

The Jubilee Reader

Recent books by African American writers, writers from the African diaspora,
and on related topics.

Issue 3 – January/February 2023

Fiction

1,000 Coils of Fear

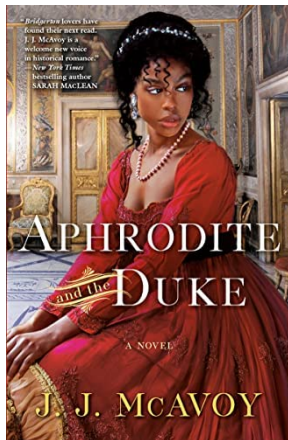
by Olivia Wenzel

From playwright Olivia Wenzel, a multilayered and rhythmic debut novel about her life as a Black German woman living in Berlin and New York during the chaos of the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Afterlives

by Abdulrazak Gurnah

From the winner of the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature, a sweeping, multi-generational saga of displacement, loss, and love, set against the brutal colonization of east Africa.



Aphrodite and the Duke

by J. J. McAvoy

A jilted beauty and a regretful duke discover that second chances can be divine in this diverse Regency romance for fans of *Bridgerton*.

The Attic Child

by Lola Jaye

Two children trapped in the same attic of a large house by the sea, almost a century apart, are bound by a shared secret.

The Birdcatcher

by Gayl Jones

Set on the island of Ibiza, this is the story of a writer whose closest friend, a gifted sculptor, is repeatedly institutionalized for trying to kill her husband.

Black Hamptons

by Carl Weber

When a piece of land comes up for sale in the Hamptons, it sparks a war between two families. Will the tension between them shatter any hopes of a peaceful summer?

Didn't Nobody Give a Shit What Happened to Carlotta

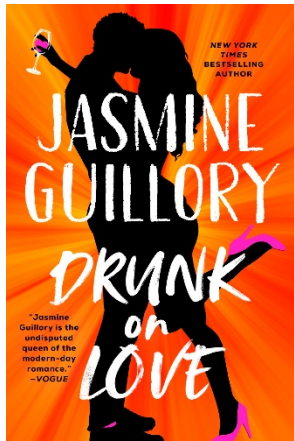
by James Hannaham

Over the course of one consequential Fourth of July weekend, a trans woman reenters life on the outside after more than twenty years in a men's prison.

Do You Take This Man

by Denise Williams

After butting heads, an event planner and a wedding officiant begin an enemies-with-benefits arrangement.



Drunk on Love

by Jasmine Guillory

A one-night stand between a winery owner and a sexy Silicon Valley escapee gets complicated when they realize that he's the winery's newest employee and she's his new boss.

The Furrows

by Namwali Serpell

A woman haunted by the childhood disappearance of her little brother meets a man who is mysterious and familiar — a man who shares the name of her missing brother.

A Ghost in Shining Armor

by Therese Beharrie

A woman with the ability to see and help ghosts settle their unfinished business is haunted by a hotter-than-hot phantom who's determined to help *her*.

The Hookup Plan

by Farrah Rochon

In this enemies-to-lovers romance, a successful pediatric surgeon falls in love (and into bed) with the millionaire who has to decide whether or not her hospital will stay open.

House of Hunger

by Alexis Henderson

A young woman raised in the slums is drawn into the upper echelons of a debauched society where blood is power.

If I Survive You

by Jonathan Escoffery

In this collection of humorous, heartfelt stories, a Jamaican family flees violence-torn Kingston for Miami, only to learn that America isn't always the land it was promised to be.

Jackal

by Erin E. Adams

A young Black girl goes missing in the woods outside her rust belt town. She's not the first, though — and a horrifying secret about the town suggests she may not be the last.

Jollof Rice and Other Revolutions: A Novel in Interlocking Stories

by Omolola Ogunyemi

Nigerian author Omolola Ogunyemi makes her American debut with a novel which explores her homeland's past, present, and possible future through the interconnected stories of four fearless, globe-trotting women.

The Last Dreamwalker

by Rita Woods

The story of two women who are separated by nearly two centuries, yet are linked by the Gullah Geechee heritage and their connection to a mysterious gift passed from generation to generation.

The Light Always Breaks

by Angela Jackson-Brown

In 1947, the owner of Washington, D.C.'s, most famous Black-owned restaurant crosses paths with a handsome white senator from Georgia. Drawn to one another, their relationship threatens to destroy them and everything they've worked for.

