Supreme Court." It identified a number of states which had

While it is too early to make predictions about the outcome of the 2020 Presidential election, history shows that when African Americans fully participate in the political process the result is a more representative Congress.

²² Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Emily Cochrane. "House Passes Voting Rights Bill Despite Near Unanimous Republican Opposition." *New York Times.* Dec 6, 2019. URL: https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/06/us/politics/house-voting-rights.html

had "15 or more voting rights violations in ...the previous 25 calendar years." On the day the legislation passed, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi commented "Since the *Shelby v. Holder* decision, 23 states have enacted voter suppression laws, denying millions the right to vote." ²⁴

While it is too early to make predictions about the outcome of the 2020 Presidential election, history shows that when African Americans fully participate in the political process the result is a more representative Congress.

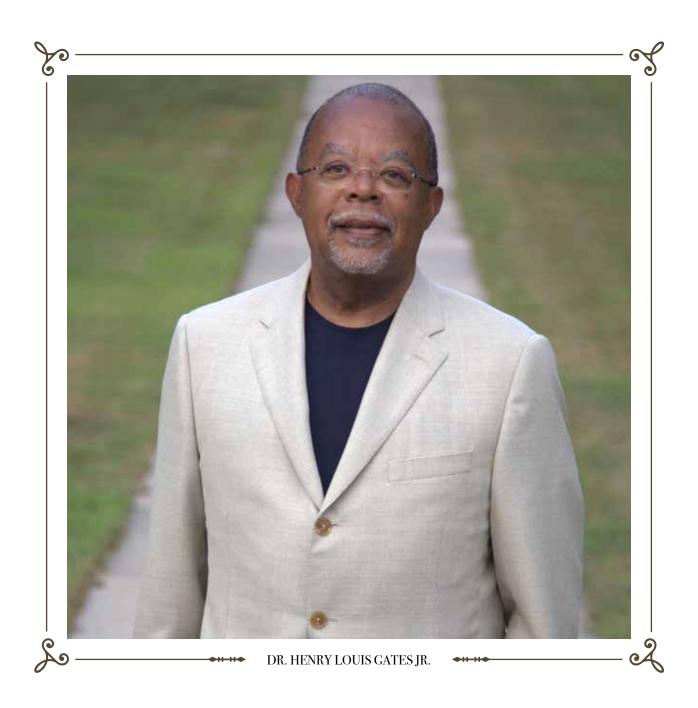
The growth in African American representation in the Congress, as well as in local and state office, has increased substantially. African American voices will continue to have an impact on national policy, whatever the outcome. The nation will probably not face another period of exclusion from public life as was endured from 1901-1929.



Dr. Dianne M. Pinderhughes is the University of Notre Dame Presidential Faculty Fellow, and Professor in the Department of Africana Studies and the Department of Political Science. She has written widely on the involvement of African Americans in the political process.

Wesley Lowery, "Congressional Democrats to Introduce New Voting Rights Act Fix," *The Washington Post*, June 23, 2015. https://www.whitehouse.gov/ Quotation from Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget: "Statement of Administration Policy: H.R. 4-Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019" December 3, 2019. The policy statement ends with the following sentence, underlined: "If H.R. 4 were presented to the President, his advisors would recommend that he veto it. https://www.whitehouse.gov/

Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House Press Release, "Pelosi Remarks at Press Event Ahead of House Passage of the Voting Rights Advancement Act," December 6, 2019. https://www.speaker.gov/





DARK SKY RISING: SELECTED SOURCES

These resources are recommended by Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr., the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and Director of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University. Dr. Gates has explored the period of reconstruction in a 2019 PBS-history series, *Reconstruction: America after the Civil War* and in related books, *Dark Sky Rising: Reconstruction and the Dawn of Jim Crow*, with Tonya Bolden (Scholastic, 2019), and *Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow* (Penguin Random House, 2019).



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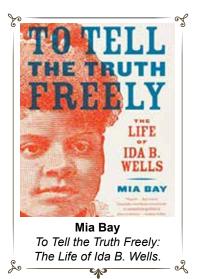
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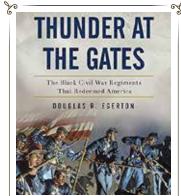
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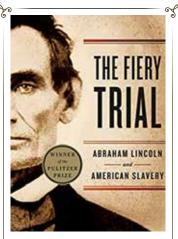
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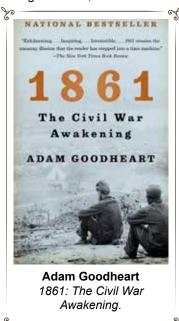
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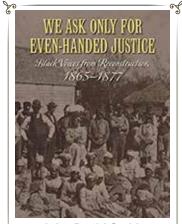
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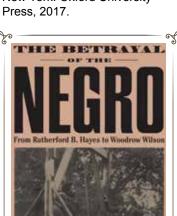
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PICTURE BOOKS

Alexander, Kwame How To Read A Book

HarperCollins, 2019
A love poem about falling in love with words.

(audio available)

Alexander, Kwame The Undefeated

Versify, 2019
A lyrical tribute to African
American greats; connecting
those of the past to those who
continue to carry the torch.
(e-book available)

Barnes, Derrick The King of Kindergarten

Nancy Paulsen Books, 2019 A young boy has a great first day at school.

(e-book, audio available)

Berman, Kathleen Cornell Birth of the Cool: How Jazz Great Miles Davis Found His Sound

Page Street Kids, 2019 An entertaining introduction to the life of one of the most legendary musicians.

Brown, Karamo; Jason "Rachel" Brown I am Perfectly Designed

Henry Holt and Company, 2019 A father and son story about selflove.

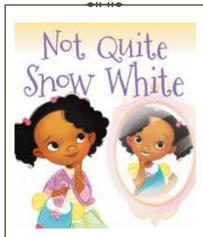
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Cherry, Matthew A. Hair Love

Kokila, 2019

A father and daughter bond while racing against the clock to achieve a special look.

(e-book available)



Ashley Franklin
Not Quite Snow White

examined.

Churnin, Nancy Martin and Anne: The Kindred Spirits of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Anne Frank Creston Books, 2019 Similar experiences of oppression and persecution by two real life heroes both born in 1929 is

Curry, Parker; Jessica Curry Parker Looks Up: An Extraordinary Moment

Aladdin, 2019

A little girl is inspired by a portrait during her visit to a museum.

(e-book available)

Davis, Linsey; Beverly Davis One Big Heart: A celebration of being more alike than different Zonderkidz. 2019

Children learn the importance of being different.

(e-book available)

DiCicco, Joan The Unstoppable Garrett Morgan: Inventor, Entrepreneur, Hero

Lee & Low Books, 2019 A pioneer whose bravery saved lives at the Cleveland Waterworks Disaster in 1916.

Dipucchio, Kelly Grace Goes to Washington

Disney-Hyperion, 2019 Student council leader and classmates learn how government makes decisions when they visit the nation's capital.

(e-book available)

Franklin, Ashley Not Quite Snow White

HarperCollins Children's Books, 2019

Young girl makes brave decision and auditions for school play.

YOUTH BOOKS (con't)

Gray, Karlin Serena The Little Sister

Page Street Kids, 2019 The youngest of five girls grows up to become a tennis superstar.

Hegedus, Bethany Rise! From Caged Bird to Poet of the People, Maya Angelou

Lee & Low Books, 2019 Life of a remarkable artist and activist who overcame childhood trauma to become one of the most inspiring voices of our lifetime.

