

2022 AFRICAN AMERICAN BOOKLIST

The Detroit Public Library has published its African American Booklist for more than 50 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 beyond, and continues to be a highly anticipated publication for book lovers all across the nation.

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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

This year's theme, "The Ties That Bind: African Writers and the Black Diaspora," was chosen because we wanted to share with our community the rich and expansive literary world of the Black Diaspora — from Jamaica, to France, to Brazil, to Canada and beyond. Thanks to Dr. Frieda Ekotto, Associate Chair of the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies at the University of Michigan, we have an informative essay that examines the connections, commonalities and differences of African writers and the writers of the Diaspora.

We are grateful that Dr. Nwando Achebe, faculty member at Michigan State University and daughter of Chinua Achebe, has shared a beautiful personal reflection about her father, who is recognized as the father of African literature. McArthur Binion, the internationally known artist who grew up in Detroit, kindly granted permission to use his painting entitled "Hand: Work" for our cover. Mr. Binion has established a studio residency program to serve undergraduate art students in the Detroit area.

For your reading pleasure, our team of librarians have carefully selected current fiction and non-fiction titles for readers of all ages. This year, the selection committees have also included books from the Black Diaspora for children and adults.

During the challenging days of the last few years, perhaps in the 2022 African American Booklist you will find a title that offers information, entertainment, and, most of all, hope. We greatly appreciate your continued support of the Detroit Public Library.

Yours for reading,

Jo Anne G. Mondowney **Executive Director**

Jo anne G. Mondowney

Chinua Achebe (1930-2013)

A LIFE OF PURPOSE

By Dr. Nwando Achebe

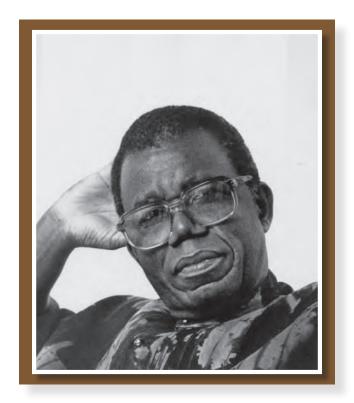


Photo credit: Special Collections Research Center, Temple University Libraries, Philadelphia, PA

hinua Achebe is considered the father of African Literature, not because he is the first African to write a novel, but because he launched the <u>genre</u> of African Literature. As editor-in-chief of the Heineman African Writers Series, he discovered and published one hundred African novels.

My father created a platform for African novelists to tell their own stories on their own terms. He once said: "Africa is people' may seem too simple and too obvious to some of us. But I have found . . . that the most simple things can still give us a lot of trouble, even the brightest among us: this is particularly so in matters concerning Africa." He also affirmed: "if you only hear one side of the story, you have no understanding at all." Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* tells "the other side of the story." With over 20 million copies sold, it is the most read African novel.

Chinua Achebe was born on November 16, 1930, in eastern Nigeria. His father, Isaiah, was a catechist and his mother, Janet, a church leader. Achebe attended Government College Umuahia, a premier secondary school for young men, and then the University College Ibadan.

It was at Ibadan that a young Chinua was introduced, by his British teachers, to what they felt was African Literature—Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and Joyce Cary's *Mr. Johnson*. Achebe describes reading these books and siding with the white man against the African "savages" without recognizing that those "savages" were in fact himself! He subsequently realized that literature was not innocent and could turn you against your own: "stories are not always innocent" he once said, "they can be used to put you in the wrong crowd, in the party of the man who has come to dispossess you." He also came to the realization that Africans could not allow others to write their stories: "nobody can teach me who I am. You can describe parts of me, but who I am and what I need is something I have to find out myself." It was this need to "write [his] own" story that propelled him to publish short stories in Ibadan's *University Herald*. As he once articulated, "it is the storyteller who . . . creates history. . . . [T]he memory that the survivors must have, otherwise their surviving would have no meaning."

When Achebe published *Things Fall Apart* in 1958, he was only 28 years-old, and was working as Director of the Nigerian Broadcasting Service (NBS) in Lagos. Soon after the novel's publication he was re-assigned to NBS's Enugu location. It was there that he met a spirited and driven young woman, Christie Chinwe Okoli, who he married in 1961. They had four children—two daughters and two sons—Chinelo (1962), Ikechukwu (1964), Chidi (1967), and me, Nwando (1970).

My father described himself as a "protest writer with restraint." He believed that the African writer's role was to side with the powerless against the emperor. He famously said: "there is a moral obligation, I think, not to ally oneself with power against the powerless." Indeed, South African President Nelson Mandela saw him as a resistance fighter, saying that it was in the company of Achebe's books that the prison walls came tumbling down.

Achebe's university career began in 1967. He held positions in universities in Nigeria, Europe, and the United States. He admired Langston Hughes, was close friends with James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, Sonya Sanchez, and Amiri Baraka. He had great friends, but family always came first—"there are few things that I value more than my family."

Dr. Nwando Achebe is the Jack and Margaret Sweet Endowed Professor of History at Michigan State University. Her most recent book is Female Monarch and Merchant Queens in Africa, published in 2020.

The Ties That Bind:

African Writers and Writers of the Black Diaspora

by Frieda Ekotto, Ph.D.

INTRODUCTION

Whether it is the result of American slavery, colonization or South African apartheid, a collective memory of endurance and resistance binds writers from the African continent to writers from the African diaspora. Because slavery in the Americas was a result of European colonization of the Americas and the African continent, Black and African writers from all corners of the globe have always explored, theorized, documented, visualized, and archived their people's creativity and resilience. This is not new. In The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano (1789), former slave **Olaudah Equiano** writes about different styles, slavery, travel and spiritual narratives. Much more recent, in his classic novel Things Fall Apart (1958), Nigerian writer Chinua Achebe teaches us about pre-colonial life in the southeastern part of Nigeria and the outcomes of European colonization. Wole Soyinka, the 1986 Nigerian Nobel Prize Winner for literature has written numerous novels, essays and collections of poetry in which he challenges Nigeria's political history of dictators since the country's independence in the 1960s.

South African writers have written endlessly to denounce the apartheid regime. This includes activist and writer **Dennis Brutus** who spoke against the apartheid government of South Africa in the 1950s and 1960s. Brutus's Letters to Martha and Other Poems from a South African Prison (1968) have been translated into numerous languages. Novelist Bessie Head in a powerful narrative A Question of Power (1973) gives us a tour of the history of apartheid. **Nelson** Mandela spent over 27 years in prison, and became the first Black president in South Africa. His memoir, Long Walk to Freedom (2013), tells his story of fighting for freedom in the brutal regime of apartheid in South Africa.

The Kenyan writer Binyavanga Wainaina in How to Write About Africa (2006) comes back to the ongoing stereotypes the media use to talk about the continent of Africa. The African American Brit Bennett in The Mothers (2016) and The Vanishing Half (2020) offers narratives of life and culture from the Southern part of the United States of America. Antiguan American novelist Jamaica Kincaid in Annie John (1985) and Lucy (1990) portrays the history of her small island of Antigua. The Jamaican writer Alexia Arthurs' novel, How to Love a Jamaican (2018), highlights the diversity of the Jamaican people. The Afro-Brazilian author Joel Rufino dos Santos in his book The Agusty's Suitors (2002) enlightens us with the historical details and

cultural memory of Brazil. The Scottish and Sierra Leonean writer **Aminatta Forna** in *The Devil That Danced on Water* (2003) and *The Memory of Love* (2010) describes the devastation of war in Sierra Leone, but the story of love remains powerful. Writers from the Caribbean denounce their slavery and colonial past emphasizing their connections to the continent of Africa. The French Martinican poet and writer **Aimé Césaire** in his *Return to the Mother Land* (1939) affirms his identity rooted in his blackness. Other Caribbean authors who have written on this theme include **V.S. Naipaul**, **Derek Walcott**, **George Lamming**, **Kamau Brathwaite**, **Jean Rhys**, **Maryse Condé**, **Frantz Fanon**, **Ana Lydia Vega**, **Lorna Goodison** and **Mayra Santos-Febres**.

A common theme these writers share across cultures and centuries is a determination to survive and to testify about their sense of exile. A second common theme is the responsibility African writers and writers of the Black Diaspora to offer critical perspectives on the chronic unease caused by slavery and colonialization. Finally, they explore what it means to survive in the present while staying bound to memory. Together, these themes spur Black writers to create new language, new tools of reflection, and new grammar for their being-in-the world as African descendants. They write to uncover cultural and historical memories that have shaped their subjectivities in this world, as well as to depict the relationship of violence and domination that they and their communities are subjected to daily.

Much work by African writers and writers of the Black Diaspora is organized around displacements, ruptures, and crisis. Writers narrate the ways the past affects the present, beginning from an understanding that the past is also our destiny. Often, their writing also urgently narrates a political presence. Many tell of migration to Europe, followed by the numerous kinds of misery that exile implies. They are concerned with understanding their blackness, rooted in an African cultural heritage, as well as the impact of Western modernity.

Global Blackness indicates the larger community of Black people within each diasporic community. In a way, African writers on the continent and dispersed throughout the diaspora are bound to the memory of the colonial history, while writers of the Black Diaspora tackle issues from many different angles (slavery, colonialism and imperialism). As their daily lives evolved in uncovering their historical memory, African and Black Diasporic writers often explore the uncovering of their parents' memories. Others are busy describing the current ongoing daily oppression



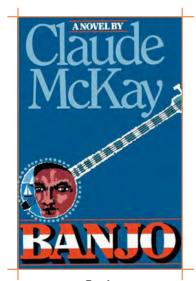
Things Fall Apart

as we have witnessed recently with Black Lives Matter since the death of George Floyd and other Black women and men in the United States. In sum, these writers are in a rich conversation with each other, as they explore and explain our past and present, and as they articulate what our futures might become.

Bind (cont.)

CONNECTIONS

The word *diaspora* is of Greek origin. It means dispersal, and it signifies despair and displacement for a group of people. In her article "Diaspora Old and New," feminist theorist Gayatri Spivak argues that the first type of forced diaspora was the result of "slavery and indentured trade and conquest, and intra-European economic migration. The second type was caused by "Eurocentric migration border crossing, the seeking of political asylum."



Banjo

How does this apply to writers of the Black Diaspora? **Jane Nardal** (1900-1993), a Martinican intellectual, suggests that World War I brought together Black people from every origin and nationality. She writes, "Blacks of all origins, of different nationalities, mores, and religions vaguely [felt] that in spite of everything they [belonged] to one and the same race." This led them to realize a shared identity rooted in their common blackness and suffering via enslavement, colonialism and imperialism.

These thoughts were acknowledged and debated at the first Pan-African Congress in Paris in 1919. They are also found in race conscious literary and philosophical movements such as the Harlem Renaissance in New York and Négritude in Paris, and in race organizations including Jamaican Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association. Contributions from the Black American contingent—particularly the African American philosopher W.E.B DuBois (1868-1963) and Jamaican American poet and writer Claude McKay (1889-1948)—were especially well received by Francophone intellectuals. The future president of Senegal, Léopold Sédar Senghor, claimed that his discovery of Black values was born from work created in the United States of America. Thus, the awakening of Black racial consciousness was experienced on both

sides of the Atlantic—in Harlem and later in Paris. The concept of Black racial consciousness connects people of African descent across the globe.

We find an example of the connection of racial consciousness in African American writer **Ralph Ellison**'s *Invisible Man* (1952) and the French Cameroonian filmmaker **Pascale Obolo**'s *Invisible Woman* (2008). Forty-seven years passed between the Ellison's novel and Obolo's film, and although they lived on different continents and spoke different languages, the book and film spoke to each other in subtle ways.

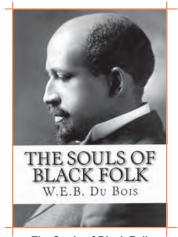
Ellison's book focuses on the interiority of the character, whom we follow in the greatest detail through his quest for identity. He searches for his image in American society, but he finds his image nowhere. His dream of existence becomes a nightmare that submerges him into shadow. We become closed in the reading like the character in his lightless hole.

By contrast, Obolo's *The Invisible Woman* (2008) presents a character on the streets of Paris, who others do not see. She, too, is invisible, as she wanders through the streets. In both works, we move from invisible to the visible, from black to white, from shadow to light. For both works engage with the same problematic, the invisibility of Black men and women in Western societies. The underlying forces are the oppression that makes victims of Blacks living in the United States and France, and the hostile atmosphere that stems from racism, colonialism and imperialism.

