

Author/Editor	Title	Subject	Notes
Coates, Ta-Nehisi	Between the World and Me	Black Voices/ Spirituality	In a series of essays, written as a letter to his son, Coates confronts the notion of race in America and how it has shaped American history, many times at the cost of black bodies and lives.
DeGruy, Joy	Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome	Black Voices/ Spirituality	Dr. DeGruy encourages African Americans to view their attitudes, assumptions, and behaviors through the lens of history and so gain a greater understanding of how centuries of slavery and oppression have impacted Americans of African descent.
DuBois, W.E.B.	An ABC of Color	Black Voices/ Spirituality	A collection of W.E.B. DuBois' writings spanning half a century selected by the author.
Dyson, Michael Eric	Tears We Cannot Stop	Black Voices/ Spirituality	Dyson, an ordained minister, sets out a provocative and deeply personal call for change, arguing that if we are to make real racial progress we must face difficult truths, including being honest about how black grievance has been ignored, dismissed, or discounted.
Harris, Barbara C.	Hallelujah, Anyhow!	Black Voices/ Spirituality	Memoir of the Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris, the first woman bishop in the Anglican Communion. She reflects on her experiences with the "racism, sexism, and other 'isms' that pervade the life of the church," while still managing to say, "Hallelujah, Anyhow."

Hooks, Bell	Salvation/Black People and Love	Black Voices/ Spirituality	<p><i>Salvation takes an incisive look at the transformative power of love in the lives of African Americans. Whether talking about the legacy of slavery, relationships and marriage in Black life, the prose and poetry of Martin Luther King, Jr., James Baldwin, and Maya Angelou, the liberation movements of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, or hip hop and gangsta rap culture, Hooks lets us know what love's got to do with it. Combining the passionate politics of W.E.B. DuBois with fresh, contemporary insights, she brilliantly offers new visions that will heal our nation's wounds from a culture of lovelessness. This is work that helps us heal.</i></p>
Madhubuti, Haki R.	Black Men/The Afrikan American Family in Transition	Black Voices/ Spirituality	<p>The seminal and critical work that helped solidify Haki Madhubuti as an informed, passionate, and caring commentator on Black life, culture, relationships, and the development and stability of the Black community. In "Black Men," an integral text for anyone with vested interest in building healthy, thriving Black families and communities, Madhubuti takes aim at some of the critical issues facing the African American family. He offers useful, pointed, practical solutions for overcoming these obstacles and challenges.</p>
Taylor-Stinson, Therese	Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around	Black Voices/ Spirituality	<p>Stories of spiritual journeys of people of color, of encounters with 'othering' and disparaging treatment, and their contemplative practices and the call to action that follows.</p>

Tretheway, Natasha	Monument--Selected Poems	Black Voices/ Spirituality	Former U.S. and Mississippi Poet Laureate Natasha Tretheway's collection of poems fighting physical and cultural erasure and white supremacy give witness to unsung icons. She draws together verse that delineates the stories of working class African American women, a mixed-race prostitute, one of the first black Civil War regiments, mestizo and mulatto figures in Casta paintings, and Gulf coast victims of Katrina. Through the collection winds the poet's own family history of trauma and loss, resilience and love.
Battle, Michael	Ubuntu/I in You and You in Me	Black Voices/Spirituality	The African spiritual principle of Ubuntu offers a new radical way of reading the Gospel and understanding the heart of the Christian faith, exploring the meaning and utility of Ubuntu as applied to Western philosophies, faith, and lifestyles.
Battle, Michael	Reconciliation/The Ubuntu Theology of Desmond Tutu	Black Voices/Spirituality	An original analysis of Bishop Tutu's theology of Ubuntu -- an African concept recognizing that persons and groups form their identities in relation to one another -- and the model it affords for facilitating interracial community and reconciliation. Battle portrays Tutu as a theologian who embraces Anglican orthodoxy and has consistently applied that framework to issues of race in South Africa.
Boyd, Malcom and Talton, Chester	Race and Prayer	Black Voices/Spirituality	Prejudice based on race, sexual orientation, religion, or gender-runs deep. These collected poems, prayers, and prose bring the anger and frustration to light, and hopefully to a place of reconciliation and healing.
Bryant-Johnson, Sherry; Norman-	Embodied Spirits	Black Voices/Spirituality	A significant work that tells rich stories of faith, spiritual guidance and discovery for people of color.

Chapman, Abram editor	Black Voices	Black Voices/Spirituality	An anthology of poetry, fiction, autobiography and literary criticism, this is a comprehensive and vital collection featuring the work of the major black voices of a century including Frederick Douglass, James Baldwin, W.E.B. DuBois, Malcolm X, Gwendolyn Brooks, and many more. An unparalleled important classic anthology with timeless appeal.
Clarke, John Henrik, editor	Harlem/Voices from the Soul of Black America	Black Voices/Spirituality	A collection of writings by black authors spanning 3 generations about what it was to come of age in Harlem. Authors include Maya Angelou, James Baldwin, Langston Hughes and others.
Brown, Austin Channing	I'm Still Here/Black Dignity in a World Made for Whites	Black Voices/Spirituality	An illuminating look at how white middle-class Evangelicalism has participated in an era of rising racial hostility, inviting the reader to confront apathy, recognize God's ongoing work in the world and discover how Blackness can save us all.
Battalora, Jacqueline	Birth of a White Nation	History	A fascinating book on race in America that begins with an exploration of the moment when "white people," as a separate and distinct group of humanity, were invented through legislation.
Berlin, Ira	Slaves Without Masters	History	Slaves Without Masters is a vivid and moving history of the quarter of a million free blacks who lived in the South before the Civil War. First published to great acclaim in 1974, Slaves Without Masters established Ira Berlin as one of the outstanding historians of African American life in slavery and freedom. It traces the lives of free black men and women, portraying their struggle for community, liberty, economic independence, and education within an oppressive society.

Bordewich, Fergus M.	Bound for Canaan/The Underground Railroad and the War for the Soul of America	History	Bordewich tells the stories of men and women who risked their lives to build the Underground Railroad. Interweaving thrilling personal stories with the politics of slavery and abolition, Bound for Canaan shows how the Underground Railroad gave birth to this country's first racially integrated, religiously inspired movement for social change.
Broom, Leonard and Glenn, Norman	Transformation of the Negro American	History	A classic American sociological monograph by two of the great demographers of the 20th century examining the changing role of blacks as a cultural bloc and their relationship with the white majority (published 1965).
Camp, Stephanie M.H.	Coser to Freedom/Enslaved Women & Everyday Resistance in the Plantation South	History	Recent scholarship on slavery has explored the lives of enslaved people beyond the watchful eye of their masters. Building on this work, Camp examines the everyday containment and movement of enslaved women and men, extending our recognition of slave resistance into new arenas and revealing an important and hidden culture of opposition.
Cox, Clinton	The Forgotten Heroes/ The Story of the Buffalo Soldiers	History	The story of the Buffalo Soldiers, the African-American cavalry regiments used to fight Native Americans in the 1800s, recounts their heroic and ultimately tragic role in history and is accompanied by archival photographs.
Denevi, Donald P., Holmes, Doris	Racism at the Turn of the Century/Documentary Perspectives 1870-1910	History	History told through a rich collection of journal and magazine articles of people under white domination. They show the ruthlessness, degradation, bitterness, terror and pity of slavery but also the endurance of those oppressed.

Gates, Henry Louis Jr. (editor)	The Classic Slave Narratives	History	Before the end of the Civil War, more than 100 former slaves had published their stories of captivity and escape, joined by a similar number after the war. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., one of America's top experts in African American studies, presents four of these classic narratives that illustrate the real nature of black experience in slavery. Fascinating and powerful, this collection includes four of the best-known: Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs (alias Linda Brent), Mary Price, and Olaudah Equiano (alias Gustavus Vassa).
Giddings, Paula J.	Ida-A Sword Among Lions	History	The definitive biography of Ida B. Wells, born into slavery, who became a crusading journalist and pioneer in the fight for women's suffrage and against segregation and lynchings.
Glatthaar, Joseph T.	Forged in battle	History	Sixteen months after the start of the American Civil War, the Federal government, having vastly underestimated the length and manpower demands of the war, began to recruit black soldiers. This revolutionary policy gave 180,000 free blacks and former slaves the opportunity to prove themselves on the battlefield as part of the United States Colored Troops. By the end of the war, 37,000 in their ranks had given their lives for the cause of freedom. The author re-creates the events that gave these troops and their 7,000 white officers justifiable pride in their contributions to the Union victory and hope of equality in the years to come. Unfortunately, as Glatthaar poignantly demonstrates, memory of the United States Colored Troops' heroic sacrifices soon faded behind the prejudice that would plague the armed forces for another century.
Harris, Middleton, editor	The Black Book	History	History spoken through a fascinating compilation of advertisements, news articles, letters and other original documents, with over 200 photographs--all from the 1800s and early 1900s.