Hardy, S.F. Like a Salad

Shenomenal Ink., 2019 Siblings explore the nuances of skin tones within their family.

Harrison, Vashti Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2019 Chronicling the lives of extraordinary black men in

(e-book, audio available)

history.

Holm, Matthew The Evil Princess vs. the Brave Kniaht

Random House Books for Young Readers, 2019 The mischief of a sister and brother rivalry abounds as they seek mutual harmony.

(e-book available)

Hubbard, Rita Lorraine Hammering for Freedom: The William Lewis Story

Lee & Low Books, 2018 A determined blacksmith saves enough money to buy his freedom and that of his family.

Kastner, Emmy Nerdy Babies Ocean

Roaring Book Press, 2019 Infants explore the deep sea life. (e-book available)

Kirkfield, Vivian Sweet Dreams, Sarah: From Slavery to Inventor

Creston Books, 2019 Hard work does pay off and it did for Mrs. Goode, becoming the first African American woman to get a U.S. patent for her design of a cabinet bed.

(audio available)



S.F. Hardy Like a Salad

Lyons, Kelly Starling Going Down Home with Daddy Peachtree Publishing Company, 2019

Lil' Alan is excited about his annual family visit, until it dawns on him that unlike everyone else, he has nothing to offer Granny.

Lukoff, Kyle When Aidan Became a Brother

Lee & Low Books, 2019 Aidan learns to adjust to his new gender identity when a new baby comes to the family.

McDaniel, Breanna J. Hands Up!

Dial Books for Young Readers, 2019

From acts of joy, exploration, love and protest. Viv expresses herself.

McKissack, Patricia C. What Is Given from the Heart

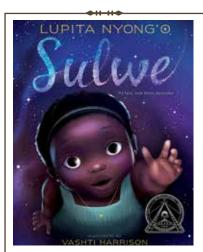
Schwartz & Wade Books, 2019 A poor boy finds a way to make a special gift to a family who lost everything.

(e-book available)

Murphy, Frank A Boy Like You

Sleeping Bear Press, 2019 A child is encouraged by his acts of kindness, thoughtfulness and curiosity.

(e-book available)



Lupita Nyong'o Sulwe

Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux Let'er Buck!: George Fletcher, the People's Champion Carolrhoda Books, 2019 A triumphant tale of a Black

cowboy and champion rodeo star.

Nyong'o, Lupita Sulwe

Simon and Schuster's Books for Young Readers, 2019 Young girl loves to learn the beauty inside herself. (e-book available)

Paul, Miranda I Am Farmer: Growing an Environmental Movement in Cameroon

Millbrook/Lerner, 2019 Tantoh Nforba cultivates the natural landscape bringing clean water and bountiful gardens to his country.

(e-book available)

Pizzoli, Tamara Tallulah the Tooth Fairy CEO Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR), 2019

A pixie mogul is stumped by a six-year-old who leaves a note instead a tooth under his pillow.

(e-book available)

Robeson, Susan Grandpa Stops a War: A Paul Robeson Story

Triangle Square, 2019 The story of the amazing life of Susan's grandfather—a scholar, activist and singer.

(e-book available)

Salazar, Aida The Moon Within

Arthur A. Levine Books, 2019 Celi, who is multiracial, dreads puberty while her mother plans a traditional celebration for the occasion.

(e-book available)

Slade, Suzanne A Computer Called Katherine

Little, Brown and Company, 2019 From a child prodigy to a mathematician, an African American woman became instrumental in the first American astronauts' journey into space. (e-book, audio available)

Wittenstein, Barry A Place to Land: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Speech that Inspired a Nation

Neal Porter Books, 2019 The truth that reveals the writing behind "I Have a Dream." (e-book available)

Wittenstein, Barry Sonny's Bridge: Jazz Legend Sonny Rollins Finds His Groove

Charlesbridge, 2019 A prolific saxophonist looks for inspiration on the Williamsburg bridge after his hiatus from the 1950s music scene.

(e-book available)

Zachariah, Abdul-Razak The Night Is Yours

Dial Books, 2019 A father's poetic love story for his daughter.

(e-book available)

JUVENILE FICTION

Chase, Paula So Done

Greenwillow, 2019 The pressures of middle school and secrets weigh on the friendship bond of Metai and Jamila.

(e-book, audio available)

Elliot, Zetta The Dragon Thief

Random House Books for Young Readers, 2019 Kavita discovers that stealing a dragon is really not a good idea!

Lockington, Mariama J. For Black Girls Like Me

Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Byr), 2019

Makeda is having a difficult time adjusting to her white family; yearning to meet her birth mother makes matters worse. (e-book, audio available)

YOUTH BOOKS (con't)

Mbalia. Kwame Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky

Rick Riordan Presents. 2019 African American fabled characters are weaved into a tall tale of a young man suffering from survivor's remorse. (e-book, audio available)

Reynolds, Jason Look Both Ways: A Tale Told In Ten Blocks

Antheneum Books for Young Readers, 2019 Ten different stories about the walk home from school. (e-book, audio available)

Watson, Renee Some Places More Than Others

Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2019 A young lady visits Harlem and connects with her father's family. (e-book available)

Winston, Sherri Jada Sly, Artist & Spy

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2019 With the help of her friends, a grieving girl sets out to learn the truth of the alleged death of her mom.

(e-book available)

JUVENILE NON-FICTION

Bryan, Ashley Infinite Hope: A Black Artist's Journey from World War II to Peace

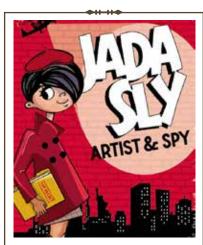
Atheneum, 2019 Through photographs, paintings, handwritten letters and diary entries, writer and illustrator Bryan Ashley recounts his journey as an African American soldier in a segregated army. (e-book, audio available)

Bryant, Jen Feed Your Mind: A Story of August Wilson

Abrams Books, 2019 A two-act play about the famous playwright who captured the African American experience. (e-book available)

Gates, Henry Louis, Jr. Dark Skv Rising: Reconstruction and the Dawn of Jim Crow

Scholastic Nonfiction, 2019 An eloquent appraisal, revealing a pivotal time in American history. (e-book, audio available)



Sherri Winston Jada Sly, Artist & Spy

JUVENILE BIOGRAPHY

Boyce, Jo Ann Allen This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality

Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2019

Jo Ann Allen's first person perspective about the integration of a Tennessee high school. (e-book available)

Davis. Meredith Her Own Two Feet: A Rwandan Girl's Brave Fight to Walk

Scholastic, 2019 An inspiring story of a young girl whose dreams manifest through hope and perseverance.

(e-book, audio available)

Dunbar, Erica Armstrong Never Caught, the Story of Ona Judge: George and Martha Washington's Courageous Slave Who Dared to Run Away; Young Readers Edition

Aladdin Paperbacks, 2019
A glimpse into the life of a little-known figure in history and her brave journey as she fled bondage.

(e-book, audio available)

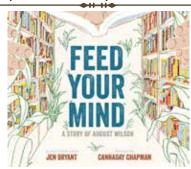
Johnson, Katherine Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2019 Arithmetician whose calculations helped launch Apollo 11. (e-book, audio available)

Noah, Trevor It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood (Adapted for Young Readers)

Delacorte Press, 2019 A story of a biracial comedian growing up during apartheid.

(e-book available)



Jen Bryant Feed Your Mind: A Story of August Wilson

Robinson, Sharon Child of the Dream (A Memoir of 1963)

Scholastic Press, 2019
A young girl finds her voice in a fight for justice and equality.
(e-book, audio available)

White, Arisa Biddy Mason Speaks Up Heyday, 2019

A poetic account of a healer, midwife, philanthropist and activists' journey from bondage.