Another essential text is African American philosopher W.E.B. DuBois' The Souls of Black Folk (1903), one of the most powerful and influential books in American history. In it he announces, "The problem of the 20th century is the problem of the color line." This is still true today, as demonstrated in many works by African diasporic writers. For so long repressed in a society that upholds White European achievement as its standard, blackness now explodes into public consciousness as words, sounds, gestures, and images. In the contemporary African and the

Black Diaspora cultural landscape, images as well as historical memory created by or depicting Black men and women have become increasingly visible and palpably present. African writers and writers of the Black Diaspora provide methodological tools for interpreting the ongoing struggle of oppression, cultural images from the continent of Africa, for reflecting upon their power as historical or philosophical statements. Poetry and literature are pivotal arenas of Black cultural production; likewise, Black music, art and any creative activities are the cornerstone of popular culture for blackness in the African continent, its diaspora and throughout the globe.

In her article "Toward a Diaspora Literature: Black Women Writers from Africa, the Caribbean and the United States," Gay Wilentz discusses the role of Black women writers in forging this diaspora culture. She cites the keynote address given by the African American poet and novelist Audre Lorde at the conference entitled The Black Woman Writers and the Diaspora held October 1986 at Michigan State University "Sisterhood and Survival." In her address, Lorde noted that the conference was held to bring women of African descent together to reclaim land, heritage, selves—to explore their identities, questioning and redefining what that



The Souls of Black Folk

Africanness could mean, within our particular communities, and upon the world stage. As she suggests, writers and writers of the Black Diaspora are currently exploring different possibilities in connecting with their African heritage and cultural continuity for people of African descent.

COMMONALITIES

While African Americans were active in the Civil Rights Movement and organizing against the Vietnam War, Africans and diasporic Blacks in the Caribbean were struggling to obtain their independence from European Empires, not just on the African continent, but also in the Caribbean, for example, in Algeria, Mozambique, Guinea, Jamaica, Trinidad, etc. As inheritors of this colonial struggle, African writers and writers of the Black Diaspora often discuss their global dispersion throughout the world: Europe, the Americas, the Caribbean. The writing they produce is part of retelling the stories of their ancestors, a continuation of African cultural heritage.

Bind (cont.)

Today, African, Caribbean and other writers from the Black Diaspora, continue to remember the past as a duty of conscience. They insist on this remembrance in their writings because they create from the same common designation: global blackness. They also are constantly examining memory. They compel us to ask how things are remembered, why, and by whom. Through these acts of both remembrance and questioning they keep the memories of our cultural ancestors alive. This is well represented in many texts written by African writers and

Abdulrazak Gurnah: 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature

Novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah was awarded the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature. Born in Zanzibar, an archipelago off the coast of Tanzania, Gurnah has written ten novels including, Memory of Departure, Paradise, By the Sea, Desertion, Gravel Heart and Afterlives. The Nobel Prize was awarded for "his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents."

writers from the Diaspora. The memories of heroes and heroines like Suzanne Césaire (Martinique), Paulette Nadal (Martinique), Mariama Bâ (Senegal), Aminata Sow Fall (Senegal), Maryse Condé (Guadeloupe), Assia Djebar (Algeria), Edwidge Danticat (Haiti), Amiral Cabral (Mozambique), Cheik Anta Diop (Senegal), René Maran (Martinique), Léon-Gontran Damas (French Guiana), Dany Laferrière (Haiti), Nimrod (Chad), Mweze Ngangura (Congo), Thomas Sankara (Burkina Faso), Ousmane Sembène (Senegal) and all the others who remain unnamed, not because they are unimportant but because the list is so long, so formidable, so instructive for the African Diaspora that it flows beyond any memory.

This work of both remembrance and interrogation is also clear in the work of African American writers: present memory is informed by slavery, colonialism and imperialism. We find this in the work of Frederick Douglass, Toni Cade Bambara, Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, J. California Cooper, Alice Walker, Langston Hughes, E. Lynn Harris, James Baldwin, Terry McMillan, Bebe Moore Campbell, Richard Wright, Walter Mosley, Eric Jerome Dickey, Sheneska Jackson, Octavia Butler, Alex Haley, Gloria Naylor, Iyanla Vanzant, Omar Tyree, Albert French, Connie Briscoe, Ernest Gaines, Nikki Giovanni, Chester Himes, and many more African American writers who remember the history of slavery with its unsettled trauma, as well as the ongoing racism that affects Black people in the United States of America.

Indeed, the terms "African American" and "Afropean" suggest a potent bond between Black women and men in Europe, the Americas, and the Caribbean. This term "Afropean" includes Blacks in Europe who

trace full or partial ancestry to Sub-Saharan Africa. The Kenyan writer **Ngugi Wa Thiong'o** defined Afropean as Africans writing in European languages in his book *Decolonizing the Mind* (1986). Both writers acknowledge historical progenitors in Africa, brought across the Atlantic Ocean over centuries of slavery, as well as the impact of colonialization and migration. The bond is for many a fragile one. For some, such a history of fragmentation and migrations can only be set forth in fragmentary terms, an endless production of the images of shared memory

and endless longing for wholeness within the frame of modernity. Significantly, the working out of such a problematic takes place not only in the vaunted spaces of literary productions. "Africa" remains a defining historical term, shaping identities over time. For others, the racial term "Black" best represents that spectrum of visions as a continuing production of newness and difference. Whether one or the other, both or neither, the discourse is ongoing, intense, and diverse. This is why we find the African Diaspora within global blackness and transnational contexts.

DIFFERENCES IN THE MIDST OF COMMONALITIES

Scholar Earl Lewis compels us to ask what we need to consider with regards to our understanding of the Black Diaspora: "How do we begin to understand differences within black communities? How do we define and refine the practice of writing African peoples into a history of overlapping diasporas?" Clearly, it is important to acknowledge the multiple and varied experiences of Black people from the Americas, the Antilles, Europe and Africa. To emphasize difference within the Black Diaspora, Brent Hayes Edwards emphasizes "a relation of similarity and difference" as a way of understanding "diaspora as difference."

While it is important to understand that each community's experience is unique, there are however three recurrent motifs that link African cultural heritage and its historical memory. These motifs are 1) exile, 2) constant unease, from which comes the *nervous conditions* of being a colonized subject, and 3) surviving in the present while still being bound to memory.



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Let me first address exile, a recurrent theme in literature. Writers from many origins have written about exile, but it is essential to our memory of the Middle Passage and colonialism. Often literature that explores exile considers dehumanization. For example, Claude McKay's novel Banjo (1929) narrates the stories of Black dockworkers from around the world. The novel is often studied as an example of Black Internationalism connecting struggles against slavery, colonialism and racism. Ray, the main character in *Banjo*, notes similarities between atrocities the French were committing in the colonies and the treatment endured by Black in the United States. Indeed, exile themes traverse many other Black diasporic texts written in major European languages: The Little Prince of Belleville and Asseze the African Woman by Calixthe Beyala (Cameroon), Northern Paradise by J.R. Essomba (Cameroon), Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Nigeria), Zenzele, A Letter to My Daughter by Nozipo Maraire (Zimbabwe), The Belly of the Atlantic by **Fatou Diome** (Senegal), and many others.

Second, there is a sense of constant unease. This is perhaps best articulated in Nervous Conditions (1988) by Zimbabwean writer Tsitsi Dangarembga. In her book, Dangarembga illustrates the condition of natives during colonization. For her, a native suffers from a debilitating colonial condition, and her title "Nervous Conditions" comes from the introduction written by

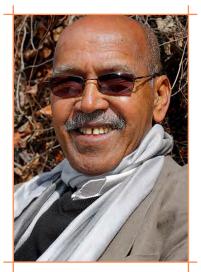
Bind (cont.)

the French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre to *The Wretched of Earth* by **Frantz Fanon** (1962). Fanon's book is considered by many as the bible of revolution for former colonized nations around the world. It makes sense that a post-colonial subject comes back to this collective unease, the strangeness of being a colonial subject who remains nervous in the world that does not desire them.

Finally, there is the struggle of understanding oneself as bound to both the present and to memory, "always in a state of becoming, always incomplete" as French philosopher Gilles Deleuze writes in Essays Critical and Clinical (1993). Similarly, in "Cultural Identity and Cinematic Representation," the British Jamaican cultural critic Stuart Hall reminds us that we all write and speak from a particular place and time, from a history and a culture which

is specific" (Framework 36: 86-81, 1993). Moreover, every person who identifies as a postcolonial subject speaks with a consciousness and a position that are very historically specific: Somali writer Nuruddin Farah in his novel Sweet and Sour Milk (1979) questions violence in his country. In Ethiopian American **Dinaw Mengestu**'s, How to Read the Air (2010), he explores his family's immigrant status by revisiting the history of Ethiopia. Maaza Mengiste, an Ethiopian American novelist, offers a beautiful tale of Ethiopia's history, memory and violence in *The Shadow King* (2019).

In closing, I would like to acknowledge this rich array of African and Black Diaspora writers available to us today, in which so many topics have been addressed. I also wish to highlight the new generation of writers who raise up historical memories with a creativity embedded in their specific locations and the specific histories of their parents. This is illustrated in several recent works. Many African American writers tackle the current issues of violence and race in American society. Claudia Rankine's Citizen: An American Lyric (2014), honors the lives of victims of police brutality by creating an archive. Novelists Jesmyn Ward in The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks about Race (2016) and Ta-Nehisi Coates in Between the World



Nuruddin Farah

and Me (2015) revisit James Baldwin's famous work, The Fire Next Time (1963). Sarah **Bloom** in her memoir, *The Yellow House* (2019), weaves her personal story with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 New Orleans. In The Dragonfly Sea (2019), the Kenyan novelist, Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor, takes the reader to discover a small fishing village in Kenya where some Chinese people landed centuries ago. She reminds us that the relationship between Africa and China existed long before this 21st century.

In Open City (2011) by Nigerian American Teju Cole, the reader follows the story of a Nigerian immigrant living in New York City, while completing the last year of a psychiatry fellowship. Jamaican writer Alecia McKenzie concentrates on Jamaican artist and celebrity Dulcinea Evers's life in her novel Sweetheart (2011). Haitian American novelist Edwidge Danticat's

Claire of the Sea Light (2016) is a powerful story of a townspeople mourning the disappearance of a young girl in Haiti. The Zimbabwean American novelist NoViolet Bulawayo in We Need New Names (2013) shares how free she was as a child in her country and the difficulties of being an immigrant in the United States of America. In Americanah (2013), Nigerian American writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, describes a community of African immigrants bridging their stories with their families on the continent of Africa. Yaa Gyasi, a Ghanaian American, begins her novel Homegoing (2017) in the United States, but takes her main character back to the African continent. Algerian Kamel Daoud in The Meursault Investigation (2013) responds to the most famous novel The Stranger (1942) written by the French Algerian Albert Camus. Cameroonian American writer Imbolo Mbue also works on a narrative that brings the U.S. and Cameroon together in Behold of Dreamers (2016) and How Beautiful We Were (2021). For this generation of African writers, their desire is to connect diasporic spaces with the continent of Africa. We have much to learn from them, as they explore blackness, exile, unease, and the place of memory in a past and a present that would often rather they be forgotten.



Dr. Frieda Ekotto is the Lorna Goodison Collegiate Professor of Afroamerican and African Studies, Comparative Literature and Francophone Studies at The University of Michigan. She is also Associate Chair of the university's Department of Afroamerican and African Studies. Dr. Ekotto is an intellectual historian and philosopher with expertise in the areas of 20th and 21st century Anglophone and Francophone literature and the cinema of West Africa and its Diaspora.

Recommended Titles by Dr. Ekotto

Chinua Achebe (Nigeria) Things Fall Apart (1958)

J.M. Coetzee (South Africa)

Disgrace (1999)

Zadie Smith (Black British)
White Teeth (2000)
Swing Time (2016)

Ayi Kwei Armah (Ghana) The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born (1968) Mia Couto (Mozambique) Sleep Walking Land (2007) Mabata Bata (2017)

Jamaica Kincaid (Trinidad) A Small Place (1988) Lucy (1990)

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o (Kenya) Petals of Blood (1977) Decolonizing the Mind (1986)

Amadou Hampâté Bâ (Mali) The Fortunes of Wangrin (1987) Teju Cole (Nigeria) Open City (2011)

Mariama Bâ (Senegal) So Long A Letter (1981)

Dany Laferrière (Haiti) How to Make Love to a Negro Without Getting Tired (2010)

Maryse Condé (Guadeloupe) Segu (1984) Windward Heights (1995)



Children & Teen Books from the Black Diaspora

Abike-lyimide, Faridah Ace of Spades

Feiwel and Friends, 2021 Two students at an elite high school are bullied via text messages when they become senior prefects.

(e-book, audio available)

Achikeobi-Lewis, Omileye My Heart Flies Open

North Atlantic Books, 2021 Empowering yoga poses to help children achieve mindfulness.

(e-book available)

Anyadiegwu, Chinelo Introduction to Igbo Mythology for Kids: A Fun Collection of Heroes. Creatures, Gods, and Goddesses in West African **Tradition**

Bloom Books for Young Readers, 2022 A fun collection of popular myths, folktales, heroes and

(e-book, audio available)

Atinuke Baby, Sleepy Baby

Candlewick, 2021 One-by-one a baby boy is comforted by members of his family while entering into a deep sleep.

