2022 AFRICAN AMERICAN BOOKLIST

The Ties that Bind: African Writers and the Black Diaspora
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.
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
Chinua Achebe (1930-2013)

— A LIFE OF PURPOSE

By Dr. Nwando Achebe

Chinua Achebe is considered the father of African Literature, not because he is the first African to write a novel, but because he launched the genre 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.”

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*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.

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 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.
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.”

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 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.
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 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.

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
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 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)
Abike-Iyimide, 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 legends.
(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)
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  
Naya’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.  
*(e-book available)*

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 queen 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)

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)
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.

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.  
*(e-book available)*

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)*
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 surroundings.  
(e-book available)

**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*  
Athenaeum, 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*
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)

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-year-old 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)

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)

Mbala, 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)

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)
**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.

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)

**Youth Books (cont.)**

Megan Maynor  
*Henry at Home*  
Henry Holt and Company, 2021  
Spoken word poet addresses poignant topics in Black motherhood.  
(e-book and audio available)

Leng’ete, Nice  
*I Am Courage*  
Little, Brown and Company, 2021  
A young woman leads the fight against female mutilation in the Maasai village in Kenya.  
(e-book available)
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)

Charles, Tami
*Sweet People Are Everywhere*
Scholastic Press, 2021
New teenage artist struggles to find her voice in the crazy world of the music industry.
(e-book available)
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)

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 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*  
Sourcebooks, 2021  
A liver transplant recipient now has the ability to time travel and must decide on which world to reside.  
(e-book, audio available)

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)

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)*

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)*
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 varying societal issues.  
*(e-book available)*

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*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Hope and Glory</em></td>
<td>Benson, Jendella</td>
<td>William Morrow</td>
<td>Glory returns home to London to find chaos and secrets after the death of her father.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Yinka, Where Is Your Huzband?</em></td>
<td>Blackburn, Lizzie Damilola</td>
<td>Pamela Dorman Books</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td><em>The Selfless Act of Breathing</em></td>
<td>Bola, J. J.</td>
<td>Atria</td>
<td>After a devastating loss Michael leaves London hoping to find a better life in America but finds he can’t escape his past.</td>
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<td><em>What Storm, What Thunder</em></td>
<td>Chancy, Myriam J. A.</td>
<td>Tin House Books</td>
<td>Ma Lou recalls the lives and struggles of several people affected by an earthquake in Haiti.</td>
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<td><em>Those We Throw Away Are Diamonds: A Refugee’s Search for Home</em></td>
<td>Dogon, Mondiant &amp; Jenna Krajeski</td>
<td>Penguin Press</td>
<td>Congolese author and activist speaks out on the atrocities of the global refugee crisis.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>All the Lonely People</em></td>
<td>Gayle, Mike</td>
<td>Hachette Books</td>
<td>A lonely Australian widower must make friends quickly after lying to family about his active social life.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Three Rooms</em></td>
<td>Hamya, Jo</td>
<td>Houghton Mifflin Harcourt</td>
<td>A young woman leaves Oxford University searching for her identity and a place of her own.</td>
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<td><em>Nadiya Bakes</em></td>
<td>Hussian, Nadiya</td>
<td>Clarkson Potter</td>
<td>Netflix series host and past winner of Great British Baking Show presents recipes for an American audience.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>The Sweetest Remedy</em></td>
<td>Igharo, Jane</td>
<td>Penguin Publishing</td>
<td>Hannah travels to Nigeria for the funeral of the father she’s never met.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Toufah: The Woman Who Inspired an African #Metoo Movement</em></td>
<td>Jallow, Toufah &amp; Kim Pittaway</td>
<td>Truth to Power</td>
<td>Teenage pageant winner and sexual assault victim advocate shares her horrific account of the traumas inflicted onto her by a Gambian dictator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Palmares</em></td>
<td>Jones, Gayl</td>
<td>Beacon Press</td>
<td>A mythical recounting of a young slave girl’s journey from Portuguese plantations to a fugitive slave settlement called Palmares.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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)
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. (e-book, audio available)

Solomon, Asali
The Days of Afrekete
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)

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, Ian
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)

Jane Igharo
The Sweetest Remedy

Gayl Jones
Palmares
Best of Fiction
**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)*

**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)*
Colette, Abby  
*Body and Soul Food*  
Berkley, 2021  
Twins Koby and Keaton are preparing to open a cafe/bookstore when a loved one is murdered.  
(e-book, audio available)

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)

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)