Long Past Summer

by Noué Kirwan

When an old photograph resurfaces on the cover of a fashion magazine, a successful New York lawyer must deal with an ex-lover, an ex-friend, and all the drama in between.

The Monsters We Defy

by L. Penelope

A woman able to communicate with spirits assembles a ragtag crew to pull off a daring heist to save her community in this historical fantasy.

Murder in Westminster

by Vanessa Riley

In this historical mystery series debut, an aristocrat whose skin color and notorious family history have left her with few friends she can rely on, is named as the prime suspect in a murder case.

Murder Out of Character

by Olivia Matthews

A small-town librarian finds a list of four names that appear to have nothing in common – except, possibly, murder. Can the librarian and her librarian friends stop a killer bent on revenge?

My Government Means to Kill Me

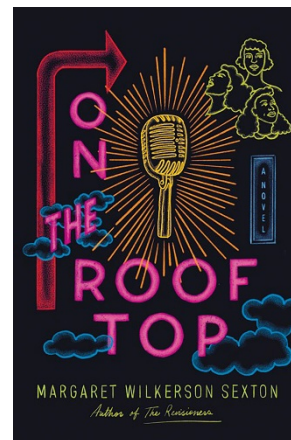
by Rasheed Newson

A coming-of-age story following the personal and political awakening of a young, gay, Black man in 1980s New York City.

Never Meant to Meet You

by Alli Frank

A kindergarten teacher is forced to contend with her own heartache when an unexpected child shows up on the first day of school with an uncle who has all the class moms aflutter.



On the Rooftop

by Margaret Wilkerson Sexton

In 1950s San Francisco, a mother with dreams of musical stardom for her three daughters must deal with the fact that they have their own ambitions.

Perish

by LaToya Watkins

In this multigenerational story, four members of a Black Texan family deal with the effects of inherited trauma and intergenerational violence when they come together to say goodbye to their matriarch on her deathbed.

People Person

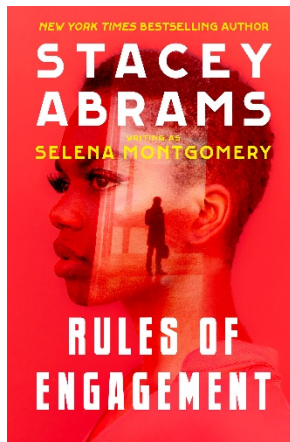
by Candice Carty-Williams

When a dramatic event brings an aspiring lifestyle influencer's half-siblings back into her life, the entire family is forced to reconnect with the absent father they never really knew.

Rivalry at Play

by Nadine Gonzalez

They were rivals in high school, but now they're all grown up. She's an attorney, back home to deal with family business. He's an entrepreneur who won't be satisfied until he's made her his queen. Is a casual fling the best strategy?



Rules of Engagement

by Selena Montgomery

When an undercover intelligence operative and her brooding, sexy partner infiltrate a terrorist group, their masquerade as a couple proves too tempting to resist.

Soul of a Killer

by Abby Collette

In this cozy mystery, fraternal twins trying to run a combined soul food cafe and bookstore find themselves searching for a cold-hearted killer.

Standalone

by Christopher Chambers

When an unlicensed private investigator is forced to find the daughter of an ex-con, he uncovers a secret that unleashes a war within in the corrupt police force and threatens to tear the nation's capital apart.

Stories from the Tenants Downstairs

by Sidik Fofana

A collection of stories about the tight-knit residents of Banneker Terrace, who must grapple with their own personal challenges and the life-upending threat of gentrification.

Sweet, Soft, Plenty Rhythm

by Laura Warrell

A 40-year-old trumpet player and old-school ladies' man must face the music when he learns that his drummer is pregnant with his child.

They Come at Knight

by Yasmin Angoe

In this follow-up to *Her Name Is Knight*, an elite assassin who will stop at nothing to protect her family seeks to uncover an internal threat to the organization for which she works.

The Thread Collectors

by Shaunna J. Edwards

In 1863, the paths of a Jewish woman from New York searching for her husband and a young Black woman who helps enslaved men escape to join the Union Army converge in New Orleans.

To Catch a Raven

by Beverly Jenkins

The newest novel in the *Women Who Dare* series follows the exploits of a fearless grifter who goes undercover to reclaim the stolen Declaration of Independence.