Atinuke Africa, Amazing Africa: **Country by Country**

Candlewick, 2021 A celebration of the 55 countries on the African continent.

Brown, Roseanne A. A Psalm of Storms and Silence

Balzar + Bray, 2021 A West African inspired fantasy about two royal sisters torn between duty and desire. (e-book, audio available)

Bunce, Elizabeth C. Cold-Blooded Myrtle

Algonquin, 2021 A young girl solves mysteries with the help of her governess and cat.

(e-book available)

Ejaita, Diana Olu and Greta

Rise X Penguin Workshop, 2021

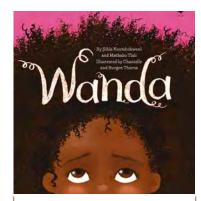
Two cousins dream of connecting with one another despite their geographical and cultural differences.

(e-book available)

Hall, Desmond Your Corner Dark

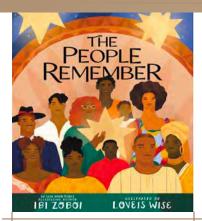
Atheneum, 2021 A Jamaican teen is forced to make life-changing decisions to save his father.

(e-book, audio available)



Sihle Nontshokweni Wanda

legends.



Ibi Zoboi The People Remember

Huchu, T. L. The Library of the Dead

Tom Doherty Associates, 2021 Ropa, the ghostalker, must call on Zimbabwean magic and Scottish pragmatism to hunt down clues.

(audio available)

Ifueko, Jordan Redemptor (Raybearer 2)

Thorndike Striving Reader, 2021

The Empress of the Artisan throne descends into the Underworld to save the world from future ruins.

(e-book, audio available)

Jolomba, Warona Rest Easy

Wattpad Books, 2021 Nava's poetry reveals the future of her friends. (e-book available)

Khan, Naaz Room for Everyone

Atheneum, 2021 A rhyming picture book detailing a young boy's ride on a crowded bus in Zanzibar. (e-book available)

Nontshokweni, Sihle Wanda

Crocodile Books, 2021 A young girl learns to love her hair after a visit from Makhulu, her grandmother.

Okupe, Roye E.X.O.: The Legend of Wale Williams Volume 2

Dark Horse Books, 2022 After the mysterious disappearance of his father. young Wale inherits a superhero suit that will aid in restoring hope. (e-book available)

Paasewe-Valchev, Mayonn The Leopard Behind the Moon

Greenwillow Books, 2021 Ezomo breaks the village's laws in an attempt to seek revenge on a dangerous leopard.

(e-book, audio available)

Perkins, Useni Kwame Nkrumah's Midnight Speech for Independence

Just Us Books, Inc. 2021 A celebratory story of Nkrumah's historic declaration of Ghana's independence.

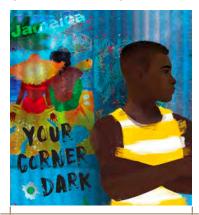
Selasi, Taiye Anansi and the Golden Pot

DK Children, 2021 After discovering a refillable magical pot, Anansi will have to learn to share or allow greed to take over.

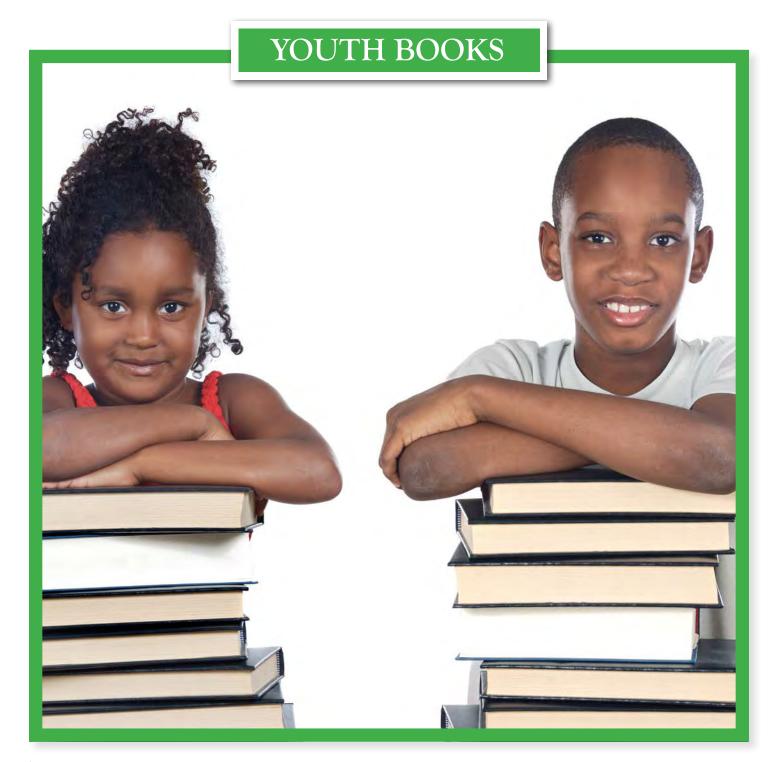
Zoboi, Ibi The People Remember

Balzer & Bray, 2021 The seven principles of Kwanzaa are explained as they relate to the history of African Americans.

(e-book available)



Desmond Hall Your Corner Dark



PICTURE & BOARD BOOKS

Abrams, Stacey Stacey's Extraordinary Words

HarperCollins Publishers, 2021 A young girl finds the courage and the words to enter her first spelling bee.

(e-book, audio available)

Adunni, Malik Malik's Magic African Alphabet Hat

Mascot Kids. 2021 A young boy travels to the continent of Africa with the help of his magical hat.

Aire, Ekiuwa Njinga of Ndongo and Matamba

Our Ancestories, 2021 A powerful example of girl power, a young lady becomes the gueen of two ancient African kingdoms.

Byatt, Jo Bea by the Sea

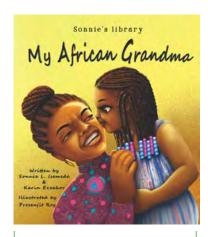
Child's Play, 2021 An imaginary playmate helps a little girl face her fears.

Chanani, Nidhi What Will My Story Be?

Viking, 2021

After listening to family members' stories, a young girl wonders what her story will be.

(e-book available)



Sonnie Isemede My African Grandma

Clarke, Maxine Beneba When We Say Black Lives Matter

Candlewick, 2021 Explains and explores the BLM movement with honest words and beautiful illustrations.

(e-book available)

Curry, Parker Parker Shines On

Aladdin, 2021 A 6-year-old learns she can be

a friend and a helper, all while dancing.

(e-book available)

Dillard, J. J.D. and the Hair Show Showdown

Kokila, 2021 8-year-old barber, J.D., learns there's a big world of hair and beauty.

(e-book available)

Gorman, Amanda Change Sings: A Children's Anthem

Viking Books for Young Readers. 2021

A poetic celebration of the power of working together.

(e-book, audio available)

Hannah-Jones, Nikole 1619 Project: Born on the Water

Kokila, 2021

A lyrical picture book that focuses on identity as it chronicles the consequences of slavery and the resilience of a people.

(e-book, audio available)

Isemede, Sonnie My African Grandma

Independently Published, 2021 Londynn learns about her culture when she visits Nigeria.

Kastner, Emmy **Nerdy Baby-Dinosaurs**

Roaring Books, 2021 Discover the prehistoric reptiles that roamed the earth before us. (e-book and audio available)

Kelly, Ceece Dear Mama's Loving Arms

Soaring Kite Books, 2022 A sleepy baby loves being held by mom.

(e-book available)

Youth Books (cont.)

Kelly, Ceece Drawn to Friends: Georgie Dupree

Soaring Kite Books, 2022 After moving to a new city, a little girl finds ways to make new friends.

(e-book available)

Madison, Megan Our Skin: A First Conversation About Race

Rise and Penguin Workshop, 2021

Suggestions to parents on how to teach diversity to young children. (e-book and audio available)

Marley, Cedella Marley and the Family Band

Random House Books for Young Readers, 2022

A neighborhood concert is the perfect introduction for a little girl who just moved into town. (audio available)

Maynor, Megan Henry at Home

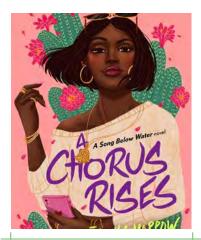
Clarion Books, 2021 Henry's life changes when his sister starts school. (e-book available)

Mitchell, Malcolm My Very Favorite Book in the Whole Wide World

Orchard Books, 2021 A reluctant reader makes a clever discovery. (e-book available)

Pinkney, Andrea Davis Count to LOVE!: A Bright Brown Baby Board Book

Cartwheel Books, 2021 Parent and child bond as a baby learns to count.



Bethany C. Morrow A Chorus Rises: A Song Below Water Novel

Richards, Doyin Watch Me: A Story of Immigration and Inspiration

Feiwel & Friends, 2021 Despite facing many obstacles, a young boy finds success in a new world.

(e-book available)

Tarpley, Natasha The Me I Choose to Be

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2021 Photographs that feature children exploring their potential.

Todd, Traci N.

Nina: A Story of Nina Simone
G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for
Young Readers, 2021
Singer, songwriter and civil rights
activist uses musical storytelling
to leave a lasting imprint on
young readers.

(e-book, audio available)

Union-Wade, Gabrielle & Dwyane Wade Shady Baby

HarperCollins, 2021 Shady baby uses her facial expressions to defend her friends, one stare at a time.

(e-book, audio available)

Verde, Susan I Am Courage

Harry N. Abrams, 2021 A young child learns about courage and how it helps us grow. (e-book available)

Williams, Karen L. & Khadra Mohammed Spirit of the Cheetah

Wisdom Tales, 2021
A young man must channel the essence of the mighty Shabelle River to win the race of manhood. (e-book available)

Williams, Schele Your Legacy: A Bold Reclaiming of Our Bold History

Harry N. Abrams, 2021 The history of chattel slavery is explored through the use of interwoven languages, culture and African kingdoms.

(e-book available)



Leah Johnson Rise to the Sun

Woodson, Jacqueline
The Year We Learned to Fly
Nancy Paulsen Books, 2022
While in a cramped apartment,
a brother and sister use their
imaginations to escape their

(e-book available)

surroundings.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Ayala, Vita Livewire Deluxe Edition

Valiant Entertainment LLC, 2021 Sworn to protect and condemned as a traitor, a young teen must fight while finding herself. (e-book available)

Jemisin, N. K. Far Sector

DC Comics, 2021 A human in the Green Lantern sector must rely on her unique instincts to protect the strange world around her. (e-book available)

Kim, Carol Rainforest Destruction: A Max Axiom Super Scientist Adventure

Capstone Press, 2021
The causes, consequences and solutions for deforestation are explored.

(e-book available)

McKinney, LL Nubia: Real One DC Comics, 2021 African-American teenager with superhuman abilities is disregarded because of her race. (e-book available)

Okupe, Roye Malika: Warrior Queen Volume One

Dark Horse Comics, 2021 A mixture of history, politics, drama, romance and betrayal takes place in West Africa. (e-book available)

Reynolds, Jason Stuntboy, In the Meantime Atheneum, 2021

A young-man's alter ego protects his superheroes from strife so they can save the world.

(e-book, audio available)

Sherman, Charlotte Watson Mermaid Kenzie: Protector of the Deeps

Astra Young Readers, 2022 A little girl uses her imagination to explore the deep sea. (e-book available)

Sohn, Emily Animal Extinction Emergency: A Super Scientist Adventure

Capstone Press, 2021 Experts sound the alarm on the impact of global warming on wildlife.

(e-book, available)

Stone, Nic The Vanished (Shuri: A Black Panther Novel #2)

Scholastic, Inc., 2021 A group of kidnapped girls are lost and the Princess of Wakanda must find them before it's too late. (e-book, available)

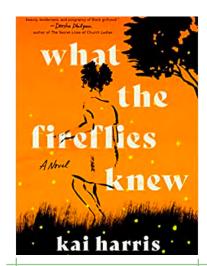
Stone, Nic Symbiosis (Shuri: A Black Panther Novel #3)

Scholastic, Inc., 2021
The Princess must explore
uncharted parts of Wakanda to
find a mysterious "symbiote" with
superhuman speed and strength.
(e-book, available)

Walker, David F. The Black Panther Party: A Graphic Novel History

Ten Speed Press, 2021
An illustrated history of the Black
Panther movement that focuses
on the social, healthcare, and
educational programs in the
community.

(e-book available)



Kai Harris What the Fireflies Knew

Youth Books (cont.)

JUVENILE FICTION

Alston, B.B. Amari and the Night Brothers HarperCollins Publishers, 2021 Filled with Black Girl Magic, this story encompasses enchantment. courage, determination, and friendship.