Haskins, Jim	Black Eagles/African Americans in Aviation	History	Documenting the neglected history of black pioneers in American aviation, a Coretta Scott King Award winner looks at African Americans in aviation, from early aces forced to earn their wings in Europe to the first female African-American astronaut.
Hayes, Chris	A Colony in a Nation	History	Hayes contends that our country has fractured in two: the Colony and the Nation. In the Nation, we venerate the law. In the Colony, we obsess over order, fear trumps civil rights, and aggressive policing resembles occupation.
Jones, Doug	Bending Toward Justice/The Birmingham Church Bombing that Changed the course of Civil Rights	History	On September 15, 1963, the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama was bombed, killing four young girls and injuring 22 others. The FBI suspected four KKK members, but due to reluctant witnesses, a lack of physical evidence, and pervasive racial prejudice the case was closed without any indictments until decades later with Sen. Doug Jones' prosecution of the last living bombers.
Katz, William Loren	The Black West	History	<i>This book presents long-neglected stories of daring pioneers such as Nat Love, a.k.a. Deadwood Dick, Mary Fields, a.k.a. Stagecoach Mary, Cranford Goldsby, a.k.a. Cherokee Bill—and a host of other intrepid men and women who marched into the wilderness alongside Chief Osceola, Billy the Kid, and Geronimo. Featuring captivating narratives and photographs, The Black West enriches and deepens our stirring frontier saga. From slave runaways during the colonial era, to the journeys of Lewis and Clark, to the charge at San Juan Hill, Katz vividly recounts the crucial contributions African Americans made during scores of frontier encounters.</i>

Kendi, Ibram X.	Stamped from the Beginning	History	Kendi chronicles the entire story of anti-black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American history. He shows that racist ideas did not arise from ignorance or hatred, but were created to justify and rationalize deeply entrenched discriminatory policies and the nation's racial inequities. In shedding light on this history, this book offers us the tools we need to expose racist thinking. In the process, he gives us reason to hope.
Lamb, David	The Africans	History	During 4 years he spent in Africa as the bureau chief for the LA, the author traveled through most countries south of the Sahara. He talked to presidents and guerrilla leaders, university professors and witch doctors. He bounced from wars to coups oceans apart. Part travelogue, part contemporary history, it is a portrait of a continent that sometimes seems hell-bent on destroying itself, and of people who are as courageous as they are long-suffering.
Lepore, Jill	These Truths	History	This 1 volume history of America places truth itself—a devotion to facts, proof, and evidence—at the center of the nation's history. The American experiment rests on three ideas—"these truths," Jefferson called them—political equality, natural rights, and the sovereignty of the people. But has the nation delivered on that promise? Lepore tells this uniquely American story, beginning in 1492, asking whether the course of events over more than five centuries has proven the nation's truths, or belied them. To answer that question, she wrestles with the state of American politics, the legacy of slavery, the persistence of inequality, and the nature of technological change. "A nation born in contradiction... will fight, forever, over the meaning of its history," Lepore writes, but engaging in that struggle by studying the past is part of the work of citizenship.

Lopez, Maney	White By Law	History	The definitive work on how American law constructed a "white" race at the turn of the 20th Century and how now "colorblind" law and policy threaten to perpetuate, not eliminate, racial inequality.
Meeks, Catherine and Stroupe, N	Passionate for Justice/Ida B. Wells as Prophet for Our Time	History	Ida B. Wells was a powerful churchwoman and witness for justice and equity from 1878 to 1931. Born enslaved, her struggle for justice is a profound witness for faith-based work of visionary power, resistance, and resilience for today's world.
Mumford, Esther Hall	Seattle's Black Victorians 1852-1901	History	A history of the black community in Seattle in the 19th century as gleaned from newspaper files, county records and oral history.
Mumford, Esther Hall, editor	Seven Stars and Orion/Reflections of the Past	History	A compilation of oral histories of Black people in the Northwest.
Quarles, Benjamin	The Negro in the Making of America	History	Eminent historian Benjamin Quarles provides one of the most comprehensive and readable accounts of the role that African Americans played in shaping America. Starting with the arrival of the slave ships in the early 1600s and moving through the Colonial period, the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, and into the last half of the 20th century, he chronicles the sweep of events that brought blacks and their struggle for social and economic equality to the forefront of American life. Through compelling portraits of central political, historical, and artistic figures such as Nat Turner, Frederick Douglass, Duke Ellington, Malcolm X, and the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Quarles illuminates the African American contributions that have enriched the cultural heritage of America. This classic history also covers black participation in politics, the rise of a black business class, and the forms of discrimination experienced by blacks in housing, employment, and the media (published 1964).

Rothstein, Richard	The Color of Law	History	Exploding the myth of de facto segregation arising from private prejudice or the unintended consequences of economic forces, Rothstein describes how the American government systematically imposed residential segregation: with undisguised racial zoning; public housing that purposefully segregated previously mixed communities; subsidies for builders to create whites-only suburbs; tax exemptions for institutions that enforced segregation; and support for violent resistance to African Americans in white neighborhoods. A groundbreaking study that forces us to face the obligation to remedy our unconstitutional past.
Shetterly, Margot Lee	Hidden Figures	History	The story of a group of exceptionally talented African American women called into service by NASA during the labor shortages of World War II whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space even as Jim Crow laws required them to be segregated from their white counterparts.

Skloot, Rebecca	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	History	<p>Henrietta Lacks was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine: The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, still alive today, though she has been dead for more than 60 years. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb’s effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions. Henrietta’s family did not learn of her “immortality” until more than 20 years after her death, when scientists investigating HeLa began using her husband and children in research without informed consent. And though the cells had launched a multimillion-dollar industry that sells human biological materials, her family never saw any of the profits. The story of the Lacks family—past and present—is inextricably connected to the dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of bioethics, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we are made of.</p>
Stampp, Kenneth M.	The Peculiar Institution/Slavery in the Ante-Bellum South	History	<p>Stampp’s classic study of American slavery as a deliberately chosen, practical system of controlling and exploiting labor is one of the most important and influential works of American history written in our time.</p>

Watts, Jill	The Black Cabinet	History	<p>In 1932, Franklin Delano Roosevelt won the presidency with the help of key African American defectors from the Republican Party. As the New Deal began, a “black Brain Trust” joined the administration and began addressing the economic hardship and systemic inequalities African Americans faced, but the environment they faced was reluctant, often hostile, to change. The Black Cabinet set out to devise solutions to the widespread exclusion of black people from New Deal programs. Operating behind the scenes, they pushed Roosevelt to sign an executive order outlawing discrimination in the defense industry. They saw victories—jobs and collective agriculture programs that lifted many from poverty—and defeats—the bulldozing of black neighborhoods to build public housing reserved for whites and Roosevelt’s refusal to get behind federal anti-lynching legislation. The Black Cabinet never won official recognition, and with FDR's death, it disappeared from view. But it had changed history.</p>
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Watts, Jill	Hattie McDaniel	History	<p>An uncompromising look at pervasive racism in Hollywood, seen through the life and times of actress Hattie McDaniel. Hattie McDaniel is best known for her performance as Mammy, the sassy foil to Scarlett O'Hara in the movie classic <i>Gone with the Wind</i>. Her powerful performance won her an Oscar and bolstered the hopes of black Hollywood that the entertainment industry was finally ready to write more multidimensional, fully-realized roles for blacks. But despite this victory, and pleas by organizations such as the NAACP and SAG, roles for blacks continued to denigrate the African American experience. So Hattie McDaniel continued to play servants. "I'd rather play a maid than be a maid," Hattie McDaniel answered her critics, but her flip response belied a woman who was emotionally conflicted. Here, in an exhaustively detailed and incisive text by a talented historian, is the story of a valiant woman who defied the racism of her time.</p>
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Wilkerson, Isabel	Caste--The Origins of our Discontent	History	<p>A masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America--how America is and has always been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings. Using riveting stories about people—including Martin Luther King, Jr., baseball’s Satchel Paige, a single father and his toddler son, Wilkerson herself, and many others—she shows the ways that the insidious undertow of caste is experienced every day. She documents how the Nazis studied the racial systems in America to plan their out-cast of the Jews; she discusses why the cruel logic of caste requires that there be a bottom rung for those in the middle to measure themselves against; she writes about the surprising health costs of caste, in depression and life expectancy, and the effects on our culture and politics. Finally, she points forward to ways America can move beyond the artificial and destructive separations of human divisions, toward hope in our common humanity.</p>
Alexander, Michelle	The New Jim Crow	Justice	<p>Alexander provocatively argues that we have not ended racial caste in America: we have simply redesigned it. By targeting black men and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control, even as it formally adheres to the principle of color blindness.</p>