TEEN FICTION

Acevedo, Elizabeth With the Fire on High

HarperTeen, 2019 Graduating senior makes major decisions about her future.

(e-book, audio available)

Anderson, Natalie C. Let's Go Swimming on Doomsday

G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2019 Abdi is forced into a life of terrorism in order to save his family. Now he must save himself. (e-book, audio available)

Adeyemi, Tomi Children of Virtue and Vengeance

Henry Holt & Company, 2019 In this book of magic, Zélie and Amari must fight against the powerful to gain the throne and keep the good magic flourishing. (e-book, audio available)

Davis, Charlotte Nicole The Good Luck Girls

Tor Teen, 2019
Girls forced to work in a futuristic brothel escape and are on the run.
(e-book, audio available)



Katherine Johnson Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson

Colbert, Brandy The Revolution of Birdie Randolph

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2019 Teenage girl experiences first love and conflict at home.

(e-book, audio available)

Deen, Natasha In the Key of Nira Ghani

Running Press Kids, 2019 Nira struggles to find her place outside of the traditional Guyanese family values of education, family commitment and hard work.

(e-book, audio available)

Jackson, Tiffany D. Let Me Hear A Rhyme

Katherine Tegen Books, 2019 Friends promoting a dead friend's music must come to terms with his death.

(e-book, audio available)

YOUTH BOOKS (con't)

Joy, Amanda A River of Royal Blood

G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2019 A North African tale of magic and fantasy.

(e-book, audio available)

McKinney, L.L. Dream So Dark Imprint. 2019

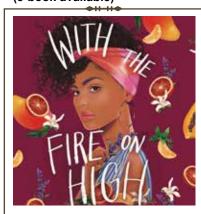
Alice conquers one challenge only to be faced with another in this African American take on

Alice and Wonderland. (e-book, audio available)

Magoon, Kekla Light It Up

Henry Holt and Co., 2019 Different viewpoints tell the story of a young woman's death at the hands of the police.

(e-book available)



Elizabeth Acevedo With the Fire on High

Morris, Brittney Slav

Simon Pulse, 2019 Gamer Kiera secretly develops an online game that celebrates Black culture; the utopia is threatened when a player is murdered.

(e-book, audio available)

Parker, Morgan Who Put this Song On?

Delacorte Press, 2019 A young girl who struggles with depression, fights to forge her own way.

(e-book, audio available)

Reynolds, Justin A. Opposite of Always

Katherine Tegen Books, 2019 After the sudden death of Kate, Jake travels back in time in an effort to save her—his choice has unforeseen consequences.

Stone, Nic Jackpot

Crown Books for Young Readers, 2019

Two classmates from different walks of life join forces to find the winner of an unclaimed winning lottery ticket.

(e-book, audio available)



L.L. McKinney
Dream So Dark

Thomas, Angie On the Come Up

HarperCollins Publishers, 2019 Bri has the potential to be a rap legend. Will she choose her convictions or be lured by fame and fortune?

(e-book, audio available)

Watson, Renée; Ellen Hagan Watch Us Rise

Bloomsbury, 2019 Conflict ensues when the efforts of two girls create a feminist group and blog to fight against the lack of diversity.

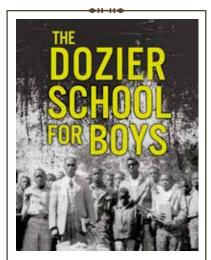
(e-book available)

Zoboi, Ibi

Black Enough: Stories of Being Young and Black in America

Balzer & Bray/Harperteen Stories by acclaimed authors about the many struggles faced by African American youth.

(e-book, audio available)



Elizabeth A. Murray The Dozier School for Boys: Forensics, Survivors and a Painful Past

Rees, John U. 'They Were Good Soldiers': African-Americans Serving in the Continental Army, 1775-1783

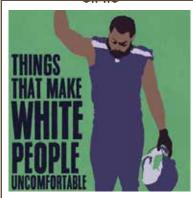
Helion and Company, 2019 Some were free and some were slaves, the narrative examines the history of Black soldiers and their service in the southern regiments.

Stevenson, Bryan Just Mercy (Adapted for Young Adults): A True Story of the Fight for Justice.

Ember, 2019

Taking the higher ground, a social advocate's journey in the fight against a broken U.S. justice system.

(e-book available)



Michael Bennett Things that Make White People Uncomfortable (Adapted for Young Adults)

TEEN BIOGRAPHY

Grimes, Nikki Ordinary Hazards

Wordsong, 2019 Nikki Grimes turns to writing to escape the turbulence of her young life.

Harris, Jonathan Colorblind: A Story of Racism (Series)

Zuiker Press, 2019
A graphic novel that embarks on 15- year-old Johnathan Harris' struggle with racism and hatred that has his heart and mind entangled.

(e-book available)

Houtman, Jacqueline, et al. Troublemaker for Justice: The Story of Bayard Rustin, the Man Behind the March on Washington

City Lights Books, 2019 Steadfast in his Quaker beliefs, meet the gay Black civil rights leader and organizer of the 1963 March on Washington.

TEEN NON-FICTION

Bennett, Michael Things that Make White People Uncomfortable (Adapted for Young Adults)

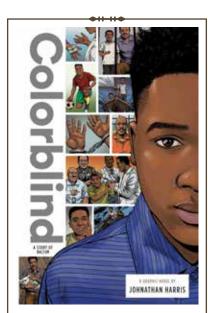
Haymarket Books, 2019 Michael Bennett, a Super Bowl Champion, uses his voice for activism.

(e-book available)

Murray, Elizabeth A. The Dozier School for Boys: Forensics, Survivors and a Painful Past

Twenty-First Century Books, 2019 A racially segregated Florida State reform school that opened its doors in the 1900s, left behind survivors of strict discipline, neglect and torture. This is their story.

(e-book available)



Jonathan Harris Colorblind: A Story of Racism (Series)



BEST OF 2019

Billingsley, ReShonda Tate *More to Life*

Dafina Kensington, 2019
A dedicated wife and mother makes some discoveries about her life when she takes a vacation away from her family.

(e-book available)

Coates, Ta-Nehisi Water Dancer

One World, 2019
Born with an extraordinary power, Hiram must use his gift to reunite his family.

(e-book, audio available)

Gray, Anissa The Care and Feeding of Ravenously Hungry Girls Berkley, 2019

The Butler siblings must raise their oldest sister's children while she serves time in prison.

(e-book, audio available)

Holloway, Karla F.C. A Death in Harlem

TriQuarterly, 2019 In 1920s Harlem, the first "colored" policeman investigates a murder where nothing is as it seems.

Winslow, De'Shawn In West Mills

Bloomsbury Publishing, 2019 A young woman is determined to always have a good time in spite of the disapproval of close family and friends.

(e-book available)

Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem; Anna Waterhouse

Mycroft and Sherlock: The Empty Birdcage

Titan Books (UK), 2019 Third in the series, follows the brothers as they solve another intriguing mystery.

(e-book available)

Alers, Rochelle This Time for Keeps

Harlequin, 2019 High school friends return to their hometown and become involved in a relationship.

(e-book, audio available)

Antionette, Ashley Butterfly

St. Martin's Griffin, 2020 Morgan thought she was happy with her life until a lover from her past comes back to town.