(e-book, audio available)

Arnold, Marie The Year I Flew Away

Versify, 2021

With the help of a clever witch, Gabrielle becomes the perfect American.

(e-book, audio available)

Baptist, Kelly J. The Swag is in the Socks

Crown Books for Young Readers, 2021

Xaiver gains the confidence to break out of his shell after his uncle gives him a gift.

(e-book, audio available)



Mahogany L. Browne Chlorine Sky

Bourne, Shakirah Josephine Against the Sea Scholastic Inc., 2021 A daughter fights a formidable enemy for her father's affection. (e-book available)

Collier, Bryan We Shall Overcome

Orchard Books, 2021 An iconic civil rights song is brought to life.

(e-book available)

Dawson, Keila V. Opening the Road: Victor Hugo Green and His Green Book Beaming Books, 2021 Mr. Green published guides that listed safe places for travelers

during the Jim Crow era. (e-book available)

Ewing. Eve L. Maya and the Robot Kokila, 2021

Maya creates a robot to be her friend in her new classroom. (e-book, audio available)

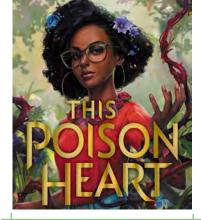
Giles, Chrystal D. Take Back the Block

Random House, 2021 As housing developers are dividing the community, 11-yearold Wes tries to find a solution to save his neighborhood. (e-book, audio available)

Johnson, Varian Playing the Cards You're Dealt

Scholastic Press, 2021 A ten-year-old boy sets out to win a spades tournament as a way to gain his father's approval.

(e-book available)



Kalynn Bayron This Poison Heart

Marks, Janae A Soft Place to Land

HarperCollins, 2021 When family hardship costs her security, a young girl learns how to rebuild what matters. (audio available)

Mbalia, Kwame Black Boy Joy: 17 Stories Celebrating Black Boyhood

Delacorte Press, 2021 Creating a dose of happiness and jubilee, this collection of stories honors young males. (e-book, audio available)

Royce, Eden Root Magic

Walden Pond Press, 2021 An 11-year-old learns about her culture and family history. (e-book, audio available)

Stone, Nic Fast Pitch

Crown Books, 2021 Black girls can compete in sports and a family mystery helps one girl understand why. (e-books, audio available)

Watson, Renee Ways to Grow Love

Bloomsbury, 2021 Summer is exciting for one young girl, her first sleep-away camp and a new baby sister bring high expectations.

(e-book, audio available)

Youssef, Bassem The Magical Reality of Nadia

Scholastic, Inc., 2021 6th grade is a challenge for Nadia, but a magical amulet can help. (e-book, audio available)

JUVENILE NON-FICTION

Baptiste, Tracy African Icons: Ten People Who Shaped History

Algonquin Young Readers, 2021 A pre-colonial history of Africa's kings, queens, inventors, scholars, and visionaries. (e-book available)

Cole, Johnetta Betsch African Proverbs for All Ages

Roaring Brook Press, 2021 Teachings that draw upon the wisdom of African countries for young and old.

(e-book available)

DK

Timelines from Black History: Leaders, Legends, Legacies DK Children, 2021

A visual timeline that explores the famous and not-so famous.

(e-book, audio available)

Gordon, Tyler We Can: Portraits of Power

Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR), 2021

Young artist creates portraits from his inspiring muses.

(e-book available)

Hudson, Wade (ed.) Recognize! An Anthology Honoring and Amplifying Black Life

Crown Books for Young Readers, 2021

Compilation of essays, short stories and poetry celebrating culture and life.

(e-book available)

Jackson, Sharna **Black Artists** Shaping the World

Thames & Hudson, 2021 An introduction to prominent artists of the African diaspora

Magoon, Kekla The Revolution in Our time: The Black Panther Party's Promise to the People

Candlewick Press. 2021 The unveiling of a revolutionary movement in history and the importance of community preservation is explored. (e-book and audio available)

Nichols, De Art of Protest: Creating, Discovering, and Activating Art for Your Revolution

Big Picture Press, 2021 A collection of modern protest art from the civil rights movement to Black Lives Matter.

Riley, Rochelle That They Lived: African Americans Who Changed the World

Wayne State University Press, 2021

Children are photographed to reflect important people and moments in Black history.

(e-book available)

Shawn, Pryor Basketball's Most Redonkulous **Dunks!** (Sports Illustrated Kids Prime Time Plays)

Capstone Press, 2021 Stand-out moments in the sport are highlighted.

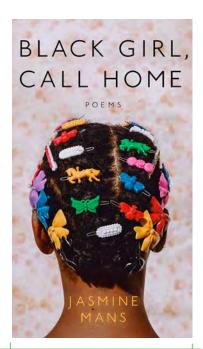
Walker, Alice Sweet People Are Everywhere

Tra Publishing, 2021 A poem about a boy's travels around the world and the similarities discovered.

Weatherford, Carole Boston Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre

Carolrhoda Books, 2021 Explores the horrific mob attack on a prominent Black community in Oklahoma.

(e-book available)



Jasmine Mans Black Girl, Call Home

Youth Books (cont.)

JUVENILE BIOGRAPHIES

Copeland, Misty Black Ballerinas: My Journey to Our Legacy

Aladdin, 2021

The celebrated dancer pays homage to those who came before her.

(e-book available)

King, Heidi Tyline Saving American Beach

Putnam Pub Group, 2021 A famous opera singer fights to save an historical beach from developers.

(e-book, audio available)

Patrick, Denise Lewis VIP: Lewis Latimer: Engineering Wizard

Harper Collins, 2021 The life of this gifted inventor is highlighted.

(e-book available)

Scholfield-Morrison, Connie Stitch by Stitch: Elizabeth Hobbs-Keckly Sews Her Way to Freedom

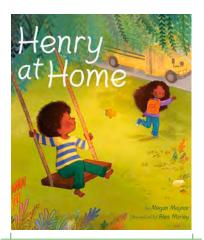
Holiday House, 2021 A former enslaved woman uses her skills as a seamstress to buy her freedom and that of her son. (e-book available)

Williams, Andrea Baseball's Leading Lady: Effa Manley and the Rise and Fall of the Negro Leagues

Roaring Brook Press, 2021 The story of a powerful woman in Negro League baseball who cultivated a powerhouse team. (e-book available)

TEEN NON-FICTION

Captivating History
The Transatlantic Slave Trade:
A Captivating Guide to the
Atlantic Slave Trade and
Stories of the Slaves That Were
Brought to the Americas
Captivating History, 2021
A guide that shows how a
population was enslaved for
business ventures.



Megan Maynor Henry at Home

Leng'ete, Nice The Girls in the Wild Fig Tree: How I Fought to Save Myself, My Sister, and Thousands of Girls Worldwide

Little, Brown and Company, 2021 A young woman leads the fight against female mutilation in the Maasai village in Kenya. (e-book available) Madigan, Tim
Burning: Black Wall Street and
the Tulsa Race Massacre of

1921 (Young Readers)

Henry Holt and Company, 2021 The roots of one of the worst homegrown terror attacks on American citizens are examined in detail

(e-book available)

Mans, Jasmine Black Girl, Call Home

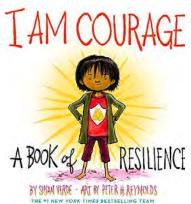
Penguin Random House, 2021 Spoken word poet addresses poignant topics in Black motherhood.

(e-book and audio available)

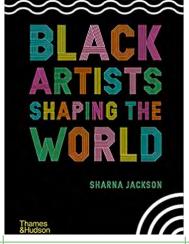
Onwuachi, Kwame Notes from a Young Black Chef (Adapted for Young Adults)

Delacorte Press, 2021 Nothing would stop Kwame from his dream of becoming the king of his kitchen.

(e-book, audio available)



Susan Verde I Am Courage



Sharna Jackson Black Artists

Wallace, Sandra Neil Race Against Time: The Untold Story of Scipio Jones and the Battle to Save Twelve Innocent Men

Astra Publishing House, 2021 A self-taught attorney and formerly enslaved man defends 12 African American men who are hastily tried and sentenced to death.

(e-book, audio available)

TEEN BIOGRAPHIES

Coates, Ta-Nehisi The Beautiful Struggle: A Memoir (Adapted for Young Adults)

Delacorte Press, 2021
The author divulges intimate details about himself and his family while growing up in 1990s
West Baltimore.

Maraniss, Andrew Singled Out: The True Story of Glenn Burke

Philomel Books, 2021 A pioneering athlete's life is examined through the intersection of gay rights, race and Major League Baseball.

Obama, Michelle Becoming: Adapted for Younger Readers

Delacorte Press, 2021
Biography of the former first lady tailored to a younger audience with new photos and introduction.

(e-book available)

Rogers, Sugar They Better Call Me Sugar: My Journey from the Hood to the Hardwood Black Sheep, 2021

An empowering story of how determination helped the WNBA star rise from poverty to success. (e-book, audio available)

TEEN FICTION

Amayo, Reni K. Descendants of the First

Onwe Press LTD, 2021
Twin goddesses must make their way back to each other in order to save the Nri kingdom against mythical creatures.

Bayron, Kalynn The Poison Heart

Bloomsbury, 2021 A young lady with botanical gifts inherits an estate with a magical garden.

(e-book, audio available)

Bryant, Elise One True Loves

Balzer & Bray, 2022 College bound student Lenore is still feeling inadequate after being accepted to NYU.

Browne, Mahogany L. *Chlorine Sky*

Crowne, 2021
A best friend uses poetry to discuss the many challenges experienced in friendship.

(e-book, audio available)

Charles, Tami Muted: A Novel in Verse

Scholastic Press, 2021 New teenage artist struggles to find her voice in the crazy world of the music industry. (e-book available)

Coles, Jay Things We Couldn't Say

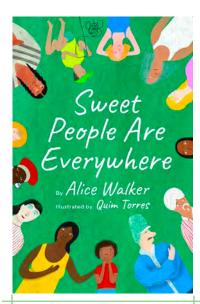
Scholastic Press, 2021 Young Gio's life is thrown into turmoil after the return of his estranged mother.

(e-book available)

Davis, Dana L. Roman + Jewel

Inkyard Press, 2021
The lead actress and her understudy compete for the affection of the male lead in a Broadway play.

(e-book, audio available)



Alice Walker Sweet People Are Everywhere

Youth Books (con't)

Elle, J. Wings of Ebony

Simon & Schuster BFYR, 2021 A teenager returns to save her Houston neighborhood after inheriting her father's supernatural powers. (e-book, audio available)

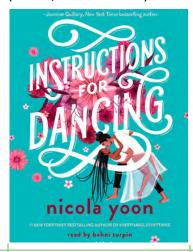
Emezi, Akwaeke Bitter

Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2022

17-year-old Bitter is pulled between friendship, artistic passion, and romance. (e-book, audio available)

Forna, Namina The Gilded Ones

Delacorte Press, 2021
Forced into a dilemma, a young teen must choose to stay with family and live in fear, or bond with others who share rare gifts. (e-book, audio available)



Nicola Yoon Instructions for Dancing

Garrett, Camryn Off The Record

Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2021

A young reporter contemplates exposing a #MeToo story. (e-book, audio available)

Goffney, Joya Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry

HarperTeen, 2021 A teenage girl is blackmailed

A teenage girl is blackmailed into completing a to-do list or the contents of her journal will be exposed.

(e-book, audio available)

Harris, Kai What the Fireflies Knew

Tiny Reparations Books, 2022 After the loss of her father, KB spends the summer trying to reconcile and adjust to her new circumstances.

(e-book, audio available)

Jackson, Kosoko Yesterday is History

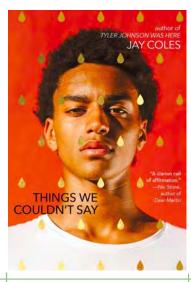
reside.

Sourcebooks, 2021 A liver transplant recipient now has the ability to time travel and must decide on which world to

Jackson, Tiffany D, Nic Stone, Ashley Woodfolk, Dhonielle Clayton, Angie Thomas & Nicola Yoon Blackout

Quill Tree Books, 2021 Six young couples spend a summer building friendships and first loves.

(e-book available)



Jay Coles
Things We Couldn't Say

Johnson, Leah Rise to the Sun

Scholastic Press, 2021 In an attempt to escape an abusive relationship, young Olivia quickly rediscovers herself amongst old and new friends. (e-book, audio available)

Kann, Claire The Marvelous

Swoon Reads, 2021 Six teens compete in a reality show to win a cash prize.

Morris, Brittney The Cost of Knowing

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2021 Sixteen-year-old Alex Rufus experiences visions of the future and tries to protect his family.

Morrow, Bethany C. A Chorus Rises: A Song Below Water Novel

Tor Teen, 2021 Teen influencer Naema is cancelled after exposing someone from a secret society.