Bonner, Raymond	Anatomy of Injustice/A Murder Case Gone Wrong	Justice	<p>In January 1982, an elderly white widow was found brutally murdered in small South Carolina town. Police immediately arrested Edward Lee Elmore, a semiliterate, mentally retarded black man with no previous felony record. His only connection to the victim was having cleaned her gutters and windows, but barely ninety days after the victim's body was found, he was tried, convicted, and sentenced to death. Elmore had been on death row for eleven years when a young attorney named Diana Holt first learned of his case. Bonner follows Holt's battle to save Elmore's life, a textbook example of what can go wrong in the American justice system. He reviews police work, evidence gathering, jury selection, work of court-appointed lawyers, latitude of judges, iniquities in the law, prison informants, and the appeals process.</p>
Stevenson, Bryan	Just Mercy	Justice	<p>An unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.</p>
Morales, Ed	Fantasy Island/Colonialism, Exploitation, and the Betrayal of Puerto Rico	Latinx	<p>A compelling indictment of US Colonialism in Puerto Rico and advocating that Puerto Ricans take control of their own destiny, going beyond the statehood-commonwealth-independence debate to complete decolonization.</p>

Nazario, Sonia	Enrique's Journey	Latinx	<p>The unforgettable quest of a Honduran boy looking for his mother, 11 years after she is forced to leave her starving family to find work in the U.S. Braving unimaginable peril, often clinging to the sides and tops of freight trains, Enrique travels through hostile worlds full of thugs, bandits, and corrupt cops. But he pushes forward, relying on his wit, courage, hope, and the kindness of strangers. As Isabel Allende writes: "This is a twenty-first-century Odyssey. If you are going to read only one nonfiction book this year, it has to be this one."</p>
Villavicencio, Karla Cornejo	The Undocumented Americans	Latinx	<p>The author was on DACA when she decided to write about being undocumented, using her own name. Just after the 2016 election, she realized the story she'd tried to steer clear of was the only one she wanted to tell. So she wrote her immigration lawyer's phone number on her hand in Sharpie and embarked on a trip across the country to tell the stories of her fellow undocumented immigrants—and to find the hidden key to her own. In NYC, we meet the undocumented workers recruited into the federally funded Ground Zero cleanup after 9/11. In Miami, we enter the ubiquitous botanicas, which offer medicinal herbs and potions to those whose status blocks them from any other healthcare options. In Flint, Michigan, we learn of demands for state ID in order to receive life-saving clean water. In Connecticut, the author, childless by choice, finds family in teenage girls whose father is in sanctuary. And through it all we see the author grappling with the biggest questions of love, duty, family, and survival.</p>

Angelou, Maya	Gather Together in My Name	Memoir/ Biography	<p>In this 2nd volume of her poignant autobiographical series, Maya Angelou powerfully captures the struggles and triumphs of her passionate life with dignity, wisdom, humor, and humanity. “A curiously heartening story in which decency, honor, truth, love do exist, imperfectly, fractionally and flickeringly, not in some Platonic realm of the ideal, but in the flawed lives of real men and women.”—The Washington Post</p>
Angelou, Maya	The Heart of a Woman	Memoir/ Biography	<p>Maya Angelou leaves California with her son, Guy, to move to NYC where she enters the society and world of black artists and writers, reads her work at the Harlem Writers Guild, and begins to take part in the struggle of black Americans for their rightful place in the world. In the meantime, her personal life takes an unexpected turn. She leaves the bail bondsman she was intending to marry after falling in love with a South African freedom fighter, travels with him to London and Cairo, where she discovers new opportunities. The book is filled with unforgettable vignettes of such renowned people as Billie Holiday and Malcom X, but perhaps most importantly chronicles the joys and the burdens of a black mother in America and how the son she has cherished so intensely and worked for so devotedly finally grows to be a man.</p>

Angelou, Maya	Singin' and Swingin' and Getting' Merry Like Christmas	Memoir/ Biography	In this 3rd self-contained volume of her autobiography, the author moves into the adult world. Maya struggles to support herself and her son through a series of odd jobs and weathers a failed marriage to a white man before landing a gig singing in one of the most popular nightclubs on the San Francisco coast. From there, she is called to NYC to join the cast of Porgy and Bess. She soon finds herself on a joyous and dramatic adventure, touring abroad through Italy, France, Greece, Yugoslavia, and Egypt with spirited cast members, and performing for large, enthusiastic audiences. The exciting experience is dampened only by Maya's nagging guilt that she has abandoned the person she loves most in life, her son, whose reentrance into her world reveals to Maya the healing power of devotion and love.
Ball, Edward	Slaves in the Family	Memoir/ Biography	The Ball family hails from South Carolina. Their plantations were among the oldest and longest-standing in the South. Between 1698 and 1865, close to 4000 black people were born into slavery under the Balls or bought by them. Edward Ball recounts his efforts to track down and meet the descendants of his family's slaves in this book which is part historical narrative, part oral history, and part personal story of investigation and catharsis.
Bennett, Lerone Jr.	What Manner of Man/a memorial biography of Martin Luther King, Jr.	Memoir/ Biography	An eloquent account:—" Newsday." (Bennett) has succeeded in giving his readers an intimate look into the physical, mental, and spiritual growth of Dr. King.

Broom, Sarah	The Yellow House	Memoir/ Biography	National Book Award Winner--In 1961, the author's mother Ivory Mae bought a shotgun house in the then-promising neighborhood of New Orleans East and built her world inside it. It was the height of the Space Race and the neighborhood was home to a major NASA plant—the postwar optimism seemed assured. Widowed, Ivory Mae remarried Sarah’s father Simon Broom; their combined family would eventually number 12 children. But after Simon died, six months after Sarah’s birth, the Yellow House would become Ivory Mae’s 13th and most unruly child. This is the story of a mother’s struggle against a house's entropy, and that of a prodigal daughter who left home only to reckon with the pull that home exerts, even after the Yellow House was wiped off the map after Hurricane Katrina. Located in the gap between the “Big Easy” of tourist guides and the New Orleans in which Broom was raised, The Yellow House is a brilliant memoir of place, class, race, the seeping rot of inequality, and the internalized shame that often follows.
Davis, Angela	Angela Davis/With my Mind on Freedom	Memoir/ Biography	Her own powerful story to 1972, told with warmth, brilliance, humor & conviction. The author, a political activist, reflects upon the people & incidents that have influenced her life & commitment to global liberation of the oppressed.
Douglass, Frederick	Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass	Memoir/ Biography	The preeminent American slave narrative first published in 1845, Frederick Douglass’s Narrative powerfully details the life of the abolitionist from his birth into slavery in 1818 to his escape to the North in 1838, how he endured the daily physical and spiritual brutalities of his owners and driver, how he learned to read and write, and how he grew into a man who could only live free or die.