(e-book available)

Antionette, Ashley Ethic 6 (Ethic)

Ashley Antionette, Inc. 2019 Conclusion to popular series featuring Ezra "Ethic" Okafor (e-book, audio available)

A'zayler In Love with My Enemy

Dafina Kensington, 2019 The lives of two siblings are threatened by their father's dangerous past.

(e-book available)

Billingsley, ReShonda Tate *More to Life*

Dafina Kensington, 2019
A dedicated wife and mother
makes some discoveries about
her life when she takes a vacation
away from her family.
(e-book available)

Brooks, Nita

Redesigning Happiness

Dafina Kensington, 2019 A successful interior designer's seemingly perfect life is disrupted by her ex-boyfriend.

(e-book available)

Bryant, Gizelle Mv Word

Brown Girls Books, 2019
A pastor's wife tries to save her marriage and faith.

(e-book available)

Burns, V.M. Bookmarked for Murder

Kensington, 2019

The annual shopping bus trip to Chicago, sponsored by the Shady Acres Retirement Village, is marred by murder.

(e-book available)

Christopher, Andie J. Not the Girl You Marry

Berkley, 2019

A journalist and an event planner fake a relationship, but discover real feelings for each other. (e-book, audio available)

Christy, Tamika Never Too Soon

Boutique of Quality Books, 2019 Anaya is finding that juggling a busy career and a demanding family might be too much.

Clark, Tracy Borrowed Time

Kensington, 2019
A private investigator's life is endangered by what she believed would be a simple investigation. (e-book available)

FICTION (con't)

Coates, Ta-Nehisi Water Dancer

One World, 2019 Born with an extraordinary power, Hiram must use his gift to reunite his family.

(e-book, audio available)

Cole, Alyssa A Prince on Paper

Avon. 2019 A playboy prince and the daughter of a disgraced government minister contrive a fake engagement. (e-book, audio available)

Cole. Briana The Vows We Break

Dafina Kensington, 2019 Kimera continues to make bad decisions that impact her marriage and other relationships. (e-book available)

Colvin, Jeffery Africaville

Amistad Press. 2019 The tale of three generations of an African-Canadian family in Halifax. Nova Scotia. (e-book, audio available)

Danticat, Edwidge Everything Inside: Stories Alfred A. Knopf, 2019 Eight powerful stories depict community, family and love. (e-book available)

Day, Zuri Sweet Heat

Dafina Kensington, 2019 Marvin and Naomi meet and fall in love while competing on a reality show.

(e-book available)

Dennis-Benn, Nicole Pasty

Liveright Publishing Corporation, 2019

A Jamaican immigrant struggles to develop a life in America as she copes with leaving her family behind.

(e-book, audio available)

Flowers, Ebony **Hot Comb**

Drawn & Quarterly, 2019 Stories shared in the beauty salon address issues of race, class and identity.

Folarin, Tope A Particular Kind of Black Man

Simon & Schuster, 2019 A coming of age story of a young Nigerian's search for identity while he attempts to assimilate to American life.

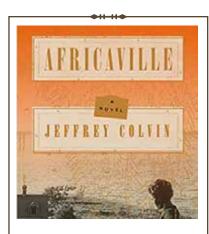
(e-book, audio available)

Gray, Anissa The Care and Feeding of Ravenously Hungry Girls

Berkley, 2019

The Butler siblings must raise their oldest sister's children while she serves time in prison.

(e-book, audio available)



Jeffery Colvin Africaville

Guillory, Jasmine Royal Holiday

Jove Book, 2019 An unexpected vacation fling develops into a long-distance love affair.

(e-book, audio available)

Guillory, Jasmine The Wedding Party

Jove Book, 2019 Best friends of the bride fall in love after years of hating each other.

(e-book, audio available)

Haywood, Gar Anthony Good Man Gone Bad: An Aaron **Gunner Mystery**

Prospect Park Books, 2019 Los Angeles P.I. Aaron Gunner must solve the mysteries behind two deadly shootings.

(e-book available)

Head, Cheryl A. Judge Me When I'm Wrong

Bywater Books 2019
Detroit based private investigator is selected for jury duty and starts probing into the case on her own.
(e-book available)

Herbert, A. L. Murder with Collard Greens and Hot Sauce (Mahalia Watkins Mystery #3)

Kensington, 2019
Mahalia becomes entangled in murder when the queen of a beauty and hair empire is killed.

(e-book available)

Hernandez, Treasure Belle

Urban Books, 2019 After her parents are killed, Belle is introduced to an underground fantasy life that may ultimately destroy her.

(e-book available)

Hibbert, Talia Get a Life Chloe Brown

Avon. 2019

Rebounding from a health scare, a young woman decides to fulfill her bucket list.

(e-book, audio available)

Hickman, Trice The Other Side

Dafna, 2019
Friendships are strengthened as three women deal with their romantic relationships.
(e-book, audio available)

Holloway, Karla F.C. A Death in Harlem

TriQuarterly, 2019
In 1920s Harlem, the first
"colored" policeman investigates
a murder where nothing is as it
seems.

Holness, Jacqueline Destination Wedding

Soon Come Books, 2019 Three best friends give themselves one year to find husbands in order to avoid becoming a stereotype.

Jackson, Brenda Finding Home Again (A Catalina Cove Novel)

HQN, 2019

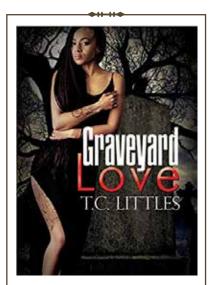
Bryce and Kaegan rekindle their love after a ten-year separation. (e-book, audio available)

Jackson, K.M. Too Sweet to Be Good (Sugar Lake Book 2)

Dafina, 2019

A businesswoman volunteers to help renovate a local theater despite pushback from her new boyfriend.

(e-book available)



T.C. Littles Graveyard Love

King, Camryn Snapshot

Kensington Books, 2019
A photographer returns home from work and play in the Bahamas to discover that her life is in jeopardy.

(e-book available)

K'wan Wrath

Urban Books, 2019 A young man is drawn into a life of crime but love tries to lead him out.

Littles, T.C. Graveyard Love

Urban Books, 2019
The Detroit streets turn a young girl's fantasy into a harsh reality.
(e-book available)

Locke, Attica Heaven, My Home

Mulholland Books, 2019 Texas Ranger Darren Mathews is sent to Jefferson to help a local sheriff investigate the disappearance of nine-year-old Levi King.

(e-book, audio available)

Martin, Alexa Blitzed

Berkley, 2019

A bar-owner and a professional athlete find healing and understanding in their love for each other.

(e-book, audio available)

Mengiste, Maaza The Shadow King

W.W. Norton & Company, 2019 Brings forth the important roles that Ethiopian female soldiers played during Mussolini's 1935 invasion of the African country. (e-book available)

FICTION (con't)

Mickelbury, Penny God's Will and Other Lies

BLF Press, 2019
Collection of stories about women set in the background of 1960's Detroit.

Moore, Niyah Sand Cove

Urban Renaissance, 2019 Beach resort town holds secrets of deceit and adultery mixed with love triangles and murder.

Morrison, Mary B. I Do Love You Still

Dafina Kensington, 2019
A career-driven woman is forced to re-evaluate her relationships and choose between sex or love. (e-book available)



Murray, Victoria Christopher Greed (A Seven Deadly Sins Novel)

Gallery Books, 2019
Zuri allows her lust for the finer things to ruin her career and personal relationships.
(e-book, audio available)

Norfleet, Celeste One Night in Georgia

Amistad, 2019
College friends experience a life altering road trip as they return to their final year at Spelman College.