Moulite, Maika & Marita Moulite One of the Good Ones

Inkyard Press, 2021 YouTube vlogger loses her life after attending #BLM protest. (audio available)

Riguad, Debbie Simone Breaks All the Rules

Scholastic Inc., 2021
A teenage girl is desperate to escape the boy-proof container her strict Haitian family has created for her.

(e-book, audio available)



Eden Royce Root Magic



Reni K. Amayo Descendants of the First

Sambury, Liselle Blood Like Magic

Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2021

Voya must undergo a series of tests by her ancestors in order to preserve the supernatural abilities of herself and her family. (e-book, audio available)

Sekaran, Shanthi The Samosa Rebellion

Katherine Tegen Books, 2021 After his grandmother is captured as a foreigner, a young teen must put his life in danger to help her escape.

(e-book, audio available)

Smart, Ciannon Witches Steeped in Gold

Harper Teen, 2021 Two young heirs ban together to overthrow the current regime to take power.

Yoon, Nicola Instructions for Dancing

Delacorte Press, 2021 After a strange encounter with an older woman, Evie develops premonitions that draw her into a dance studio.

(e-book, audio available)



Dana L. Davis Roman + Jewel



Adult Books from the Black Diaspora

Adeeyo, Oludara
Self-Care for Black Women:
150 Ways to Radically
Accept & Prioritize Your
Mind, Body, & Soul
Adams Media Corp, 2021
Carefully curated exercises
designed to invigorate and
improve physical, mental and
emotional health.
(e-book, audio available)

Adjapon, Bisi The Teller of Secrets

Harpervia, 2021
One of West Africa's most exciting literary talents tells the story of Esi as she tries to reconcile her ideals and dreams with her family's complicated past and troubled future.

(e-book available)

Adjonyoh, Zoe Zoe's Ghana Kitchen: An Introduction to New African Cuisine-From Ghana with Love

Voracious, 2021 Cookbook celebrates the burgeoning African food revolution.

(e-book available)

Afia, Kekesa Dead Dead Girls

Penguin Random House, 2021

The murder of three girls forces Louise to face her past. **(e-book, audio available)**

Ahmed, Nawaaz Radiant Fugitives

Counterpoint, 2021
During the last weeks of her pregnancy, Seema seeks the comfort of her family, but instead encounters long held secrets and betrayals.

(e-book available)

Akerstrom, Lola Akinmade In Every Mirror She's Black Sourcebooks Landmark, 2021 Three women with different motives and backgrounds move to Sweden with hopes

and dreams but are met with

(e-book available)

varying societal issues.

Akpan, Uwem New York, My Village

W. W. Norton & Co. Inc., 2021 A Nigerian editor is excited about his move to New York until he encounters cultural superiority and racist assumptions.

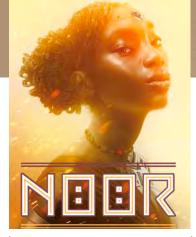
(e-book available)

Bailey, Phoebe An African American Cookbook: Exploring Black History and Culture Through Traditional Foods

Good Books, 2021 Stories of the Underground Railroad, combined with recipes from the Bethel AME church community in Lancaster City, PA.



Asali Solomon
The Days of Afrekete



Nnedi Okorafor Noor

Benson, Jendella Hope and Glory

William Morrow, 2022 Glory returns home to London to find chaos and secrets after the death of her father.

(e-book and audio available)

Blackburn, Lizzie Damilola Yinka, Where Is Your Huzband?

Pamela Dorman Books, 2021 Yinka believes love will find her when the time is right, but when her cousin gets engaged she decides to take matters into her own hands.

(e-book, audio available)

Bola, J. J. The Selfless Act of Breathing

Atria, 2021

After a devastating loss Michael leaves London hoping to find a better life in America but finds he can't escape his past.

(e-book, audio available)

Chancy, Myriam J. A. What Storm, What Thunder

Tin House Books, 2021 Ma Lou recalls the lives and struggles of several people affected by an earthquake in Haiti.

(e-book, audio available)

Dogon, Mondiant & Jenna Krajeski Those We Throw Away Are Diamonds: A Refugee's Search for Home

Penguin Press, 2021 Congolese author and activist speaks out on the atrocities of the global refugee crisis. (e-book, audio available)

Gayle, Mike All the Lonely People

Hachette Books, 2021 A lonely Australian widower must make friends quickly after lying to family about his active social life.

(e-book available)

Hamya, Jo Three Rooms

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2021 A young woman leaves Oxford University searching for her identity and a place of her own. (e-book available)

Hussian, Nadiya Nadiya Bakes

Clarkson Potter, 2021 Netflix series host and past winner of Great British Baking Show presents recipes for an American audience.

Igharo, Jane The Sweetest Remedy

Penguin Publishing, 2021 Hannah travels to Nigeria for the funeral of the father she's never met.

(e-book, audio available)

Jallow, Toufah & Kim Pittaway

Toufah: The Woman Who Inspired an African #Metoo Movement

Truth to Power, 2021
Teenage pageant winner and sexual assault victim advocate shares her horrific account of the traumas inflicted onto her by a Gambian dictator.

(e-book, audio available)

Jones, Gayl Palmares

Beacon Press, 2021
A mythical recounting of a young slave girl's journey from Portuguese plantations to a fugitive slave settlement called Palmares.

(e-book, audio available)



Diaspora (cont.)



Bisi Adjapon The Teller of Secrets

Kinouani, Guilaine Living While Black: Using Joy, Beauty, and Connection to Heal Racial Trauma Beacon Press. 2021 British psychologist empowers readers to practice self-care and protect themselves from the harm of white supremacy. (e-book, audio available)

Kopacz, Anita Shallow Waters

Atria/Black Privilege Publishing, 2021 A Yoruba deity is brought to life and discovers resilience, love and strength in Antebellum America. (e-book, audio available)

Lee. Andrea Red Island House

Scribner, 2021 A woman examines her life and marriage while visiting her family's African vacation home.

(e-book, audio available)

May, Nikki Wahala

Custom House, 2022 Four Anglo-Nigerian women explore friendship, careers and love while navigating chaos and betrayals. (e-book, audio available)

Ngamije, Rémy The Eternal Audience of One

Gallery/Scout Press, 2021 Coming-of-age story of a young man who builds life in Cape Town after escaping Rwanda during the Civil War. (e-book available)

Nwoka, Okezie God of Mercy

Astra House, 2021 Tradition, spirituality and social cultures clash in a village where a young girl is accused of being a witch. (e-book, audio available)

Okorafor, Nnedi Noor

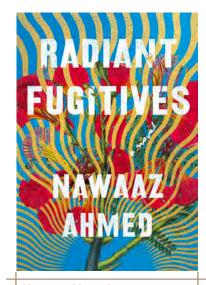
Daw Books, 2021 Sci-Fi meets thriller in the tale of a young woman in a race against time in near-future Nigeria.

(e-book available)

Onuzo, Chibundu Sankofa: A Novel

Catapult, 2021 Now in her 40's, a mixed-race woman begins the search for the African father she never knew.

(e-book, audio available)



Nawaaz Ahmed Radiant Fugitives Pedrosa, Adriano, Tomas Toledo, Vivian Crockett, Kanitra Fletcher & Ayrson Heraclito

Afro-Atlantic Histories
Delmonico Books/the Broad,
2022

Featuring more than 400 works from around the African diaspora from the 16th to the 21st century.

Prophète, Emmelie & Tina Kover Blue

Amazon Crossing, 2022
Balancing life between
Miami and Port-au-Prince,
a young woman sees how
poverty impacts women in her
homeland.

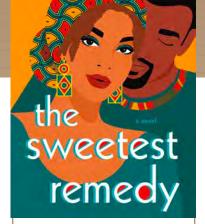
Salh, Shugri Said
The Last Nomad: Coming of
Age in the Somali Desert
Algonquin Books, 2021
A young Sufi girl learns
independence and courage
in her native land, but has to
learn a new way of life in order
to survive in America.

Solomon, Asali The Days of Afrekete

(e-book, audio available)

Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2021 A Nigerian editor is excited to continue his work in America but encounters difficulties from his new neighbors and colleagues.

(e-book, audio available)



Jane Igharo The Sweetest Remedy

Soyinka, Wole Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth

Pantheon Books, 2021 A Yoruba royal becomes a target just as he assumes a post at the United Nations. (e-book, audio available)

Sutton, Paula
Hill House Living: The Art of
Creating a Joyful Life

Clarkson Potter, 2021 A popular blogger offers simple, stylish and inexpensive tips to enhance your home's decor. (e-book available)

Terry, Bryant Black Food: Stories, Art, & Recipes from Across the African Diaspora

4 Color Books, 2021 Varied collection of recipes, essays and poetry that celebrate Black culture around the world.

(e-book available)

Williams, lan Disorientation: Being Black in the World

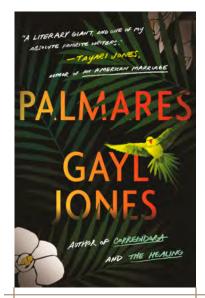
Europa Editions, 2021 A college professor discusses how he and other people deal with the emotional and psychological effects of racism.

(e-book available)

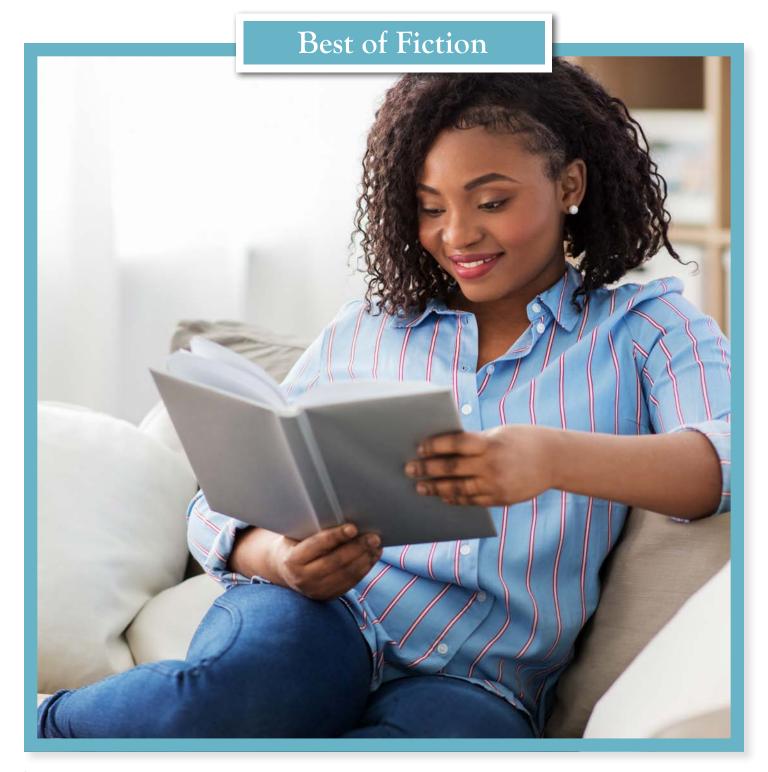
Yanique, Tiphanie Monster in the Middle

Riverhead Books, 2021 A couple's newfound romance is influenced by traditions from the U.S., Caribbean and Africa.

(e-book, audio available)



Gayl Jones Palmares



BEST OF 2021

Cosby, S.A. Razorblade Tears: A Novel

Flatiron Books, 2021 Two grief-stricken fathers seek vengeance after both their sons are murdered in a hate crime. (e-book, audio available)

Igharo, Jane The Sweetest Remedy

Penguin Publishing, 2021 Hannah travels to Nigeria for the funeral of the father she's never met.

(e-book, audio available)
Black Diaspora

Jenkins, Beverly Rare Danger

Montlake, 2021 A handsome investigator and a Detroit librarian investigate the theft of historic items. (e-book available)

Rochon, Farrah The Dating Playbook

Forever, 2021 A football player tries to convince the woman he loves that they belong together.

(e-book, audio available)

Whitehead, Colson Harlem Shuffle

Doubleday, 2021
Furniture salesman Ray Carney finds himself as the fence of a heist operation gone wrong.

(e-book, audio available)

Alderson, Kaia Sisters in Arms

Review, 2021

Two women from different backgrounds volunteer to join the legendary 6888th Women's Army Platoon during World War II.

Allen, Jane Black Girls Must Be Magic

Harper Perennial, 2022 An unexpected pregnancy leads Tabitha to lean on and learn from her chosen family.

(e-book available)

Angoe, Yasmin Her Name is Knight

Thomas & Mercer, 2021 An elite assassin takes every opportunity to seek revenge on her kidnappers.

Antionette, Ashley Butterfly 4

Ashley Antoinette, 2021 Morgan is caught in the crosshairs of an abusive relationship trying to protect the men in her life.

Arthur, A.C. The After Party

Montlake, 2021

A group of friends meet for drinks to complain about their boss after the annual holiday party. The next morning, they discover their boss has been murdered.