Douglass, Frederick	The Life and Times of Frederick Douglas	Memoir/ Biography	Born around 1817 in Maryland, Frederick Douglass was a former plantation slave who went on to become a brilliant writer and eloquent orator. In this amazing first-hand narrative, published in 1881, he vividly recounts his early years, which were filled with physical abuse, deprivation, and tragedy; his dramatic escapes to the North, recapture, and eventual freedom; his work for the Anti-Slavery Society and influential role in speaking for other African-Americans; his abolitionist campaigns, and crusade for full civil rights for former slaves.
DuBois, W.E.B.	The Autobiography of W.E.B. DuBois	Memoir/ Biography	Du Bois was an American sociologist, socialist, historian, civil rights activist, Pan-Africanist, author, writer and editor. Born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, he grew up in a relatively tolerant and integrated community, and after completing graduate work at the University of Berlin and Harvard, where he was the first African American to earn a doctorate, he became a professor of history, sociology and economics at Atlanta University. Du Bois was one of the founders of the NAACP in 1909.
Gaines, Ernest	The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman	Memoir/ Biography	"This is a novel in the guise of the tape-recorded recollections of a black woman who has lived 110 years, who has been both a slave and a witness to the black militancy of the 1960's. In this woman Ernest Gaines has created a legendary figure, a woman equipped to stand beside William Faulkner's Dilsey in The Sound And The Fury." Miss Jane Pittman, like Dilsey, has 'endured,' has seen almost everything and foretold the rest. Gaines' novel brings to mind other great works The Odyssey for the way his heroine's travels manage to summarize the American history of her race, and Huckleberry Finn for the clarity of her voice, for her rare capacity to sort through the mess of years and things to find the one true story in it all." -- Geoffrey Wolff, Newsweek.

Gates, Henry Louis Jr.	Colored People	Memoir/ Biography	In an enchanting and ribald coming-of-age story, the author recounts his childhood in the mill town of Piedmont, West Virginia, in the 1950s and 1960s and ushers readers into a gossip, of lye-and-mashed-potato "processes," and of slyly stubborn resistance to the indignities of segregation.
Gerzina, Gretchen Holbrook	Mr. and Mrs. Prince	Memoir/ Biography	The true story of a remarkable African-American family who moved out of slavery and into land ownership, the most complete history of a pre-Civil War black family known to exist. Lucy Terry was the first known African-American poet and Abijah Prince, her husband, was a veteran of the French and Indian wars and an entrepreneur. Owning land in New England, they were well on their way to prosperity when bigoted neighbors tried to run them off. Rather than fleeing, they asserted their rights, as they would do many times, in court.
Gregory, Dick	Nigger	Memoir/ Biography	Comedian and activist Dick Gregory's autobiography. Powerful and ugly and beautiful...a moving story of a man who deeply wants a world without malice and hate and is doing something about it. Telling stories that range from his hardscrabble childhood in St. Louis to his pioneering early days as a comedian to his indefatigable activism alongside Medgar Evers and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Gregory's memoir riveted readers in the sixties. Now the stories and lessons became more relevant than ever.
Haley, Alex, editor	The Autobiography of Malcolm X	Memoir/ Biography	In the searing pages of this classic autobiography, originally published in 1964, Malcolm X, the Muslim leader, firebrand, and anti-integrationist, tells the extraordinary story of his life and the growth of the Black Muslim movement. His fascinating perspective on the lies and limitations of the American Dream, and the inherent racism in a society that denies its nonwhite citizens the opportunity to dream, gives extraordinary insight into the most urgent issues of our own time.

Harper, Michele	The Beauty in Breaking	Memoir/ Biography	<p>Michele Harper is a female, African American emergency room physician who was brought up in Washington, D.C. She went to Harvard, where she met her husband. They stayed together through medical school until 2 months before she was scheduled to join the staff of a hospital in central Philadelphia, when he told her he couldn't move with her. Her marriage at an end, Harper began her new life in a new city, in a new job, as a newly single woman. As Harper learned to become an effective ER physician, bringing insight and empathy to every patient encounter, she came to understand that each of us is broken--physically, emotionally, psychically. Each patient taught her something important about recuperation and recovery. As she shines a light on the systemic disenfranchisement of the patients she treats as they struggle to maintain their health and dignity, Harper comes to understand the importance of allowing ourselves to make peace with the past as we draw support from the present.</p>
Harris, Eddy L.	Mississippi Solo/A River Quest	Memoir/ Biography	<p>The author's lifelong dream was to canoe the length of the mighty Mississippi River, from Minnesota to New Orleans. The trip's dangers were legion for a Black man traveling alone, paddling from "where there ain't no black folks to where they still don't like us much." Barge waives loom large, wild dogs roam the wooded shores, and, in the Arkansas dusk, two shotgun-toting bigots nearly bring the author's dream to a bloody end. Sustaining him through the hard weeks of paddling were the hundreds of people who reached out to share a small piece of his challenge. Mississippi Solo is a big, rollicking, brilliant book, a wonderful piece of American adventure, and an unforgettable story of a man testing his own limits.</p>

Henry, Neil	Pearl's Secret	Memoir/ Biography	<p>Neil Henry is a black professor of journalism and former award-winning correspondent for the Washington Post. His great-great-grandfather was a white English immigrant who fought as a Confederate officer in the Civil War, found success during Reconstruction as a Louisiana plantation owner, and enjoyed a long love affair with Henry's great-great-grandmother, a freed black slave. Throughout the course of this gripping story the author reflects on the part that racism and racial ignorance have played in his daily life—from his boyhood in largely white Seattle to his current role as a parent and educator in California.</p>
Jackson, George	Soledad Brother/the Prison Letters of George Jackson	Memoir/ Biography	<p>A collection of Jackson's letters from prison, Soledad Brother is an outspoken condemnation of the racism of white America and a powerful appraisal of the prison system that failed to break his spirit but eventually took his life. Jackson's letters make palpable the intense feelings of anger and rebellion that filled black men in America's prisons in the 1960s and since.</p>

Jefferson, Margo	Negroland	Memoir/ Biography	<p>Pulitzer Prize–winning cultural critic Margo Jefferson was born in 1947 into upper-crust black Chicago. Her father was head of pediatrics at Provident Hospital, while her mother was a socialite. Jefferson takes us into this insular and discerning society: “I call it Negroland,” she writes, “because I still find ‘Negro’ a word of wonders, glorious and terrible.” Negroland’s pedigree dates back generations, having originated with antebellum free blacks who made their fortunes among Southern plantations. It evolved into a world of exclusive sororities, fraternities, networks, and clubs—a world in which skin color and hair texture were relentlessly evaluated alongside scholarly and professional achievements, where the Talented Tenth positioned themselves as a third race between whites and “the masses of Negroes,” and where the motto was “Achievement. Invulnerability. Comportment.” At once incendiary and icy, mischievous and provocative, celebratory and elegiac, Negroland is a landmark work on privilege, discrimination, and the fallacy of post-racial America.</p>
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<p>McBride, James</p>	<p>The Color of Water</p>	<p>Memoir/ Biography</p>	<p>Ruth McBride Jordan was a self-declared "light-skinned" woman evasive about her ethnicity, yet steadfast in her love for her 12 black children. The author, her son, explores his mother's past, and his own upbringing in "orchestrated chaos" with his 11 siblings in the poor, all-black projects of Red Hook, Brooklyn. McBride retraces his mother's footsteps: the daughter of a failed itinerant Orthodox rabbi, she was born in Poland in 1921. Fleeing pogroms, her family emigrated to America and settled in Suffolk, Virginia, a small town where anti-Semitism and racial tensions ran high. At 17, after fleeing Virginia and settling in New York City, Ruth married a black minister and founded the all-black New Brown Memorial Baptist Church in her Red Hook living room. "God is the color of water," she taught her children, firmly convinced that life's blessings and life's values transcend race. Interspersed throughout his mother's compelling narrative, McBride shares candid recollections of his own experiences as a mixed-race child of poverty, his flirtations with drugs and violence, and his eventual self-realization and professional success.</p>
<p>McMurry, Linda O.</p>	<p>George Washington Carver/Scientist and Symbol</p>	<p>Memoir/ Biography</p>	<p>George Washington Carver was an agricultural scientist and inventor who developed hundreds of products using peanuts (though not peanut butter, as is often claimed), sweet potatoes and soybeans. Born a slave a year before slavery was outlawed, Carver left home at a young age to pursue education and would eventually earn a master's degree in agricultural science from Iowa State University. He would go on to teach and conduct research at Tuskegee University for decades, and soon after his death his childhood home would be named a national monument — the first of its kind to honor an African American.</p>

Meacham, Jon	His Truth is Marching On	Memoir/ Biography	An intimate and revealing portrait of civil rights icon and longtime U.S. congressman John Lewis, linking his life to the painful quest for justice in America from the 1950s to the present.
Moore, Wes	The Other Wes Moore	Memoir/ Biography	Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? In alternating narratives this book takes readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption. "The chilling truth is that his story could have been mine. The tragedy is that my story could have been his."