(e-book, audio available)

Pearson, Robin A Long Time Comin'

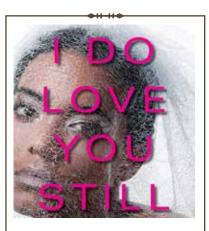
Tyndale House Publishing, 2020 Finding a box of old letters forces two women to deal with past hurts, regrets and truths. (e-book available)

Rax, Cydney A Sister's Power (Reeves Sisters #3)

Dafina, Kensington, 2019 Five sisters attempt to reunite after betrayal and tragedy.

Reid, Kiley Such a Fun Age

G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2019 Powerful story of relationship and racial dynamics between a privileged white woman and her child's babysitter, a black woman. (e-book available)



Mary B. Morrison

I Do Love You Still

Scott, Rion Amilcar The World Doesn't Require You Liveright Publishing Corporation

Liveright Publishing Corporation, 2019

Intersecting stories use fantasy, reality, and magical realism to depict systematic racism and bigotry.

(e-book, audio available)

Sinclair, Shaun King Reece

Dafina Kensington, 2019 After serving five years in prison and returning to the lucrative drug game will the Crescent Crew rise, or will vengeance be the downfall?

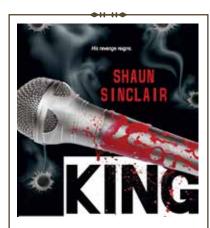
(e-book available)

Simmons, Pat Lean on Me

Sourcebooks Casablanca, 2020 Tired and sad from taking care of her aunt, Tabatha finds support and love from her neighbor, Marcus.

(e-book available)

The Shadow King



Shaun Sinclair King Reece

Sexton, Margaret Wilkerson The Revisioners

Counterpoint LLC, 2019
Two women from different
generations tell alternating stories
of survival, healing and resilience.
(e-book available)

Swinson, Kiki The Safe House

Kensington Publishing, 2019 A young woman gets caught up in the lure of easy money and finds herself fighting for her life. (e-book available)

Thomas, Keith Dahlia Black

Atria Books, 2019
First contact with aliens results in a sublime transformation of 30% of the human race.
(e-book available)

Terry, Chris L. Black Card

Catapult, 2019
A satirical tale of a young man's struggle between culture and race as he confronts what it means to be black in America.

(e-book, audio available)

Warren, Tiffany L. All The Things I Should Have Known

Dafina Books, 2020 Successful besties, Hahna, Twila and Kimberly, live the cougar lifestyle until they realize that casual relationships are more complicated than imagined. (e-book available)

Whitehead, Colson Nickel Boys

Doubleday Books, 2019 Haunting saga follows the experiences of two African-American teenagers at an abusive reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida.

Wilkinson, Lauren American Spy

Random House, 2019 Female FBI agent recalls her life of espionage and falling in love. (e-book, audio available)

Winslow, De'Shawn In West Mills

Bloomsbury Publishing, 2019 A young woman is determined to always have a good time in spite of the disapproval of close family and friends. (e-book available)

Woods, Rita Remembrance

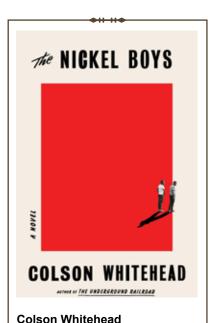
Forge Books, 2020
Three women are interconnected through magical elements that are linked to the Underground Railroad.

(e-book, audio available)

Woodson, Jacqueline Red at the Bone

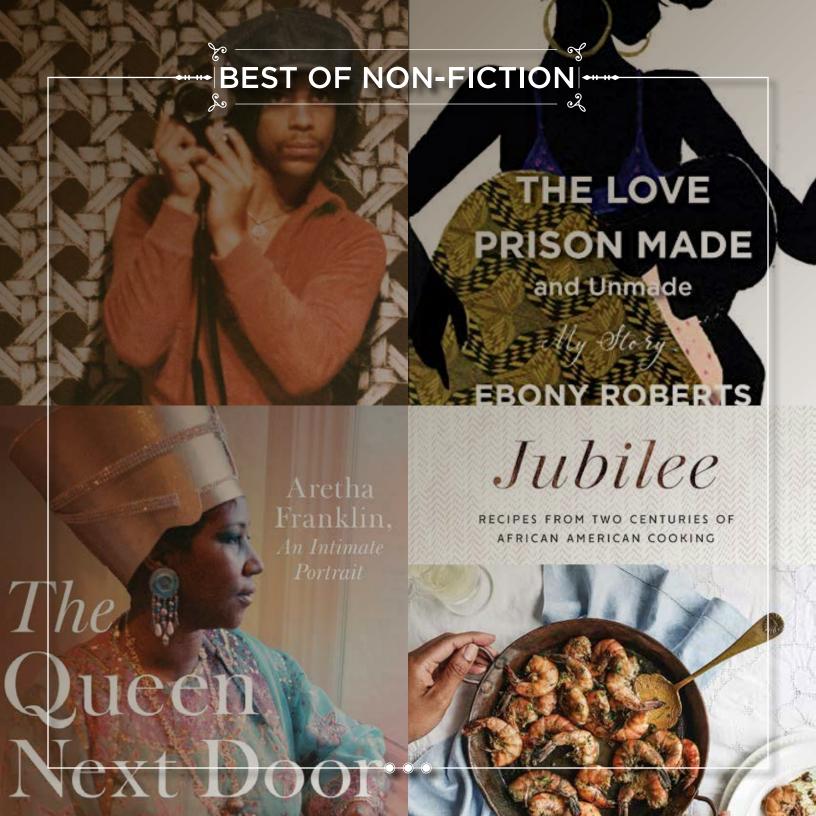
Riverhead Books, 2019 An unexpected teenage pregnancy pulls together two families from different social classes.

(e-book, audio available)



Nickel Boys





BEST OF 2019

Prince The Beautiful Ones

Spiegel & Grau, 2019 Handwritten lyrics and personal photos are several highlights of this memoir that the artist was writing at the time of his death. (e-book, audio available)

Roberts, Ebony The Love Prison Made and Unmade: My Story

Amistad, 2019 Chronicles a young woman's relationship with a man she met while he was incarcerated and their relationship after he was released.

(e-book, audio available)

Solomon, Linda The Queen Next Door: Aretha Franklin, An Intimate Portrait

Wayne State University Press, 2019

Renowned photographer captures rare moments in the Queen of Soul's professional and personal life.

(e-book available)

Tipton-Martin, Toni Jubilee: Recipes from Two Centuries of African-American Cooking: A Cookbook

Clarkson Potter, 2019 Historic recipes are adapted to a modern palate. (e-book available)

ART, MUSIC, AND POETRY

Dyson, Michael Eric Jay-Z: Made in America

St. Martin's Press, 2019
From hustling in the streets to hustling in the boardroom, a thorough dissection of the life of rap mogul Jay-Z. (audio available)

Heydt, Stephanie Mayer, et al. "Something Over Something Else": Romare Bearden's Profile Series

University of Washington Press, 2019

This seminal work examines Bearden's *Profile Series*, while offering a broader understanding of the famed artist.

House, Gloria A Life Speaks

Kresge Foundation, 2019
A detailed look at the life and art of the celebrated educator, poet and activist.

landoli, Kathy God Save the Queens: The Essential History of Women in Hip-Hop

Dey Street Books, 2019 Author explores the role of female artists, from hip-hop's inception to today's hit-makers.