Beharrie, Therese And They Lived Happily Ever After: A Magical Ownvoices Romcom

Zebra Books, 2021 A romance writer finally gets the love life she has been dreaming and writing about. (e-book available)

Billingsley, ReShonda Tate Miss Pearly's Girls

Kensington Books, 2022 Four sisters return home to see their mother in her final days. (e-book available)

Black, Daniel Don't Cry for Me

Hanover Square Press, 2022 After not speaking for many years, a dying father asks his son for understanding and forgiveness.

(e-book, audio available)

Brown, Tracy Single Black Female

St. Martin's Griffin, 2021 A group of friends' bond is strengthened when an act of violence touches the families. (e-book, audio available)

Bryant, Niobia Her Pleasure

Kensington Books, 2021 A girl's trip leads to unintended consequences.

(e-book, audio available)

Burns, V.M. Killer Words

Kensington Books, 2021 Sam and Nana Jo set out to prove the innocence of the local sheriff who was arrested for murder.

(e-book available)

Chase-Riboud, Barbara The Great Mrs. Elias: A Novel Based on a True Story

Amistad, 2022 Leaving her past behind, a woman builds a large fortune while hiding her true identity. (e-book, audio available)

Fiction (cont.)

Colette, Abby Body and Soul Food

Berkley, 2021
Twins Koby and Keaton are preparing to open a cafe/ bookstore when a loved one is

(e-book, audio available)

Cosby, S.A. Razorblade Tears: A Novel

murdered.

Flatiron Books, 2021 Two grief-stricken fathers seek vengeance after both their sons

are murdered in a hate crime.

(e-book, audio available)

De Cadenet, Gia Getting Back His Game Dell, 2022

A Detroit barber is ready to give up his player ways when the right woman takes a seat in his chair. (e-book, audio available)

De Leon, Aya Queen of Urban Prophecy

Dafina Books, 2021
A new female artist gains stardom overnight but soon realizes her inexperience will cause turbulence in the industry.

(e-book available)

Deon, Natashia *The Perishing*

Counterpoint, 2021 An immortal must recover her memory in order to establish her true identity.

(e-book, audio available)

Diamond, De'nesha & Briana Cole Justified

Avon, 2021

Two novellas prove "revenge is a dish best served cold."

(e-book available)

Edim, Glory On Girlhood: 15 Stories from the Well-Read Black Girl Library

Liveright Publishing Corp., 2021 Founder of *Well-Read Black Girl* book club curates an anthology of short stories exploring the ways Black girls move into womanhood.

(e-book available)

Ellis, Shelly The Three Mrs. Greys

Kensington Publishing, 2021 A trio of unsuspecting women discover that they have been sharing a husband after he is shot.

(e-book available)

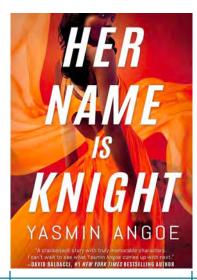
Everett, Percival The Trees

Graywolf Press, 2021
Detectives and the town's root doctor attempt to solve a string of brutal and puzzling murders in Money, Mississippi.

(e-book available)

Ferrell, Carolyn Dear Miss Metropolitan: A Novel

Henry Holt and Company, 2021 Three girls are kidnapped and held captive in a home for ten



Yasmin Angoe Her Name is Knight

years without neighbors suspecting anything, including the popular journalist who lived across the street.

(e-book available)

Foley, Aaron Boys Come First

Belt Publishing, 2022 Set in Detroit, three men navigate the pitfalls of relationships, career challenges and family drama.

Gray, Erick S. Urban Love Is

Urban Books, 2021 Four young men are bonded by the demands of friendship and the complexities of love.

(e-book, audio available)

Guillory, Jasmine While We Were Dating

Berkley, 2021

A successful actress worries that her new love won't be able to deal with her "Hollywood" lifestyle. (e-book, audio available)

Hall, Rachel Howzell These Toxic Things

Thomas and Mercer, 2021 A digital curator continues to work on a dangerous project after the mysterious death of her customer.

Hall, Tamron As The Wicked Watch: The First Jordan Manning Novel

William Morrow & Company, 2021 An ambitious television reporter is compelled to investigate the murder of a teenage girl.

(e-book, audio available)

Harris, Kai What the Fireflies Knew

Tiny Reparations Books, 2022 After the loss of her father, KB spends the summer trying to reconcile and adjust to her new circumstances.

(e-book, audio available)

Harris, Nathan The Sweetness of Water: A Novel

Little Brown and Company, 2021 After the Civil War ends a small southern town is consumed with the constant danger of racial violence and intolerance. (e-book, audio available)

Harris, Zakiya Dalila The Other Black Girl

Atria, 2021

An editorial assistant is excited to work with a new colleague, but the comradery eventually changes. (e-book, audio available)

Hickman, Trice Blindsided

Dafina Books, 2021
Three best friends cling onto one another in order to face the many challenges headed their way.

(e-book available)

Huguley, Piper Sweet Tea

Hallmark Publishing, 2021 After making partner at a New York law firm, Althea discovers that she is not living the life she really wants.

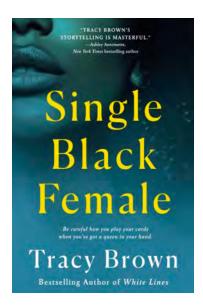
(e-book available)

Jackson, K. M. How to Marry Keanu Reeves in 90 Days

Forever, 2021

Lu doesn't like change so when she discovers that her favorite actor is getting married, she and her best friend go on a road trip to find him and convince him to change his mind.

(e-book, audio available)



Tracy Brown Single Black Female

Jeffers, Honoree The Love Songs of W.E.B. DuBois

Harper Collins, 2021
Ailey Garfield researches her
maternal family line that also
explores the history of race and
class in America.

(e-book, audio available)

Jenkins, Beverly Rare Danger

Montlake, 2021

A handsome investigator and a Detroit librarian investigate the theft of historic items.

(e-book available)

Johnson, Joycelyn Nicole My Monticello

Henry Holt and Co., 2021 Set in the near future, several novellas explore the extraordinary struggles the characters face in order to survive in America. (e-book, audio available)

Justice, Robert They Can't Take Your Name

Crooked Lane Books, 2021 The daughter of a wrongfully convicted murderer will stop at nothing to clear her father's name. (e-book available)

Martin, Alexa Mom Jeans and Other Mistakes Berkley, 2021

A friendship is tested when serious issues are ignored. (e-book, audio available)

McCormack, Una

Firefly--Carnival: The Firefly Series, Book 6

Titan Books, 2021
Tragedy strikes on planet Bethel, throwing the Serenity crew into a race against time.

(e-book available)

Fiction (cont.)

McGill, Jerry Bed Stuy: A Love Story Little A. 2021

A couple comes together despite their differences, but those same differences may drive them apart.

McQueen, Latanya When the Reckoning Comes

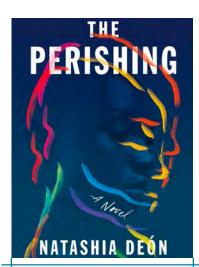
Harper Perennial, 2021 Mira returns home hoping to reconnect but finds herself confronting some truths and feelings about her past. (e-book, audio available)

Monroe, Mary Once in a Lifetime

Dafina, 2021

A seemingly small gesture results in big choices, big miracles and a lifelong friendship.

(e-book available)



Natashia Deon The Perishing

Morris, Wanda M. All Her Little Secrets

William Morrow & Co, 2021 After a corporate executive finds her lover dead she becomes embroiled in a difficult moral and ethical dilemma.

(e-book, audio available)

Mott, Jason Hell of a Book

Dutton, 2021
An author's cross-country
book tour is the catalyst for

book tour is the catalyst for understanding the trauma of living in a racist society.

(e-book, audio available)

Pearson, Robin 'Til I Want No More

Tyndale Fiction, 2021 Maxine has made peace with her life, but a man she loved many years ago comes back to town and forces her to confront her past.

(e-book, audio available)

Pride, Christine & Jo Piazza We Are Not Like Them

Simon & Schuster, 2021 Two friends are forced to face their differences after a tragic event.

(e-book, audio available)

Raybon, Patricia All That is Secret

Tyndale House Publishers, 2021 Theology professor Annalee Spain is called home to solve her estranged father's murder in a city ruled by the KKK. (e-book, audio available)



Aaron Foley Boys Come First

Riley, Vanessa Island Queen

William Morris, 2021

A woman purchases her freedom and works to become a wealthy landowner.

(e-book, audio available)

Rochon, Farrah The Dating Playbook

Forever, 2021

A football player tries to convince the woman he loves that they belong together.

(e-book, audio available)

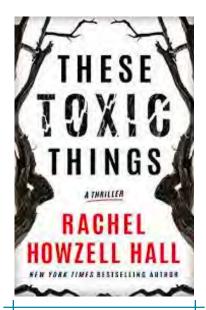
Ross, Tia Black Sci-Fi Short Stories: Anthology of New & Classic Tales

Flame Tree Collectibles, 2021 An expansive collection of stories ranging from slavery to space travel.

Ryan, Kennedy Reel: A Hollywood Renaissance Novel

Scribechick Media LLC, 2021 A young actress takes on the role of a lifetime while battling health issues.

(ebook, audio available)



Rachel Howzell Hall These Toxic Things

Saundra

A Hustler's Queen Reloaded

Dafina, 2021

Good girl turned drug kingpin works to get her personal life back on track just as betrayals and deceptions are revealed.

(e-book available)

Smith, lan K. Wolf Point

Thomas & Mercer, 2021 A prominent business man's death is ruled a suicide, but P.I. Ashe Cayne knows better.

Stringfellow, Tara *Memphis: A Novel*

Dial Press, 2022

A young artist gains a better understanding of her family's history as she paints portraits of her neighbors.

(e-book, audio available)

Swinson, Kiki Playing with Fire

Dafina Books, 2021
On the verge of flunking out of law school, young Yoshi will stop at nothing to succeed, even if it costs more than her life.

(e-book available)

Thomas, Trisha R. What Passes as Love: A Novel

Lake Union Publishing, 2021 A young enslaved woman risks everything to help her best friend escape bondage.

Ward, Jesmyn The Best American Short Stories 2021

Mariner Books, 2021 A collection of the year's best stories curated by the two-time National Book Award winner. (e-book available)



Beverly Jenkins Rare Danger

Weber, Marcus Philly Girl

Urban Books, 2021 Despite early hardships, Sarita builds a life with money, power and respect as a drug kingpin. (e-book, audio available)

Whitehead, Colson Harlem Shuffle

heist gone wrong.

Doubleday, 2021 After a robbery at the Hotel Theresa, the "Waldorf of Harlem," furniture salesman Ray Carney finds himself as the fence of a

(e-book, audio available)

Wideman, John Edgar Look for Me and I'll Be Gone: Stories

Scribner, 2021 Story collection spanning a range of topics from a treasured American writer.

(e-book, audio available)

Williams, Denise Fastest Way to Fall

Berkley, 2021

Britta finds herself in an ethical quandary when she begins dating the owner of the fitness app she is reviewing.

(e-book, audio available)

Williams, Shelia Things Past Telling

Amistad, 2022

"Mama Grace" shares the story of her 100 plus years of life.

(e-book, audio available)

Williams, Tia Seven Days in June

Grand Central Publishing, 2021 Two best-selling authors with a romantic history reconcile their shared past through their popular novels.



BEST OF 2021

Abrams, Stacey Our Time Is Now: Power, Purpose, and the Fight for a Fair America

Picador USA, 2021
Political leader and author details the ways voting rights and democracy are under attack and provides a blueprint to end voter suppression and increase civic engagement.

(e-book, audio available)

Adeeyo, Oludara Self-Care for Black Women: 150 Ways to Radically Accept & Prioritize Your Mind, Body, & Soul

Adams Media Corp, 2021 Carefully curated exercises designed to invigorate and improve physical, mental and emotional health.

(e-book, audio available)
Black Diaspora

Gains, Cassen Footnotes: The Black Artists Who Rewrote the Rules of the Great White Way

Blackstone Publishing, 2021 100 years ago, the entertainment industry was transformed by the premier of *Shuffle Along*, the first all-Black musical to be performed on Broadway.

(e-book, audio available)

Hannah-Jones, Nikole The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story

One World, 2021
An historical exploration of slavery that focuses on Black liberation instead of the white constitutional influences on freedom consistently taught. (e-book, audio available)

Smith, Will & Mark Manson Will

Penguin Press, 2021
Details the epic transformation of a kid from West Philly to one the most recognizable celebrities in the world.