Murray, Pauli	Song in a Weary Throat	Memoir/ Biography	<p>Published posthumously in 1987, Murray tells of a childhood dramatically altered by the sudden loss of her spirited, hard-working parents. Orphaned at age 4, she was sent from Baltimore to segregated Durham, North Carolina, to live with her Aunt Pauline, who, while strict, was liberal-minded in accepting the tomboy Pauli as “my little boy-girl.” In fact, throughout her life, Murray would struggle with feelings of sexual “in-betweenness” that today we would recognize as a transgendered identity. We then follow Murray north at the age of 17 to Hunter College, to her embrace of Gandhi’s nonviolent resistance, and south again, where she experienced Jim Crow firsthand. An early Freedom Rider, she was arrested in 1940, 15 years before Rosa Parks’ disobedience, for sitting in the whites-only section of a Virginia bus. Murray’s activism led to relationships with Thurgood Marshall and Eleanor Roosevelt—who respectfully referred to Murray as a “firebrand”—and propelled her to a Howard University law degree and a lifelong fight against “Jane Crow” sexism. We also read Betty Friedan’s enthusiastic response to Murray’s call for an NAACP for Women—the origins of NOW. Murray sets these thrilling high-water marks against the backdrop of uncertain finances, chronic fatigue, and tragic losses both private and public.</p>
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Noah, Trevor	Born a Crime	Memoir/ Biography	<p>NYT Bestseller--Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother when such a union was punishable by 5 years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle. Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—a woman determined to save him from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.</p>
Obama, Michelle	Becoming	Memoir/ Biography	<p>In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, telling her story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms. Becoming is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same.</p>

Rosenberg, Rosalind	Jane Crow: The Life of Pauli Murray	Memoir/ Biography	<p>A mixed-race orphan, Pauli Murray grew up in segregated North Carolina before escaping to New York, where she attended Hunter College and became a labor activist in the 1930s. She applied to graduate school at UNC, where her white great-great-grandfather had been a trustee, but was rejected because of her race. She graduated first in her class from Howard Law School, only to be rejected for graduate study again at Harvard this time on account of her sex. In the 1950s, she helped Thurgood Marshall challenge segregation in Brown v. Board of Education. In 1965, she became the first African American to earn a JSD from Yale Law School. In the early 1970s, Murray provided Ruth Bader Ginsburg with the argument to persuade the Supreme Court that the 14th Amendment protects not only blacks but also women from discrimination. She became a tenured professor at Brandeis, then left to become the first black ordained female woman Episcopal priest. She struggled with issues of sexual identity. She ultimately used her private feelings of being "in-between" to publicly contend that identities are not fixed.</p>
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Tweedy, Damon M.D.	Black Man in a White Coat	Memoir/ Biography	<p>This book examines the complex ways in which black doctors and patients must navigate the difficult and often contradictory terrain of race and medicine. As Tweedy transforms from student to practicing physician, he discovers how often race influences his encounters with patients. Through their stories, he illustrates the complex social, cultural, and economic factors at the root of many health problems in the black community. These issues take on greater meaning when Tweedy is himself diagnosed with a chronic disease far more common among black people. In this powerful, moving, and deeply empathic book, Tweedy explores the challenges confronting black doctors, and the disproportionate health burdens faced by black patients, ultimately seeking a way forward to better treatment and more compassionate care.</p>
Woods, Donald	Biko	Memoir/ Biography	<p>Subjected to 22 hours of interrogation, torture and beating by South African police on September 6, 1977, Steve Biko died six days later. Donald Woods, Biko's close friend and a leading white South African newspaper editor, exposed the murder, helping to ignite the black revolution.</p>
Wright, Richard	American Hunger	Memoir/ Biography	<p>The compelling continuation of Richard Wright's great autobiographical work, <i>Black Boy</i>, one of the great American autobiographies. Covering Wright's early life in the South, the book concludes with his departure in 1934 for a new life in the North. <i>American Hunger</i> (first published more than 30 years after the appearance of <i>Black Boy</i>) is the continuation of that story. A vital, richly anecdotal work, <i>American Hunger</i> treats with feeling and often with wry humor Wright's struggle to make his way in the North—in Chicago—as a store clerk, dishwasher, and eventually as a writer.</p>

Saunt, Claudio	Unworthy Republic	Native American	<p>In May 1830, the U.S. launched a policy to expel Native Americans from the East to territories west of the Mississippi River. Over the next decade, thousands of Native Americans died and thousands of others lost their possessions and homelands. Saunt argues that Indian Removal was not an inevitable chapter in U.S. expansion across the continent. Rather, it was a fiercely contested political act designed to secure new lands for the expansion of slavery and to consolidate the power of the southern states. Indigenous peoples fought relentlessly against the policy, while many U.S. citizens insisted that it was a betrayal of the nation's values. When Congress passed the act by a razor-thin margin, it authorized one of the first state-sponsored mass deportations in the modern era, marking a turning point for native peoples and for the United States.</p>
Treuer, David	The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee/Native America from 1890 to the Present	Native American	<p>A history of Native Americans since the 1890 massacre of Lakota Sioux at Wounded Knee--a resilient people's resourcefulness and reinvention.</p>
Baldwin, James	Just Above My Head	Novel	<p>The stark grief of a brother mourning a brother opens this stunning, unforgettable novel. Here, in a monumental saga of love and rage, James Baldwin goes back to Harlem, to the church of his groundbreaking novel <i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i>, to the forbidden passion of <i>Giovanni's Room</i>, and to the political fire that enflames his nonfiction work. Here, too, the story of gospel singer Arthur Hall and his family becomes both a journey into another country of the soul and senses—and a living contemporary history of black struggle in this land.</p>

Baldwin, James	Tell me how long the train's been gone	Novel	<p>At the height of his theatrical career, actor Leo Proudhammer is nearly felled by a heart attack. As he hovers between life and death, Baldwin shows the choices that have made him enviably famous and terrifyingly vulnerable. Between Leo's childhood on the streets of Harlem and his arrival into the intoxicating world of the theater lies a wilderness of desire and loss, shame and rage. An adored older brother vanishes into prison. There are love affairs with a white woman and a younger black man, each of whom will make irresistible claims on Leo's loyalty. And everywhere there is the anguish of being black in a society that at times seems poised on the brink of total racial war.</p>
Bennett, Brit	The Vanishing Half	Novel	<p>The Vignes twin sisters grow up in a small, southern black community and run away at age 16. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect?</p>

Bond, Cynthia	Ruby	Novel	<p>Ephram Jennings has never forgotten the beautiful girl with the long braids running through the piney woods of Liberty, their small East Texas town. Young Ruby has suffered beyond imagining, so as soon as she can, she flees suffocating Liberty for the bright pull of 1950s New York. Ruby quickly winds her way into the ripe center of the city--the darkened piano bars and hidden alleyways of the Village--all the while hoping for a glimpse of the red hair and green eyes of her mother. When a telegram from her cousin forces her to return home, 30-year-old Ruby finds herself reliving the devastating violence of her girlhood. With the terrifying realization that she might not be strong enough to fight her way back out again, Ruby struggles to survive her memories of the town's dark past. Meanwhile, Ephram must choose between loyalty to the sister who raised him and the chance for a life with the woman he has loved since he was a boy.</p>
Bradley, David	The Chaneyville Incident	Novel	<p>The legends say something happened in Chaneyville. This book is the powerful story of one man's obsession with discovering what that something was--a quest that takes the brilliant and bitter young black historian John Washington back through the secrets and buried evil of his heritage. Returning home to care for and then bury his father's closest friend and his own guardian, Old Jack Crawley, he comes upon the scant records of his family's proud and tragic history, which he drives himself to reconstruct and accept. This is the story of John's relationship with his family, the town, and the woman he loves; and also between the past and the present, between oppression and guilt, hate and violence, love and acceptance.</p>