(e-book available)

Jackson, Lawrence Yes We Did: Photos and Behind-the-Scenes Stories Celebrating Our First African American President

Tarcherperigee, 2019
Photographer captures images that depict the Obamas in intimate and personal settings. (e-book available)

Jones, Booker T Time Is Tight: My Life, Note by Note

Little Brown and Company, 2019 Insightful memoir of the leader of the famed Stax Records house band who also created the Memphis soul sound. (e-book available)

Moresi, Michele Gates, et al. Pictures with Purpose: Early Photographs from the National Museum of African American History and Culture

Giles, 2019
NMAAHC's collection of 19th and early 20th-century photography depicting examples of Black people in various states of life.

Morrison, Toni Goodness and the Literary Imagination: Harvard's 95th Ingersoll Lecture with Essays on Morrison's Moral and Religious Vision

University of Virginia Press, 2019 Famed author examines the concept of goodness and why it is a major theme in many of her novels.

Morrison, Toni The Source of Self-Regard: Selected Essays, Speeches, and Meditations

Knopf, 2019
This collection, written over the span of four decades includes essays, speeches, and reflections on numerous social issues.

(e-book, audio available)

St. Nicholas, Randes *My Name is Prince*

Amistad, 2019 Stunning photography is the culmination of a 25-year friendship between two iconic artists.

Solomon, Linda

The Queen Next Door: Aretha Franklin, An Intimate Portrait Wayne State University Press, 2019

Renowned photographer captures rare moments in the Queen of Soul's professional and personal life.

(e-book available)

Soyinka, Wole Beyond Aesthetics: Use, Abuse, and Dissonance in African Art Traditions (Richard D. Cohen Lectures on African & African American Art)

Yale University Press, 2019
An examination of the beauty in black art through a different lens that projects true appreciation and aesthetics.

BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIRS

Austin, Nefertiti Motherhood So White: A Memoir of Race, Gender and Parenting in America

Sourcebooks, 2019
Author sheds light on perceptions of black women as mothers and how they have shaped her parenting experience.
(e-book available)

Broom, Sara The Yellow House: A Memoir

Grove Press, 2019
A young woman feels an undeniable pull back to a home and family uprooted by Hurricane Katrina.

(e-book available)

Brown-Long, Cyntoia Free Cyntoia: My Search for Redemption in the American Prison System

Atria Books, 2019 Coming-of-age memoir written during her incarceration, details the transformation from a tragic adolescence to freedom after fifteen years.

(e-book, audio available)

Buchanan, Shonda Black Indian

Wayne State University
Press, 2019
Moving memoir explores an
African American family's multiethnic heritage.

(e-book available)

Common Let Love Have the Last Word

Atria, 2019
Multi-talented artist shares
his story of pain, struggle and
subsequent healing.
(e-book, audio available)

THE SOURCE OF SELF-REGARD

Selected Essays, Speeches, and Meditations

TONI MORRISON

Toni Morrison
The Source of Self-Regard:
Selected Essays, Speeches,
and Meditations

Crawford, Robyn A Song for You: My Life with Whitney Houston

Dutton Books, 2019 An intimate retelling of the complicated friendship which could only be told by a best friend.

(e-book, audio available)

Davidson, Tommy Living in Color: What's Funny about Me

Kensington Publishing Corporation, 2020 From being abandoned as an infant to television star, Emmy Award winning comedian shares his life with readers. (e-book available)

Day, Daniel R. Dapper Dan: Made in Harlem: A Memoir

Random House, 2019 Change and re-imaginings are the constants in this dynamic memoir of a fashion trailblazer. (e-book, audio available)

Day, Morris; David Ritz On Time: A Princely Life in Funk

Da Capo Press, 2019 Singer offers a glimpse into his life and the creative process between him, Prince and others who captured the "Minneapolis Sound."

(e-book available)

Dozier, Lamont; Scott B. Bomar How Sweet It Is: A Songwriter's Reflections on Music, Motown and the Mystery of the Muse BMG Books, 2019
Legendary songwriter and producer shares memories of his time in the music industry.
(e-book available)

Dunbar, Erica Armstrong She Came to Slay: The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman 37 Link. 2019

A tribute to one of the most exceptional women in American History and her influence on societal issues today.

(e-book, audio available)

Ellison, Ralph; John F. Callahan (ed.) and Marc C. Conner (ed.) The Selected Letters of Ellison Random House. 2020

Examines the life of author Ralph Ellison over six decades.

Ford, Clyde W. Think Black: A Memoir

Amistad, 2019

The crushing pressures of institutional racism deeply impacts the life of IBMs' first black software engineer.

(e-book available)

Greenidge, Kerri K. Black Radical: The Life and Times of William Monroe Trotter

Liveright Publishing Corporation, 2019

Black real estate magnate and newspaper owner led struggles against segregationist policies in early 20th century America that cost his fortune and his life.

Jackson, Curtis "50 Cent" Hustle Harder, Hustle Smarter

Amistad Press, 2020 From *Power* to powerful, multiplatinum selling rap artist and executive producer Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson reveals the secrets to finding and maintaining success.

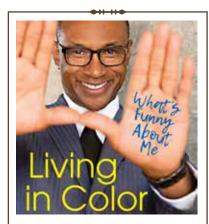
(e-book, audio available)

Jones, Saeed How We Fight for Our Lives: A Memoir

Simon & Schuster, 2019 A young man chronicles the difficulties of growing up black and gay in the American South. (e-book available)

Lee, Jason God Must Have Forgotten About Me

House Capacity Publishing, 2020 Entertainment journalist and reality TV star details his life growing up in foster care.



Tommy Davidson
Living in Color: What's Funny
About Me

Morgan-Owens, Jessie Girl in Black and White: The Story of Mary Mildred Williams and the Abolition Movement

W.W. Norton & Company, 2019 A meta-biography of a seven-year old slave girl, her reddish hair and light skin used by abolitionists to sway support against slavery. (e-book available)

Payne, Doris Diamond Doris: The True Story of the World's Most Notorious Jewel Thief

Amistad, 2019

Hoping to support her family and live a life beyond the ordinary, a woman becomes a grifter. (e-book, audio available)

Prince The Beautiful Ones

Spiegel & Grau, 2019 Handwritten lyrics and personal photos are several highlights of this memoir that the artist was writing at the time of his death.

(e-book, audio available)

Rakim Sweat the Technique: Revelations on Creativity from the Lyrical Genius

Amistad, 2019 Both memoir and writing guide, this progressive rap pioneer reveals his muses and his creative processes.

(e-book, audio available)

Rice, Susan Tough Love: My Story of the Things Worth Fighting For

Simon & Schuster, 2019 Insightful memoir details a life and career that led to a top position in the Obama administration. (e-book, audio available)

Roberts, Ebony The Love Prison Made and Unmade: My Story

Amistad, 2019
Chronicles a young woman's relationship with a man she met while he was incarcerated and their relationship after he was released

(e-book, audio available)

Ross, Rick Hurricanes: A Memoir

Hanover Square Press, 2019 Rapper and businessman chronicles his rise to fame and infamy.

(e-book, audio available)

Valentine, Sarah When I was White: A Memoir

St. Martin's Press, 2019 A young woman's self-identity is shattered when she discovers her true parentage.

(e-book, audio available)

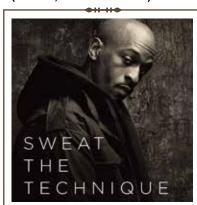
Williams, Thomas Chatterton Self-Portrait in Black and White: Unlearning Race

W.W. Norton & Company, 2019 Three personal essays about the role of race in human identity and Western society.