(e-book, audio available)

Blay, Zeba Carefree Black Girls: A Celebration of Black Women in Popular Culture

St. Martin's Griffin, 2021 Collection of essays that salutes the strength of Black women while analyzing the stereotypes that plague them. (e-book available)

Bowen, Sesali Bad Fat Black Girl: Notes from a Trap Feminist

Amistad Press, 2021
Personal essays that explore
sexism and fat-phobia within the
Hip-Hop community.
(e-book, audio available)

Cristopher, Michael Tupac Behind Bars

Prende Publishing, 2022 A corrections officer shares his personal encounters with the famed rapper while he was imprisoned.

Evans, William & Omar Holmon Black Nerd Problems: Essays

Gallery, 2021
Creators of the popular website present a collection of essays focused on pop culture.
(e-book, audio available)

Gains, Cassen Footnotes: The Black Artists Who Rewrote the Rules of the Great White Way

Blackstone Publishing, 2021 100 years ago, the entertainment industry was transformed by the premier of *Shuffle Along*, the first all-Black musical to be performed on Broadway. (e-book, audio available)

Gorman, Amanda Call Us What We Carry: Poems

Viking Press, 2021 Presidential inaugural poet explores history, identity and hope.

(e-book, audio available)

Haygood, Wil Colorization: One Hundred Years of Black Films in a White World

Alfred A Knopf Inc., 2021 Examination of Black movies and how racism and societal changes affected what was represented on screen.

(e-book available)

Hurston, Zora Neale You Don't Know Us Negroes and Other Essays

Amistad Press, 2021 Comprehensive collection of essays from one of the most celebrated writers of the Harlem Renaissance.

landoli, Kathy Baby Girl: Better Known as Aaliyah

Atria Books, 2021 Definitive work pays homage to a star whose musical and cultural impact is still relevant two decades after her untimely death. (e-book, audio available)

Lee, Spike, David Lee & Steve Crist Spike

Chronicle Chroma, 2021 A career spanning visual celebration of the world-renowned filmmaker, cultural icon and activist.

Lewis, Miles Marshall Promise That You Will Sing About Me: The Power and Poetry of Kendrick Lamar

St. Martin's Press. 2021 In-depth look at the influential rapper, songwriter and producer and how he has shaped the music industry.

(e-book, audio available)

Karpf, Juanita Performing Racial Uplift: E. Azalia Hackley and African American Activism in the Post-Bellum to Pre-Harlem Era University Press of Mississippi, 2022

A thorough examination of the career and legacy of the classical concert artist, teacher and activist.

Marovich, Robert Peace Be Still: How James Cleveland and the Angelic Choir Created a Gospel Classic University of Illinois Press First in-depth work chronicling the history of one of the best-selling gospel recordings of all time.

Questlove Music Is History

(e-book, available)

Abrams Image, 2021 Famed musician and songwriter chronicles the last 50 years of popular music.

(e-book, audio available)

Smith, Tracy K. Such Color: New and Selected Poems

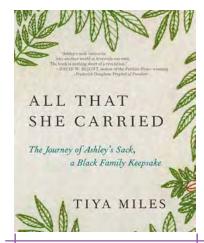
Gravwolf Press. 2021 The best poems from previously published award winning books and thirty new poems round out this collection.

(e-book, available)

Tyrus, Judy & Paul Novosel Dance Theatre of Harlem: A History, a Movement, a Celebration

Dafina, 2021

A beautiful tribute to the famed dance company using exclusive background stories and unprecedented access to the company's archives.



Tiva Miles All That She Carried

Wilkinson, Crystal & Ronald W. Davis Perfect Black

University Press of Kentucky, 2021

An illustrated poetry and prose collection that explores the experiences of women. (e-book, available)

BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIRS

Andrus. Marc Brothers in the Beloved Community: The Friendship of Thich Nhat Hanh and Martin Luther King Jr.

Parallax Press. 2021 From different religions and cultures, the two activists forge a deep and unexpected bond. (e-book available)

Brunson, Quinta She Memes Well

Mariner Books, 2021 Comedian details how she was able to use social media to grow her career.

(e-book available)

Burke, Tarana Unbound: My Story of Liberation and the Birth of the Me Too Movement

Flatiron Books, 2021 Stirring and powerful memoir of the activist and founder of one of the largest movements of our times.

(e-book, audio available)

Burns, Ursula Where You Are Is Not Who You Are

Amistad, 2021
The first Black woman to become the CEO of a Fortune 500 company shares her story.

(e-book, audio available)

Busby, Jill Louise Unfollow Me:

Essays on Complicity
Bloomsbury Publishing, 2021
Essays on racism and
respectability politics.
(e-book available)

Coates, Laura Just Pursuit: A Black Prosecutor's Fight for Fairness Simon & Schuster, 2022

Attorney reveals the disparities in the United States legal system. (e-book, audio available)

Dyson, Michael Eric Entertaining Race: Performing Blackness in America

St. Martin's Press, 2021
Famed intellectual and cultural
critic compiles an exhaustive
collection of his writings, sermons
and speeches from the early
1990s to the present.
(e-book, audio available)

Edwards, Gavin Bad Motherfu**er: The Life and Movies of Samuel L. Jackson, the Coolest Man in Hollywood

Hachette Books, 2021 A vivid portrait of the gifted actor who overcame varied obstacles to become a cultural icon.

(e-book, audio available)

Fernando, S.H. Jr. From the Streets of Shaolin: The Wu-Tang Saga

Hachette Books, 2021 A definitive history of one of the most influential music groups of our time.

(audio available)

Foxx, Jamie & Nick Chiles Act Like You Got Some Sense: And Other Things My Daughters Taught Me

Grand Central Publishing, 2021 Multi-talented entertainer shares how his upbringing and each phase of his life prepared him for fatherhood.

(e-book, audio available)

Kay, Jackie Bessie Smith: A Poet's Biography of a Blues Legend

Vintage Books, 2021 A poetic tribute to the *Empress of the Blues* that captures the highs and lows of the singer's life.

(e-book, audio available)

Kennedy, Gerrick Didn't We Almost Have It All: In Defense of Whitney Houston Abrams, 2022

The life of the musical icon is examined through a current day lens.

(e-book available)

Lewis, John John Lewis: The Last Interview and Other Conversations

Melville House Publishing, 2021 A collection of interviews reveal how a young activist became a human rights icon.

(e-book available)

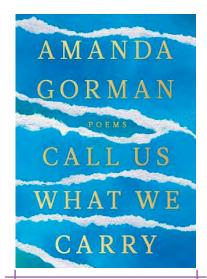
Lewis, Nicole Lynn Pregnant Girl

Beacon Press, 2021 Family advocate describes her struggles as a young single mother and how that experience fuels her life's mission. (e-book, audio available)

Lindsay, Rachel Miss Me with That: Hot Takes, Helpful Tidbits and a Few Hard Truths

Ballantine, 2022 The first Black *Bachelorette* shares her opinions and experiences about life on and off camera.

(e-book, audio available)



Amanda Gorman
Call Us What We Carry

Pearce, Sheldon Changes: An Oral History of Tupac Shakur

Simon & Schuster, 2021 An examination of the artist's life and influence of his music on the modern-day protest movement. (e-book, audio available)

Philippe, Ben Sure, I'll Be Your Black Friend Harper, 2021

Memoir describes a lifetime of being seen as a *POC* in predominantly white spaces. **(e-book, audio available)**

Porter, Billy Unprotected: A Memoir

Harry N. Abrams Inc., 2021 One of the biggest stars today tells how he went from Pittsburgh to Broadway and now Hollywood. (e-book, audio available)

Robinson, Phoebe Please Don't Sit on My Bed in Your Outside Clothes: Essays

Tiny Reparations Books, 2021 Comedian, actress and producer shares stories about why she moves to her own beat despite societal expectations of Black women.

(e-book, audio available)

Senghor, Shaka
Letters to the Sons of Society:
A Father's Invitation to Love,
Honesty, and Freedom
Random House. 2022

Activist shares his life and his heart with his sons.

(e-book, audio available)

Smith, Will & Mark Manson Will

Penguin Press, 2021
Details the epic transformation of a kid from West Philly to one the most recognizable celebrities in the world.

(e-book, audio available)

Tubbs, Michael The Deeper the Roots: A Memoir of Hope and Home

Flatiron Books, 2021 Memoir of the first Black and youngest-ever mayor of Stockton, CA and the challenges he faced governing in the 21st century.

(e-book available)



Quinta Brunson She Memes Well

Turner, Dawn Three Girls from Bronzeville

Simon & Schuster, 2021
Two sisters and their best friend navigate a life of hardships, with each resulting in different outcomes.

(e-book, audio available)

Union, Gabrielle & Kevin Carr O'Leary You Got Anything Stronger?: Stories

Dey Street Books, 2021 Famous wife, mother and actress shares the power in finding joy in life's challenges (e-book, audio available)

Walker, Imani J. A Calm Chaos

Amistad Press, 2021
Psychiatrist shares her story of being raised in a family where mental illness, anxiety and depression was present in multiple family members.

(e-book, audio available)

White, Gayle Jessup
Reclamation: Sally Hemings,
Thomas Jefferson, and a
Descendant's Search
for Her Family's Lasting Legacy
HarperCollins, 2021
Chronicles the journey to
understanding her ancestors,
both the enslavers and the
enslaved.

BUSINESS, FINANCE AND CAREER

Chatelain, Marcia Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America

Liveright, 2021

Pulitzer award winning author uncovers the failed convergence of fast food franchises and racial justice.

(e-book, audio available)

Harts, Minda Right Within: How to Heal from Racial Trauma in the Workplace

Seal Press, 2021

Provides action points to help women of color move forward in spite of adversities and burdens. (e-book available)

Ross, Rick & Neil Martinez-Belkin

The Perfect Day to Boss Up: A Hustler's Guide to Building Your Empire

Andover Square Press, 2021 Multi-platinum rapper and business owner shares his road to success despite adversity and setbacks.

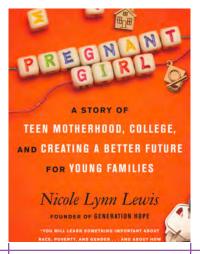
(e-book, audio available)

COOKING, CRAFTS, ENTERTAINING

Day, Cheryl Cheryl Day's Treasury of Southern Baking

Artisan, 2021
One of the South's most respected bakers shares her ancestors' recipes.

(e-book available)



Nicole Lynn Lewis Pregnant Girl

Harper, Brandi Cheyenne Knitting for Radical Self-Care: A Modern Guide

Harry N. Abrams Inc., 2022 Author aims to show how this popular craft yields benefits beyond the physical creation.

LaBelle, Patti & Laura B. Randolph LaBelle Cuisine: Recipes to Sing About

Gallery/13A, 2021 Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the classic cookbook, Patti presents a new collection of family recipes. (e-book available)

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Lipsey, Toni The Tunisian Crochet Handbook: A Beginner's Guide

Harry N. Abrams Inc., 2021 Popular fiber artist offers a different take on traditional crochet, teaching new stitches that will resemble knitting. Lomas, Vallery
Life Is What You Bake It:
Recipes, Stories & Inspiration
to Bake Your Way to the Top
Clarkson Potter, 2021
Winner of the Great American
Baking Show shares recipes, food
memories, and life lessons.
(e-book available)

Morgan, Charity Unbelievably Vegan: 100+Lifechanging, Plant-based Recipes: A Cookbook

Clarkson Potter, 2022 A celebrity chef dispels the myth that meals without animal protein are flavorless and boring. (e-book available)

Mowry, Tia & Matt Armendariz The Quick Fix Kitchen: Easy Recipes and Time-Saving Tips for a Healthier, Stress-Free Life: A Cookbook

Rodale Books, 2021 Actress, lifestyle influencer and business owner invites fans into her kitchen while detailing delicious and guilt-free recipes. (e-book available)

Rose, David Eggin: David Rose Cooks on the Big Green Egg

Andrews McMeel Pub, 2021 The TV chef reimagines classic Southern dishes by incorporating French and Jamaican influences. (e-book available)

Scott, Scotty

Fix Me a Plate: Traditional and New School Soul Food Recipes from Scotty Scott of Cook Drank Eat

Page Street Publishing, 2022
Chef shares heartwarming stories
and history while showcasing
traditional soul food with a
modern twist.

HEALTH & SCIENCE

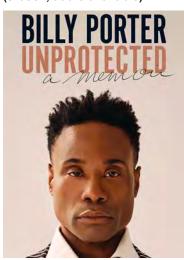
Burnett-Zeigler, Inger, Ph.D. Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen: The Emotional Lives of Black Women

Amistad Press, 2021 Clinical psychologist argues that the "Strong Black Woman" stereotype is destructive and offers tools for building strength from the inside out. (e-book, audio available)

Perkins, Nichole Sometimes I Trip on How Happy We Could Be Grand Central Publishing, 2021 Author tackles pop culture's

negative impact on Black women's self-esteem and emotional health.

(e-book, audio available)



Billy Porter Unprotected: A Memoir

Stanley, Jessamyn Yoke: My Yoga of Self-Acceptance

Workman Publishing Company, 2021

Autobiographical essays invite readers to find their authentic selves.