Brown, Claude	The Children of Ham	Novel	<p>The children of Ham are a group of young people ranging in age from fourteen to twenty-two, who live in a condemned tenement in upper Harlem, a shell of a building owned by New York City. The children look out for themselves; they are a self-constituted family. They give to each other what they cannot get anywhere else: friendship and a sense of belonging. As you eavesdrop on their conversations, you learn about the families who abandoned -- or who abandoned them. Home for the children of Ham is this wreck of a house, the Harlem castle where they protect and sustain each other on hope as tenuous as life.</p>
Fales-Hill, Susan	Always Wear Joy/My Mother Bold and Beautiful	Novel	<p>Growing up with a black Auntie Mame-like mother (who performed with the likes of Lena Horne) and an Anglo sea-faring father, the author moved seamlessly between many worlds. But it was from her mother -- a woman dressed by Givenchy and sculpted by Alexander Calder, yet rejected by many casting agents for her "dark," unconventional looks -- that Susan drew inspiration, particularly when she faced challenges in her own career as a television writer in Hollywood, a town unreceptive to positive images of people of color. As a result the two developed a bond that mothers and daughters everywhere will find inspiring.</p>
Flournoy, Angela	The Turner House	Novel	<p>The Turners lived on Yarrow Street over 50 years, with 13 children grown and gone, some returned, the arrival of grandchildren, the fall of Detroit's East Side, and the loss of a father. The house stands despite abandoned lots, an embattled city, and suburban exodus. Now, as ailing matriarch Viola is forced to leave her home and move in with her eldest son, the family discovers the house is worth 1/10 of its mortgage. The children are called home to decide its fate and to reckon with how their pasts haunt—and shape—their family's future.</p>

Fowler, Therese Ann	A Good Neighborhood	Novel	<p>In Oak Knoll, a tight-knit North Carolina neighborhood, professor Valerie Alston-Holt is raising her bright biracial son, Xavier, who's headed to college in the fall. Then the Whitma family-- with new money and a troubled teenage daughter—raze the house and trees next door to build a showplace. These families quickly find themselves at odds: over a historic tree in Valerie's yard, and the blossoming romance between the teenagers. What does it mean to be a good neighbor? How do we live alongside each other when we don't see eye to eye?—the book explores the effects of class, race, and heartrending love.</p>
Frank, Alli & Youmans, Asha	Tiny Imperfections	Novel	<p>At 39, Josie Bordelon's modeling career as the "it" black beauty of the '90s is far behind her. Now director of admissions at San Francisco's most sought after private school, she's chic, single, and determined to keep her 17-year-old daughter, Etta, from making the same mistakes she did. But Etta has plans of her own--and their beloved matriarch, Aunt Viv, has Etta's back. If only Josie could manage Etta's future as well as she manages the shenanigans of the over-anxious, over-eager parents at school. As admissions season heats up, Josie discovers that when it comes to matters of the heart--and the office--the biggest surprises lie closest to home.</p>

Gaines, Ernest	Bloodline	Novel	In these 5 stories, the author Ernest Gaines returns to the cane fields, sharecroppers' shacks, and decaying plantation houses of Louisiana, a country as familiar, and as haunted by cruelty, suffering, and courage, as Ralph Ellison's Harlem or Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha County. Gaines introduces us to this world through the eyes of guileless children and wizened jailbirds, black tenants and white planters. He shows his characters eking out a living and making love, breaking apart and coming together. And on every page he captures the soul of black community whose circumstances make even the slightest assertion of self-respect an act of majestic—and sometimes suicidal—heroism.
Gaines, Ernest J.	of love and dust	Novel	Marcus bonded out of jail where he has been awaiting trial for murder, and he is sent to the Hebert plantation to work in the fields. There he encounters conflict with the overseer, Sidney Bonbon, and a tale of revenge, lust and power plays out between Marcus, Bonbon, Bonbon's mistress Pauline, and Bonbon's wife Louise.
Gaines, Ernest J.	A Gathering of Old Men	Novel	A powerful depiction of racial tensions arising over the death of a Cajun farmer at the hands of a black man—set on a Louisiana sugarcane plantation in the 1970s.
Gaines, Ernest J.	Catherine Carmier	Novel	The book is set in a deceptively bucolic Louisiana countryside, where blacks, Cajuns, and whites maintain an uneasy coexistence. After living in San Francisco for ten years, Jackson returns home to his benefactor, Aunt Charlotte. Surrounded by family and old friends, he discovers that his bonds to them have been irreparably rent by his absence. In the midst of his alienation from those around him, he falls in love with Catherine Carmier, setting the stage for conflicts and confrontations which are complex, tortuous, and universal in their implications.

Gaines, Ernest J.	In My Father's House	Novel	<p>A compelling novel of a man brought to reckon with his buried past. In St. Adrienne, a small black community in Louisiana, Reverend Phillip Martin—a respected minister and civil rights leader—comes face to face with the sins of his youth in the person of Robert X, a young, unkempt stranger who arrives in town for a mysterious "meeting" with the Reverend. In the confrontation between the two, the young man's secret burden explodes into the open, and Phillip Martin begins a long-neglected journey into his youth to discover how destructive his former life was, for himself and for those around him.</p>
Golden, Marita	The Wide Circumference of Love	Novel	<p>A moving African-American family drama of love and devotion in the face of Alzheimer's disease. Diane Tate never expected to slowly lose her talented husband to the debilitating effects of early-onset Alzheimer's disease. As a respected family court judge, she's spent her life making tough calls, but when her sixty-eight-year-old husband's health worsens and Diane is forced to move him into an assisted living facility, it seems her world is spinning out of control even as she resolutely decides she must reimagine life with her two children and this new reality.</p>
Gray, Anissa	The Care and Feeding of Ravenously Hungry Girls	Novel	<p>Althea, the eldest sister and substitute matriarch, is a force to be reckoned with and her younger sisters have alternately appreciated and chafed at her strong will. They are as stunned as the rest of the small community when she and her husband, Proctor, are arrested, and in a heartbeat the family goes from one of the most respected in town to utter disgrace. The worst part is, not even her sisters are sure exactly what happened. As Althea awaits her fate, Lillian and Viola must come together in the house they grew up in to care for their sister's teenage daughters.</p>

Gyasi, Yaa	Homegoing	Novel	<p>In 18c Ghana, two half sisters are born into different villages, unaware of each other. One will marry an Englishman and lead a life of comfort in the palatial rooms of the Cape Coast Castle. The other will be captured in a raid on her village, imprisoned in the very same castle, and sold into slavery. The book follows the paths of these sisters and their descendants through 8 generations: from the Gold Coast to Mississippi plantations, from the American Civil War to Jazz Age Harlem. This extraordinary novel illuminates slavery's troubled legacy both for those who were taken and those who stayed—and shows how the memory of captivity has been inscribed on the soul of our nation.</p>
Haynes, Melinda	Mother of Pearl	Novel	<p>Capturing all the rueful irony and racial ambivalence of small-town Mississippi in the late 1950s, this is an unforgettable exploration of family, identity, and redemption. Even Grade is a 28 year-old black man who grew up an orphan, and Valuable Korner is a 15 year-old white daughter of the town whore and an unknown father. Both are passionately determined to discover the precious things neither experienced as children: human connection, enduring commitment, and, above all, unconditional love.</p>
Hurston, Zora Neale	Seraph on the Suwanee	Novel	<p>Acclaimed for her pitch-perfect accounts of rural black life and culture, the author explores new territory with this novel, a story of two people at once deeply in love and deeply at odds, set among the community of "Florida Crackers" at the turn of the 20th century. Full of insights into the nature of love, attraction, faith, and loyalty, it follows young Arvay Henson, convinced she will never find true happiness, as she defends herself from unwanted suitors with hysterical fits and religious fervor. But into her life comes bright and enterprising Jim Meserve, who knows that Arvay is the woman for him, and nothing she can do will dissuade him.</p>