Winans, BeBe Born for This: My Story in Music

Faithwords, 2019
Famed gospel singer reveals his triumphs, disappointments and personal stories about his life in the music industry.

(e-book, audio available)



Rakim Sweat the Technique: Revelations on Creativity from the Lyrical Genius

Yvette, Latonya Woman of Color

Abrams Image, 2019 Lifestyle blogger discusses motherhood and how to define your own personal style and beauty.

(e-book available)

BUSINESS, FINANCE AND PROFESSIONAL

Clarke, Antoinette M.; Tricia Clarke-Stone Double Down: Bet on Yourself

Double Down: Bet on Yourself and Succeed on Your Terms

Currency, 2019

Authors present successful strategies to help move your work and personal life to the next level. (e-book, audio available)

Graham, Stedman Identity Leadership: To Lead Others You Must First Lead Yourself

Center Street, 2019
Discover how self-awareness
and personal growth can promote
success in every area of life.
(audio available)

Harts, Minda The Memo: What Women of Color Need to Know to Secure

a Seat at the Table Seal Press, 2019

A career coaching and business strategy guide for people of color. **(e-book, audio available)**

Mosley, Walter Elements of Fiction

Grove Press, 2019 Instruction on how to write well and hone one's craft is the goal of this style manual.

(e-book, audio available)

Newkirk, Pamela Diversity, Inc.: The Failed Promise of a Billion-Dollar Business

Bold Type Books, 2019 Journalist shines a critical light on workplace diversity initiatives, which have spawned a multimillion dollar industry. (e-book, audio available)

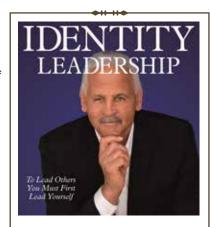
Parker, Traci
Department Stores and the
Black Freedom Movement:
Workers, Consumers,
and Civil Rights from the 1930s
to the 1980s

The University of North Carolina Press, 2019
A look at the Civil Rights movement from the retail perspective, told from both sides of the counter.

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

Viking, 2019
Groundbreaking media pioneer shares the challenges and strategies that shaped her self-evolution.

(e-book, audio available)



Stedman Graham Identity Leadership: To Lead Others You Must First Lead Yourself

COOKING

show.

Barker, Tray; Tracy Morgan
The Last O.G. Cookbook: How
to Get Mad Culinary Skills
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2019
Recipes with a dash of humor,
inspired by the popular television

Boyd, Nikki Beautifully Organized: A Guide to Function and Style in Your Home

Paige Tate & Co., 2019 Popular *You-Tube* influencer shares her best advice for a stylish, yet organized home.

Jackson, Eddie
Game-Day Eats: 100 Recipes
for Homegating Like a Pro
Harper Design, 2019
Full-color cookbook for tailgating
and sports-themed parties.

(e-book available)

Let's Move Initiative,
Obama, Michelle
Healthy Lunchtime Cookbook:
Award-Winning Recipes from
and for Kids

Skyhorse Publishing, 2019 56 recipes created to be budgetfriendly, healthy, and delicious for the entire family.

Lynch, Lazarus Son of a Southern Chef: Cook with Soul

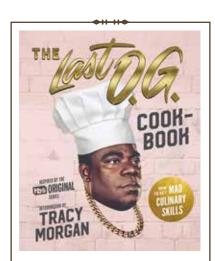
Avery, 2019

African and Caribbean influences add zest to classic recipes.

(e-book available)

Moore, Ricky Saltbox Seafood Joint Cookbook

The University of North Carolina Press, 2019
Classically trained chef shares regional seafood recipes.
(e-book available)



Tray Barker; Tracy Morgan The Last O.G. Cookbook: How to Get Mad Culinary Skills

Questlove Mixtape Potluck Cookbook

Harry N. Abrams, 2019
Author and musician imagines the ultimate potluck dinner party, with a collection of recipes that highlight the relationship between music and food.

(e-book available)

Robinson, Sallie Ann Sallie Ann Robinson's Kitchen: Food and Family Lore from the Lowcountry

University Press of Florida, 2019 Renowned Gullah chef shares South Carolina's regional favorites. Tipton-Martin, Toni
Jubilee: Recipes from Two
Centuries of African-American
Cooking: A Cookbook

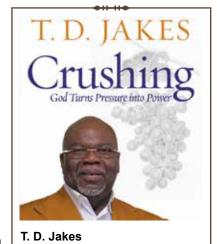
Clarkson Potter, 2019 Historic recipes are adapted to a modern palate.

(e-book available)

Wallach, Jennifer Jensen Getting What We Need Ourselves: How Food Has Shaped African American Life Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2019

Multigenerational story documents the power of food and the ongoing battle for access in certain communities.

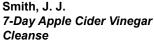
(e-book available)



Walters, Jackie The Queen V: Everything You Need to Know about Sex, Intimacy, and Down There

Andy Cohen Books, 2019 Celebrity physician addresses a woman's most intimate concerns with a warm and entertaining touch.

HEALTH & SCIENCE

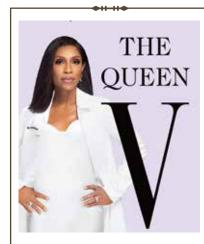


Simon & Schuster, 2019
Bestselling author and nutritionist offers advice on using the popular supplement as a detox.

(e-book, audio available)

Tyson, Neil deGrasse Letters from an Astrophysicist W. W. Norton & Company, 2019 Famed scientist uses a "cosmic perspective" to answer a variety of questions from fans.

(e-book available)



Jackie Walters
The Queen V: Everything You
Need to Know about Sex,
Intimacy, and Down There
Health Care

HISTORY

Health Care

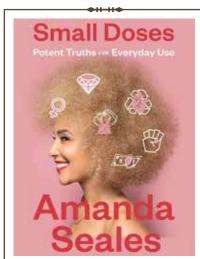
Crushing

Bell, Richard Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped Into Slavery and Their Astonishing Odyssey Home

37 lnk, 2019

Historian reconstructs the true story of the kidnapping, escape and the campaign to bring their captors to justice.

(e-book, audio available)



Amanda Seales Small Doses: Potent Truths for Everyday Use

Bunch, Lonnie G., III A Fool's Errand: Creating the National Museum of African American History and Culture During the Age of Bush, Obama, and Trump

Smithsonian Books, 2019 Bunch tells of the political and personal challenges he faced to bring the vision for the NMAAHC to fruition.

(e-book available)

Green, Victor H.; Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (introduction) The Negro Motorist Green Book: 1938-1963

Skyhorse Publishing, 2019 This historical resource for travelers, served as a guidebook that provided a list of establishments throughout the country where African Americans could feel welcome.

Horne, Gerald; Charisse **Burden-Stelly**

W.E.B. Du Bois: A Life in American History (Black History Lives)

ABC-CLIO, 2019

Extensively researched memoir offers a radical reinterpretation of this eminent life.

Keith, Phil; Tom Clavin All Blood Runs Red: The Legendary Life of Eugene Bullard-Boxer, Pilot, Soldier,

Hanover Square Press, 2019 The incredible story of the first African American military pilot in World War I.

(e-book available)

Sorin, Gretchen Driving While Black: African American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights

Liveright Publishing Corporation, 2019

Describes how car ownership in the Black community was seen as a tool of Civil Rights, using archival research, interviews, and the researcher's family's history.