(e-book, audio available)

Tyson, Neil deGrasse, Michael A. Strauss & Richard J. Gott A Brief Welcome to the Universe: A Pocket-Sized Tour Princeton University Press, 2021 Acclaimed astrophysicist presents a tour of the cosmos to reveal how the universe works. (e-book available)

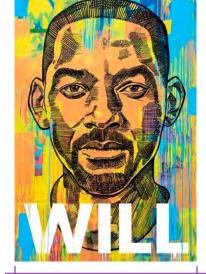
HISTORY

Conwill, Kinshasha Holman & Paul Gardullo Make Good the Promises: Reclaiming Reconstruction and Its Legacies

Amistad, 2021
An analysis of the legacy of the time period after the Civil War known as Reconstruction.

(e-book available)

Cope, Suzanne
Power Hungry: Women of
the Black Panther Party and
Freedom Summer and
Their Fight to Feed a Movement
Lawrence Hill Books, 2021
Story of two women from the rural
south and the urban north who
use food as a political
weapon during the civil rights
movement.
(e-book, audio available)



Will Smith & Mark Manson Will

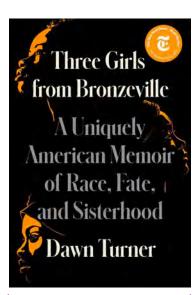
Hannah-Jones, Nikole The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story

One World, 2021
An historical exploration of slavery that focuses on Black liberation instead of the white constitutional influences on freedom consistently taught. (e-book, audio available)

Lewis, John, Andrew Aydin, L. Fury, Nate Powell & Chris Ross Run: Book One

Abrams Comic Art, 2021 Sequel to the graphic novel series, *March*. (e-book available)

Miles, Tiya
All That She Carried: The
Journey of Ashley's Sack, a
Black Family Keepsake
Random House Inc., 2021
Renowned historian reconstructs
the lives of one family by tracing a
single object handed
down through three generations.
(e-book, audio available)



Dawn Turner
Three Girls from Bronzeville

Perry, Imani South to America: A Journey Below the Mason-Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation

Ecco Press, 2022 Author asserts that in order to understand America today we need to understand the history and culture of the South. (e-book available)

Smith, Clint
How the Word is Passed: A
Reckoning with the History of
Slavery Across America
Little, Brown & Company, 2021
Frank discussion on how the

institution of legal enslavement shaped this country's history. (e-book, audio available)

INSPIRATIONAL/RELIGION

Benbow, Candice Marie & Melissa Harris-Perry Red Lip Theology: For Church Girls Who've Considered Tithing to the Beauty Supply Store When Sunday Morning Isn't Enough Convergent, 2022 Theologian's essays explore a variety of themes intended to

Theologian's essays explore a variety of themes intended to empower women.

(e-book, audio available)

Brown, Tabitha
Feeding the Soul (Because It's
My Business): Finding Our Way
to Joy, Love, and Freedom
William Morrow & Company, 2021
The catch phrase author candidly
shares stories about her life,
career, family and faith.
(e-book, audio available)

Jenkins, Faith
Sis, Don't Settle: How to Stay
Smart in Matters of the Heart
Legacy Lit, 2021
Attorney and TV host provides
insights on how to attract
and maintain a successful
relationship.
(e-book available)

Lewis, Jacqui
Fierce Love: A Bold Path to
Ferocious Courage and RuleBreaking Kindness That
Can Heal the World
Harmony, 2021
Reverend Lewis presents
principles inspired by a Zulu
philosophy that says negative
behaviors can be reversed.
(e-book available)

Lewis, John, Kabir Sehgal & Andrew Young Carry on: Reflections for a New Generation

Grand Central Publishing, 2021 Beloved Civil Rights icon shares his final thoughts on passing the torch to young activists. (e-book, audio available)

Roberson, Calvin
Marriage Ain't for Punks: A
Straightforward, Unapologetic
Relationship Gamechanger
Faithworks, 2021
Pastor and marriage coach
contends that marriage is not just
about romance, but working
to build a life with your partner.
(e-book available)

Todd, Michael Crazy Faith: It's Only Crazy Until It Happens

Waterbrook Press, 2021
Best-selling author and pastor encourages readers to step out on faith, and depend on God for the impossible.

(e-book available)

White, Richard Antoine
I'm Possible: A Story of
Survival, a Tuba, and the Small
Miracle of a Big Dream
Flatiron Books, 2021
Memoir details the tumultuous
journey and determination that
culminates with a position in a
major symphony orchestra.
(e-book available)

Williams, Porsha
The Pursuit of Porsha: How I
Grew into My Power
and Purpose
Worthy Books, 2021
Reality TV star takes readers on a

deep journey into her life on and off camera.

POLITICAL/SOCIAL SCIENCES

Abrams, Stacey
Our Time Is Now: Power,
Purpose, and the Fight for a
Fair America

Picador USA, 2021
Political leader and author details the ways voting rights and democracy are under attack and provides a blueprint to end voter suppression and increase civic engagement.

(e-book, audio available)

Adero, Malaika Vice President Kamala Harris: Her Path to the White House Sterling, 2021

A retrospective celebration of America's first multiracial female Vice President.

(e-book available)

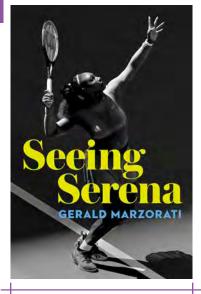
Blain, Keisha Until I Am Free: Fannie Lou Hammer's Enduring Message to America

Beacon Press, 2021 Challenges the reader to use the activist's words and philosophies in the contemporary fight for social justice.

(e-book available)

Boykin, Keith Race Against Time: The Politics of a Darkening America Bold Type Books, 2021

A political pundit argues that America is a divided nation and can no longer ignore the muchneeded reckoning with the past. (e-book available)



Gerald Marzorati Seeing Serena

Bunn, Curtis, Michael H.
Cottman, Patrice Gaines, et al.
Say Their Names: How Black
Lives Came to Matter
Grand Central Publishing, 2021

Five journalists explore the residual effects of racial discrimination from past to present.

(e-book, audio available)

Cashin, Sheryll
White Space, Black Hood:
Opportunity Hoarding and
Segregation in the Age of
Inequality

Beacon Press, 2021 Author contends that the government is responsible for creating poverty dense neighborhoods resulting in a residential caste system. (e-book, audio available)

Cobb, Jelani & David Remnick The Matter of Black Lives: Writing from the New Yorker Ecco Press, 2021

An anthology from the popular magazine provides a provocative view of Black life.

(e-book, audio available)

Cullors, Patrisse
An Abolitionist's Handbook: 12
Steps to Changing Yourself
and the World

St. Martin's Press, 2021 A collection of stories provides a stunning portrait of Black life in America.

(e-book, audio available)

Emdin, Christopher Ratchetdemic: Reimagining Academic Success

Beacon Press, 2021 Educator discusses how Hip-Hop culture can be used to inspire students.

(e-book, audio available)

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

Random House Inc., 2021 Young girl escapes her impoverished environment to attend boarding school but feels she has abandoned her loved ones.

(e-book, audio available) Henning, Kristin

The Rage of Innocence: How America Criminalizes Black Youth

Pantheon Books, 2021 In depth analysis of the criminalization of adolescents and how aggressive policing practices lead to fear and resentment of the police. (e-book available)

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

Viking Press, 2021
Part memoir, part manifesto,
Professor Hill examines the
origins and the course of gender
violence in today's society.
(e-book, audio available)

Hughley, D. L. & Doug Moe How to Survive America

Custom House, 2021
The comedian and social
commentator uses humor and
satire to call attention to the
impact of racism on the health
and well-being of *POC*.
(e-book, audio available)

Jones, Solomon Ten Lives, Ten Demands: Lifeand-Death Stories, and a Black Activist's Blueprint for Racial Justice

Beacon Press, 2021 Connecting the stories of ten Black lives lost to racist actions, a timely manifesto requests steps to rectify the injustices.

(e-book, audio available)

Jones, Sharon Lynette Conversations with Angela Davis

University Press of Mississippi, 2021 Iconic activist comments on a variety of social, economic and political issues through national and international lenses.

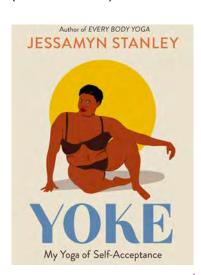
Kennedy, Randall Say It Loud!: On Race, Law, History, and Culture

Pantheon Books, 2021 Legal scholar shares his thoughts on key social issues facing America.

(e-book available)

Mystal, Elie Allow Me to Retort: A Black Guy's Guide to the Constitution

The New Press, 2022
Notable writer and commentator offers a layman's guide to the United States Constitution.
(e-book available)



Jessamyn Stanley Yoke: My Yoga of Self-Acceptance

Obama, Barack & Bruce Springsteen

Renegades: Born in the USA Crown Publishing, 2021 Longtime friends and podcast hosts share their views on life,

music and America. (e-book available)

Opoku-Agyeman, Anna Gifty The Black Agenda: Bold Solutions for a Broken System

St. Martin Press, 2022 A collection of essays that discuss the question, "What's next for Black America?"

(e-book available)

Poor, Nigel & Earlonne Woods This Is Ear Hustle: Unflinching Stories of Everyday Prison Life

Crown Publishing, 2021 Popular podcast creators offer rare access to the lives and experiences of presently and formerly incarcerated people. (e-book, audio available)

Ross, Dax-Devlon Letters to My White Male Friends

St. Martin's Press, 2021
Author explains how racism
harms not only Black people, but
whites as well.
(e-book available)

Sewer, Adam The Cruelty is the Point: The Past, Present and Future of

Trump's America
One World, 2021
Award winning journalist and podcaster asserts that inhumanity and malice were at the heart of certain government policies.

== In Memoliam ==

Stockman, Farah American Made: What Happens to People When Work Disappears

Random House, 2021 Illuminates the significant role work plays in our lives and what happens when it goes away. (e-book, audio available)

SPORTS & RECREATION

Anthony, Carmelo & D Watkins Where Tomorrows Aren't Promised: A Memoir of Survival and Hope

Gallery Books, 2021 NBA All-Star details his rise from the housing projects in Baltimore to winning basketball championships. (e-book available)

Marzorati, Gerald Seeing Serena

Scribner, 2021
Revealing analysis of the greatest female tennis player of all time, wife, mother and global icon.

(e-book, audio available)

Oakley, Charles, Frank Isola & Michael Jordan

The Last Enforcer: Outrageous Stories from the Life and Times of One of the NBA's Fiercest Competitors

Gallery Books, 2022
One of the league's toughest players shares unfiltered stories from his 19 years on the court.

Pippen, Scottie & Michael Arkush

Unguarded

Atria Books, 2021 Six-time NBA champion and legend bares all in his unvarnished memoir.

The Editors of Sports Illustrated Sports Illustrated Kobe Bryant: A Tribute to a Basketball Legend

Sports Illustrated Books, 2021 Features more than 100 photographs with written coverage and testimonials to the late sports idol.

(e-book available)

Sielski, Mike The Rise: Kobe Bryant and the Pursuit of Immortality

St. Martin's Press, 2022 Insightful look at the life and career of the beloved icon. (e-book, audio available)

Wade, Dwyane *Dwyan*e

(e-book available)

William Morrow, 2021 Photographic memoir captures the NBA All-Star's life on and off the court.

During a forty-plus vear career at DPL, the late Lurine S. Carter worked at a number of library branches and as coordinator of children's and teens services. Over the years, she was actively involved in identifying titles for adults and children for the annual African American Booklist. She once said, "Reading is a passport to every single thing. It's the best adventure you



LURINE S. CARTER

— 1946-2021 —

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could ever have. It's your

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kinds of adventures. It's a

passport you can use for

the rest of your life."

Forthcoming Titles in 2022



MOON VITCH SPIDE

Asim, Jabari Yonder Simon & Schuster, 2022

Beauvais, Garcelle Love Me as I am Amistad, 2022 *Black Diaspora*

Benson, Jendella Hope and Glory William Morris, 2022 (e-book, audio available) *Black Diaspora* Hughley, Piper
By Her Own Design: A
Novel of Ann Lowe, Fashion
Designer to the Social
Register
HarperLuxe, 2022

James, Marlon Moon Witch, Spider King Riverhead Books, 2022

Kim, Lil' & Kathy landoli The Queen Bee Hachette Books, 2022

Llanos-Figueroa, Dahlem A Woman of Endurance Amistad, 2022 *Black Diaspora* Perkins-Valdez, Dolen Take My Hand Berkley, 2022

Walker, Alice Gathering Blossoms Under Fire: The Journals of Alice Walker, 1965–2000 Simon & Schuster, 2022

Williams, Sheila

Things Past Telling: A Novel

Amistad Press, 2022



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