Johnson, Charles	Faith and the Good Thing	Novel	Faith Cross, a beautiful innocent young black woman, is told by her dying mother to go and get herself "a good thing." Thus begins an extraordinary pilgrim's progress that takes Faith from the magic and mysticism of the rural South to the promises and perils of modern-day Chicago. It is an odyssey that propels Faith from the degradation of prostitution, drugs, and drink into a faceless middle-class reality, and finally into a searing tragedy that ironically leads to the discovery of the real Good Thing. National Book Award-winner Charles Johnson's first novel, originally published in 1974, puts the life-affirming soul of the African-American experience at the summit of American storytelling.
Johnson, Charles	Oxherding Tale	Novel	One night in the antebellum South, a slave owner and his African-American butler stay up to all hours until, too drunk to face their wives, they switch places in each other's beds. The result is a hilarious imbroglio and an offspring -- Andrew Hawkins, whose life becomes Oxherding Tale. Through sexual escapades, picaresque adventures, and philosophical inquiry, Hawkins navigates white and black worlds and comments wryly on human nature along the way. This book is a deliciously funny, bitterly ironic account of slavery, racism, and the human spirit.

Jones, Edward P.	The Known World	Novel	<p>The Known World seamlessly weaves the lives of the freed and the enslaved—and allows all of us a deeper understanding of the enduring multidimensional world created by the institution of slavery. Henry Townsend, a farmer, boot maker, and former slave, through the surprising and unforeseen turns of life in antebellum Virginia, becomes proprietor of his own plantation—as well his own slaves. When he dies, his widow Caldonia succumbs to profound grief, and things begin to fall apart at their plantation: slaves take to escaping under the cover of night, and families who had once found love under the weight of slavery begin to betray one another. Beyond the Townsend household, the known world also unravels: low-paid white patrollers stand watch as slave “speculators” sell free black people into slavery, and rumors of slave rebellions set white families against slaves who have served them for years.</p>
Jones, Tayari	An American Marriage	Novel	<p>NY Times Bestseller--Newlyweds Celestial and Roy are the embodiment of both the American Dream and the New South, he a young executive and she, an artist on the brink of an exciting career. But as they settle into their life together, they are ripped apart by circumstances they could not have imagined. Roy is arrested and sentenced to 12 years for a crime Celestial knows he didn't commit and Celestial finds herself bereft and unmoored, taking comfort in Andre, her childhood friend, and best man at their wedding. As Roy's time in prison passes, she is unable to hold on to the love that has been her center. After 5 years, Roy's conviction is suddenly overturned, and he returns to Atlanta ready to resume their life together.</p>

Locke, Tembi	From Scratch	Novel	<p>NY Times Bestseller--Tembi met professional chef, Saro, on a Florence street. There was one problem: Saro's traditional Sicilian family did not approve him marrying a black American woman. However, the couple build a happy life in Los Angeles and adopt a baby girl. Eventually, they reconcile with Saro's family just as he faces a formidable cancer that will consume all their dreams. Tembi and her daughter then spend summers in Sicily as she begins to piece together a life without her husband in his tiny hometown hamlet of farmers. Where once Tembi was estranged from Saro's family, now she finds solace and nourishment—literally and spiritually—at her mother in law's table. In the Sicilian countryside, she discovers the healing gifts of simple fresh food, the embrace of a close knit community, and timeless traditions and wisdom that light a path forward. All along the way she reflects on her and Saro's incredible romance—an indelible love story that leaps off the pages.</p>
Mathis, Ayana	The Twelve Tribes of Hattie	Novel	<p>In 1923, 15-year-old Hattie Shepherd, swept up by the tides of the Great Migration, flees Georgia. Full of hope, she settles in Philadelphia to build a better life. Instead she marries a man who will bring her nothing but disappointment, and watches helplessly as her firstborn twins are lost to an illness that a few pennies could have prevented. Hattie gives birth to 9 more children, whom she raises with grit, mettle, and not an ounce of the tenderness they crave. She vows to prepare them to meet an unkind world. Their lives, captured here in 12 luminous threads, tell the story of a mother's monumental courage—and a nation's tumultuous journey.</p>

Mbue, Imbolo	Behold the Dreamers	Novel	<p>Jende Jonga, a Cameroonian immigrant living in Harlem, has come to the US to provide a better life for himself, his wife, Neni, and their 6-year-old son. In Fall 2007, Jende can hardly believe his luck when he lands a job as a chauffeur for Clark Edwards, a senior executive at Lehman Brothers. Clark demands punctuality, discretion, and loyalty—and Jende is eager to please. Clark’s wife, Cindy, even offers Neni temporary work at the Edwardses’ summer home in the Hamptons. With these opportunities, Jende and Neni can at last gain a foothold in America and imagine a brighter future. However, the world of great power and privilege conceals troubling secrets, and soon Jende and Neni notice cracks in their employers’ façades. When the financial world is rocked by the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the Jongas are desperate to keep Jende’s job—even as their marriage threatens to fall apart. As all four lives are dramatically upended, Jende and Neni are forced to make an impossible choice.</p>
Morrison, Toni	Sula	Novel	<p>This is the story of Nel Wright and Sula Peace, who meet as children in the small town of Medallion, Ohio. Their devotion is fierce enough to withstand bullies and the burden of a dreadful secret. It endures even after Nel has grown up to be a pillar of the black community and Sula has become a pariah. But their friendship ends in an unforgivable betrayal—or does it end? Terrifying, comic, ribald and tragic, Sula is a work that overflows with life.</p>

Morrison, Toni	Tar Baby	Novel	<p>Jadine Childs is a black fashion model with a white patron, a white boyfriend, and a coat made out of 90 perfect sealskins. Son is a black fugitive who embodies everything she loathes and desires. As Morrison follows their affair, which plays out from the Caribbean to Manhattan and the deep South, she charts all the nuances of obligation and betrayal between blacks and whites, masters and servants, and men and women.</p>
Morrison, Toni	Beloved	Novel	<p>Winner of 1988 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction--Staring unflinchingly into the abyss of slavery, this spellbinding novel transforms history into a story as powerful as Exodus and as intimate as a lullaby. Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but 18 years later is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe's new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved. Filled with bitter poetry and suspense as taut as a rope, Beloved is a towering achievement.</p>

Nicholas, Denise	Freshwater Road	Novel	<p>One of the best novels written about the Civil Rights Movement. When University of Michigan sophomore Celeste Tyree travels to Mississippi to volunteer with Freedom Summer, she's assigned to help register voters in the small town of Pineyville, best known for a notorious lynching that occurred a few years earlier. As the long, hot summer unfolds, Celeste befriends several members of the community, but there are also those threatened by her and the change that her presence in the South represents. Finding inner strength as she helps lift the veil of oppression and learns valuable lessons about race, social change, and violence, Celeste prepares her adult students for their showdown with the county registrar. All the while, she struggles with loneliness, a worried father in Detroit, and her burgeoning feelings for a young man also in Mississippi for the summer. By summer's end, Celeste learns there are no easy answers to the questions that preoccupy her—about violence and nonviolence, about race, identity, and color, and about the strength of love and family bonds.</p>
Paton, Alan	Cry, the Beloved Country	Novel	<p>A deeply moving story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son, Absalom, set against the background of a land and a people riven by racial injustice (published in 1948). Remarkable for its lyricism, unforgettable for character and incident, this book is a classic work of love and hope, courage and endurance, born of the dignity of man.</p>