INSPIRATIONAL/RELIGION

Castro, Will; DJ Khaled Unique Hustle: My Drive to Be the Best Car Customizer in Hip Hop and Sports

Mango, 2019

Details the trials and triumphs on the road to becoming a success in the world of custom cars. (e-book, audio available)

Jakes, T. D. Crushina

fortitude.

Faithwords, 2019 Famed pastor believes that hardships and challenges can breed tremendous strength and

(e-book, audio available)

Lifford, Tina The Little Book of Big Lies: A Journey into Inner Fitness

Amistad, 2019

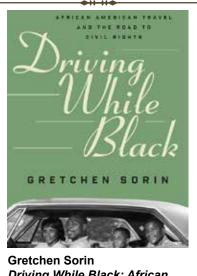
Actor and playwright helps you decipher and overcome the untruths that prevent selfawareness and happiness.

(e-book available)

Seales, Amanda Small Doses: Potent Truths for Everyday Use

Harry N. Abrams, 2019 Comedian and actress delivers "self help from the hip" through a series of essays, commentaries and photos.

(e-book available)



Driving While Black: African American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights

Webb, Koya

Let Your Fears Make You Fierce: How to Turn Common Obstacles Into Seeds for Growth

Hay House, 2019 Offers guidance and tools to help you live a confident, fearless and fulfilling life.

(e-book available)

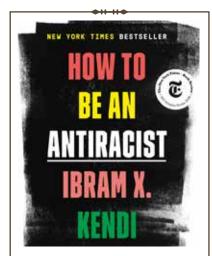
POLITICAL/SOCIAL **SCIENCES**

Barber, Charles Citizen Outlaw: One Man's Journey from Gangleader to Peacekeeper

Ecco Press. 2019 Inspiring profile of a young man who went from gangland kingpin to becoming an upstanding community advocate for social iustice and prison reform.

Cobbina, Jennifer E Hands Up, Don't Shoot: Why the Protests in Ferguson and Baltimore Matter, and How They Changed America

New York University Press, 2019 Examination of how racial inequality, hostility and bias contribute to police killings of black citizens.



Ibram X. Kendi How to Be an Antiracist

Crump, Ben Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People Amistad, 2019

Prominent civil rights attorney exposes the systematic discrimination that has contributed to the legally sanctioned destruction of African Americans.

(e-book, audio available)

Gilliam, Dorothy Butler Trailblazer: A Pioneering Journalist's Fight to Make the Media Look More Like America

Center Street, 2019 Reporter chronicles her personal triumphs and tragedies amid her groundbreaking work at one of America's preeminent newspapers,

Harris, Kamala The Truths We Hold: An American Journey

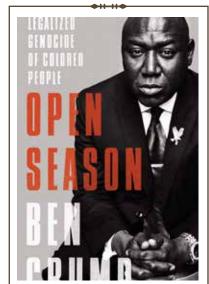
Penguin Press. 2019 Senator, and former presidential candidate, discusses the core truths that have guided her life and career.

(e-book, audio available)

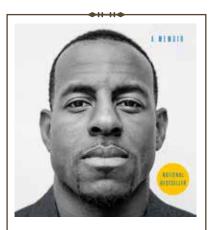
Hawes, Jennifer Berry Grace Will Lead Us Home: The Charleston Church Massacre and the Hard, Inspiring Journey to Forgiveness

St. Martin's Press.2019 Recounts the events at Emanuel AME and the individual tales of strength and survival.

(e-book, audio available)



Ben Crump Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People



Andre Iguodala
The Sixth Man: A Memoir

Jarrett, Valerie
Finding My Voice: My Journey
to the West Wing and the Path
Forward

Viking, 2019

Political insider shares stories of her remarkable family and how she emerged as one of the most significant women of our times. (e-book, audio available)

Kendi, Ibram X. How to Be an Antiracist One World. 2019

Author contends that society must shy away from ethnic identities and shift the focus upon the racist ideologies and policies of individuals and the institutions they support, in order for change to occur.

(e-book, audio available)

Levin, Josh
The Queen: The Forgotten Life
Behind an American Myth
Little, Brown and Company, 2019
Con artist, scammer, possible
murderer- this is the story of the
infamous "Welfare Queen."
(e-book, audio available)

Morris, Monique W Sing a Rhythm, Dance a Blues: Education for the Liberation of Black and Brown Girls

New Press, 2019 A frank discussion about the educational system and how girls of color are criminalized.

(e-book available)

Reid, Joy-Ann The Man Who Sold America: Trump and the Unraveling of the American Story

William Morrow & Company, 2019 Impassioned examination of the of the 45th president's ideology, performance, and possible long-term harm to the country.

(e-book, audio available)

Williams, Thomas Chatterton Self-Portrait in Black and White: Unlearning Race

Norton, 2019

Three personal essays about the role of race in human identity and Western society.

(e-book, audio available)



Kamala Harris The Truths We Hold: An American Journey

RELATIONSHIPS

Gladwell, Malcolm Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know About the People We Don't Know

Little, Brown and Company, 2019 Discusses how we make sense of and discern the truth in our encounters with other people. (e-book, audio available)

Perry, Imani
Breathe: A Letter to My Sons
Beacon Press, 2019
Author reflects on what it means

to parent children in a society that she views as increasingly racist and unjust.

(e-book available)

SPORTS & RECREATION

Edwards, Braylon; Tom VanHaaren Braylon Edwards: Doing It My Way: My Outspoken Life as a Michigan Wolverine, NFL Receiver, and Beyond Triumph Books, 2019 Former footballer shares highlights of his career and life as both an amateur and professional

(e-book available)

athlete.

Iguodala, Andre
The Sixth Man: A Memoir
Blue Rider Press, 2019
NBA player shares his
personal journey to basketball
superstardom.
(e-book available)

Kram, Mark Smokin' Joe: The Life of Joe Frazier

Ecco Press. 2019 A biography of the famed boxer whose legacy in American sports and society endures. (e-book, audio available)

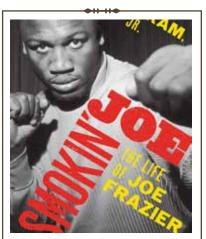
Odom, Lamar Darkness to Light: A Memoir BenBella Books, 2019 Former player offers a raw account of life lived with addictions, regrets and eventual renewal.

(e-book available)

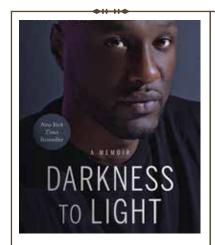
Rose, Derrick; Sam Smith I'll Show You

Triumph Books, 2019 Basketball phenom writes about his childhood in a tough Chicago neighborhood, his career, and his often antagonistic relationship with the media. (e-book available)

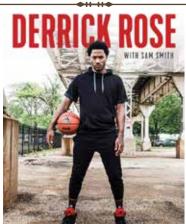
Windhorst, Brian LeBron, Inc.: The Making of a Billion-Dollar Athlete Grand Central Publishing, 2019 The financial acumen and power of star athlete is analyzed. (e-book, audio available)



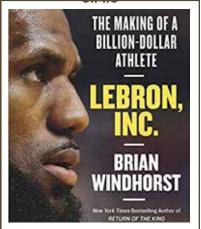
Mark Kram Smokin' Joe: The Life of Joe Frazier



Lamar Odom Darkness to Light: A Memoir



Derrick Rose; Sam Smith I'll Show You



Brian Windhorst LeBron, Inc.: The Making of a Billion-Dollar Athlete



2020 CALENDAR



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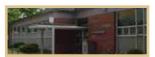
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