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 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)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hall, Rachel Howzell</td>
<td>These Toxic Things</td>
<td>Thomas and Mercer, 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>A digital curator continues to work on a dangerous project after the mysterious death of her customer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall, Tamron</td>
<td>As The Wicked Watch: The First Jordan Manning Novel</td>
<td>William Morrow &amp; Company, 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>An ambitious television reporter is compelled to investigate the murder of a teenage girl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris, Kai</td>
<td>What the Fireflies Knew</td>
<td>Tiny Reparations Books, 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td>After the loss of her father, KB spends the summer trying to reconcile and adjust to her new circumstances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris, Nathan</td>
<td>The Sweetness of Water: A Novel</td>
<td>Little Brown and Company, 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>After the Civil War ends a small southern town is consumed with the constant danger of racial violence and intolerance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris, Zakiya Dalila</td>
<td>The Other Black Girl</td>
<td>Atria, 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>An editorial assistant is excited to work with a new colleague, but the comradery eventually changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hickman, Trice</td>
<td>Blindsided</td>
<td>Dafina Books, 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>Three best friends cling onto one another in order to face the many challenges headed their way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huguley, Piper</td>
<td>Sweet Tea</td>
<td>Hallmark Publishing, 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>After making partner at a New York law firm, Althea discovers that she is not living the life she really wants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson, K. M.</td>
<td>How to Marry Keanu Reeves in 90 Days</td>
<td>Forever, 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffers, Honoree</td>
<td>The Love Songs of W.E.B. DuBois</td>
<td>Harper Collins, 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ailey Garfield researches her maternal family line that also explores the history of race and class in America.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenkins, Beverly</td>
<td>Rare Danger</td>
<td>Montlake, 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>A handsome investigator and a Detroit librarian investigate the theft of historic items.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Joycelyn Nicole</td>
<td>My Monticello</td>
<td>Henry Holt and Co., 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>Set in the near future, several novellas explore the extraordinary struggles the characters face in order to survive in America.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice, Robert</td>
<td>They Can’t Take Your Name</td>
<td>Crooked Lane Books, 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>The daughter of a wrongfully convicted murderer will stop at nothing to clear her father’s name.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin, Alexa</td>
<td>Mom Jeans and Other Mistakes</td>
<td>Berkley, 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>A friendship is tested when serious issues are ignored.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Una</td>
<td>Firefly--Carnival: The Firefly Series, Book 6</td>
<td>Titan Books, 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tragedy strikes on planet Bethel, throwing the Serenity crew into a race against time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
McGill, Jerry
*Beds 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)

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 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)

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)
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, Ian 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)

Whitehead, Colson
Harlem Shuffle
Doubleday, 2021
After a robbery at the Hotel Theresa, the “Waldorf of Harlem,” furniture salesman Ray Carney finds himself as the fence of a heist gone wrong.
(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.
(e-book, audio available)
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)

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.
(e-book, audio available)
Non-Fiction (cont.)

Iandoli, 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)

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. (e-book, 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)

Questlove
*Music Is History*
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*
Graywolf 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.

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)

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)
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)

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.
(e-book, audio available)
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)

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)

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+Life-changing, 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)

**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)

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 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 Rule-Breaking 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)

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.
(e-book, audio available)
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 much-needed reckoning with the past.
(e-book available)

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, Sherryl
*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
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)

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)

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.
(e-book, audio available)

Jessamyn Stanley
Yoke: My Yoga of Self-Acceptance
(e-book, audio available)
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)

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
*Dwyane*
William Morrow, 2021
Photographic memoir captures the NBA All-Star’s life on and off the court.
(e-book available)

**In Memoriam**

LURINE S. CARTER
1946-2021

During a forty-plus year 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 could ever have. It’s your driver’s license to all kinds of adventures. It’s a passport you can use for the rest of your life.”
### Forthcoming Titles in 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Publication Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asim, Jabari</td>
<td>Yonder</td>
<td>Simon &amp; Schuster</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beauvais, Garcelle</td>
<td>Love Me as I am</td>
<td>Amistad</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benson, Jendella</td>
<td>Hope and Glory</td>
<td>William Morris</td>
<td>2022 (e-book, audio available)</td>
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<tr>
<td>James, Marlon</td>
<td>Moon Witch, Spider King</td>
<td>Riverhead Books</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim, Lil’ &amp; Kathy Iandoli</td>
<td>The Queen Bee</td>
<td>Hachette Books</td>
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<tr>
<td>Llanos-Figueroa, Dahlem</td>
<td>A Woman of Endurance</td>
<td>Amistad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perkins-Valdez, Dolen</td>
<td>Take My Hand</td>
<td>Berkley</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walker, Alice</td>
<td>Gathering Blossoms Under Fire: The Journals of Alice</td>
<td>Simon &amp; Schuster</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams, Sheila</td>
<td>Things Past Telling: A Novel</td>
<td>Amistad Press</td>
<td>2022</td>
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