Reid, Kiley	Such a Fun Age	Novel	<p>Alix Chamberlain gets what she wants and has made a living, with her confidence-driven brand, showing other women how to do the same. So she is shocked when her babysitter, Emira Tucker, is confronted while watching the Chamberlains' toddler one night, walking the aisles of their local high-end supermarket. The store's security guard, seeing a young black woman out late with a white child, accuses Emira of kidnapping. A small crowd gathers, a bystander films everything, and Emira is furious and humiliated. Alix resolves to make things right. But Emira herself is aimless, broke, and wary of Alix's desire to help. At 25, she is about to lose her health insurance and has no idea what to do with her life. When the video of Emira unearths someone from Alix's past, both women find themselves on a crash course that will upend everything they think they know about themselves, and each other. The book explores the stickiness of transactional relationships, what it means to make someone "family," and the complicated reality of being a grown up.</p>
Styron, William	The Confessions of Nat Turner	Novel	<p>In late summer, 1831, in a remote section of southeastern Virginia, took place the only effective, sustained revolt in the annals of American Negro slavery led by a remarkable black preacher named Nat Turner, an educated slave who felt he was divinely ordained to annihilate all the white people in the region. The book is narrated by Nat himself as he lingers in jail through the cold autumnal days before his execution, reviewing his whole life. Styron has re-created a catastrophic event, and dramatized the intermingled miseries, frustrations--and hopes--which caused this extraordinary black man to rise up out of the early mists of our history and strike down those who held his people in bondage.</p>

Tademy, Lalita	Cane River	Novel	Beginning with her great-great-great-great grandmother, a slave owned by a Creole family, the author chronicles 4 generations of strong, determined black women as they battle injustice to unite their family and forge success on their own terms. They are women whose lives begin in slavery, who weather the Civil War, and who grapple with contradictions of emancipation, Jim Crow, and the pre-Civil Rights South. As she peels back layers of racial and cultural attitudes, Tademy paints a remarkable picture of rural Louisiana and the resilient spirit of one unforgettable family.
Walker, Alice	You Can't Keep a Good Woman Down	Novel	The women in this collection of tenderly wrought tales face their problems head on, proving powerful and self-possessed even when degraded by others—sometimes by those closest to them. But even as the female protagonists face exploitation, social asymmetries, and casual cruelties, Walker leavens her stories with ample wit and, as always, an eye for the redemptive power of love.

Walker, Alice	The Color Purple	Novel	<p>Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award--Celie has grown up poor in rural Georgia, despised by the society around her and abused by her own family. She strives to protect her sister, Nettie, from a similar fate, and while Nettie escapes to a new life as a missionary in Africa, Celie is left behind without her best friend and confidante, married off to an older suitor, and sentenced to a life alone with a harsh and brutal husband.</p> <p>In an attempt to transcend a life that seems too much to bear, Celie begins writing letters directly to God. The letters, spanning 20, record a journey of self-discovery and empowerment guided by the light of a few strong women. She meets Shug Avery, her husband's mistress and a jazz singer with a zest for life, and her stepson's wife, Sophia, who challenges her to fight for independence. And though the many letters from Celie's sister are hidden by her husband, Nettie's unwavering support will prove to be the most breathtaking of all.</p>
Ward, Jesmyn	Where the Line Bleeds	Novel	<p>The first of a trilogy by a National Book Award winner portraying an African-American family in the rural South set in the small town of Bois Sauvage. It is a story of fraternal love and strife, the relentless grind of poverty, the toll of addiction on a family, and the bonds that can sustain or torment.</p>

Ward, Jesmyn	Salvage the Bones	Novel	Book 3 in the Bois Sauvage trilogy--A hurricane is building over the Gulf of Mexico, threatening the coastal town of Bois Sauvage, Mississippi. Esch's father is a hard drinker and largely absent. Esch and her 3 brothers are stocking food, but there isn't much to save. Lately, Esch can't keep down what food she gets; she's 14 and pregnant and her brothers are not much help. Over the next 12 days these motherless children sacrifice for one another as they can, protecting and nurturing where love is scarce.-pulls itself up to face another day. A big-hearted novel about familial love and community against all odds, and a wrenching look at the lonesome, brutal, and restrictive realities of rural poverty.
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Ward, Jesyn	Sing, Unburned, Sing	Novel	<p>Book 2 in the Bois Sauvage trilogy and Winner, National Book Award for Fiction. Jojo 13, trying to understand what it means to be a man. He has male figures in his life, mainly his Black grandfather, Pop. But other men complicate his understanding: his absent White father, Michael, soon to be released from prison; his absent White grandfather, Big Joseph, who won't acknowledge his existence; and memories of his dead uncle, Given, who died as a teenager. His Black mother, Leonie, is an inconsistent presence in his life. She is imperfect and in constant conflict with herself and others. She wants to be a better mother but can't put her children above her own needs, especially her drug use. Simultaneously tormented and comforted by visions of her dead brother, she is embattled in ways that reflect the brutal reality of her circumstances. When Jojo's father is released from prison, Leonie packs her kids into her car and drives to the heart of Mississippi to Parchman Farm, the State Penitentiary. There, there is another 13-year-old boy, the ghost of a dead inmate who carries all of the ugly history of the South with him in his wandering, and has something to teach Jojo about fathers and sons, legacies, violence, and love.</p>
Wright, Richard	Native Son	Novel	<p>From the start, Bigger Thomas had been headed for jail. It could have been for assault or petty larceny; by chance, it was for murder and rape. This is the story of a young black man caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic. Set in 1930s Chicago, this powerful novel is an unsparing reflection on the poverty and feelings of hopelessness experienced by people in inner cities across the country and of what it means to be black in America.</p>

Adams, Maurianne	Readings for Diversity and Social Justice	Privilege/Anti-Racism	This book covers six thematic issues: racism, sexism, Anti-Semitism, heterosexism, classism, and ableism in a mix of short personal and theoretical essays and entries designed to challenge the reader to take action to end oppressive behavior and to affirm diversity and racial justice.
Dew, Charles B.	The Making of a Racist	Privilege/Anti-Racism	Dew re-creates the American South of his childhood--a boy's paradise, but one stained by Lost Cause revisionism and, worse, by the full brunt of Jim Crow. Through entertainments and "educational" books that belittled African Americans, as well as the living examples of his own family, Dew was indoctrinated in a white supremacy that was condescendingly paternalistic and brutally intolerant. The fear that southern culture could come undone through the slightest flexibility in the color line gave the Jim Crow mindset its distinctly unyielding quality. Dew recalls his father, in most regards a decent man, becoming livid over a black tradesman daring to use the front, and not the back, door. Dew ultimately rejected his racist upbringing and become a scholar of the South and its deeply conflicted history.
DiAngelo, Robin	White Fragility	Privilege/Anti-Racism	DiAngelo explains how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.
Kendall, Frances	Understanding White Privilege	Privilege/Anti-Racism	Kendall delves into the complex interplay between race, power, and privilege in organizations and private life. It offers an unflinching look at how ignorance can perpetuate privilege, and offers practical and thoughtful insights into how people of all races can work to break this cycle.
Kendi, Ibram X.	How to be an Antiracist	Privilege/Anti-Racism	Kendi uses his own life journey to show us why becoming an antiracist is as essential as it is difficult. Equal parts memoir, history and social commentary, this book is honest, brave and liberating.

Kimmel, Michael S.	Privilege: A Reader	Privilege/Anti-Racism	This timely anthology expands the concept of privilege in America beyond the traditional limiters of being white and male. Seventeen essays explore the multifaceted aspects of privilege: how race, gender, class, and sexual preference interact in the lives of those who are privileged by one or more of these identities.
King, Larry L.	Confessions of a White Racist	Privilege/Anti-Racism	As reviewed on Amazon: "A well written personal confession by someone who understands via introspection how a culture of white supremacy shapes our attitudes toward people of color. A great book for white people who are willing to acknowledge we have the problem and need to get beyond our prejudices rather than blaming the victims of racism for their anger and frustration."
Moore, Eddie; Penick-Parks, Marg	Everyday White People Confront Race and Social Injustice	Privilege/Anti-Racism	Presenting in their own words the personal stories, experiences and reflections of fifteen prominent White anti-racists.
Nieto, Leticia	Beyond Inclusion, Beyond Empowerment	Privilege/Anti-Racism	Nieto offers a powerful analysis of the psychological dynamics of oppression and privilege, and shows how to develop skills to promote social justice. The key is to analyze hidden and unconscious influences of oppression on people's behavior, allowing us to become more aware in everyday interactions.
Wise, Tim	White Like Me	Privilege/Anti-Racism	A personal examination of the way in which racial privilege shapes the daily lives of white Americans in every realm: employment, education, housing, criminal justice, and elsewhere.