To Win a Prince

by Toni Shiloh

A fashion aficionado wants to start a business that will help impoverished people. When she discovers that a former prince will be her business consultant, the battle between her desires and reality begins.

Tori and Jace: Trapped in His Love

by Na’Cole

A woman lands the perfect man... but one man just isn’t enough. A young music producer on the way up has no time for love, until the universe places the right woman in front of him. But is she as perfect as she seems?

Transformers: Shattered Glass

by Danny Lore

In this new entry into the Transformers universe, the heroes that once stood as humanity’s protectors are now monstrously evil.

Two Parts Sugar, One Part Murder

by V. M. Burns

In this cozy culinary mystery, a social media expert who’s starting over in small-town Michigan, after inheriting her great-aunt’s baker and a 200-pound English Mastiff, is suspected of the fatal stabbing of the town’s mayor.

Vanessa Jared’s Got a Man

by LaQuette

A 40-something woman coming out of a post-divorce slump is determined to take down her ex when she learns that he’s proposed to another woman — using a ring that he stole from her.

Where We End & Begin

by Jane Igharo

Star-crossed lovers are given a second chance at romance when they reunite at a wedding in Nigeria.

Will Do Magic for Small Change

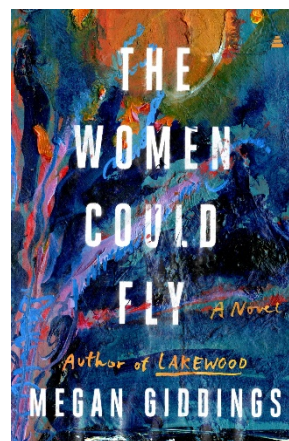
by Andrea Hairston

In this tale of alien science and earthbound magic, an aspiring actress must untangle a web of mysteries and secrets that involves her family, a warrior woman, and an alien from another dimension who performed at the 1893 World’s Fair.

Witchful Thinking

by Celestine Martin

A high school teacher in a mystic seaside town finds herself under a spell that won’t allow her to say no — not to a public karaoke performance, running a 10K, and, most alarmingly, not to her high school crush.



The Women Could Fly

by Megan Giddings

In a world in which witches are real and single women are closely monitored unless they are married by age 30, a single woman whose mother was

suspected of witchcraft is given the opportunity to honor one last request from her mother’s will.

Non-Fiction

Arts and Literature

Black Ephemera: The Crisis and Challenge of the Musical Archive

by Mark Anthony Neal

An exploration of the crisis of the Black musical archive in a time when Black American culture has become a global import, yet that cultural DNA has become obscured in the transformation from analog to digital.

Black Hollywood: Reimagining Iconic Movie Moments

by Carell Augustus

Photographer Carell Augustus and Black celebrities and performers recreate iconic scenes from classic Hollywood movies and television.

Claude McKay: The Making of a Black Bolshevik

by Winston James

An account of the early political and intellectual trajectory of Claude McKay, a central figure in Caribbean literature, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Black radical tradition.

The Come Up: An Oral History of the Rise of Hip-hop

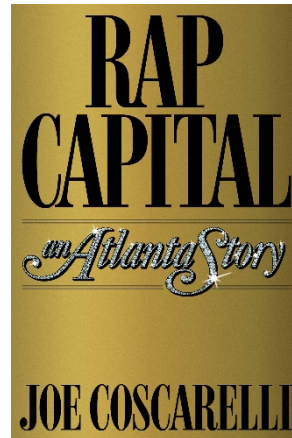
by Jonathan P. D. Abrams

An oral history of hip-hop that traces its rise from playgrounds in its Bronx beginnings to the forefront of modern pop culture.

Protectors of Wakanda: A History and Training Manual for the Dora Milaje

by Karama Horne

Learn what it takes to become a member of the Dora Milaje — Wakanda's elite, all-female guard — with this exclusive in-world history and training manual.



Rap Capital: An Atlanta Story

by Joe Coscarelli

A street-level history about the flawed and inspired individuals who have created one of the most consequential music cultures of today — Atlanta rap.

Biography and Memoir

America Made Me a Black Man: A Memoir

by Boyah J. Farah

A memoir of American racism from a Somali American who survived hardships in his birth country only to experience the dehumanization of Blacks in his adopted land, the United States.

Be the One You Need: 21 Life Lessons I Learned While Taking Care of Everyone But Me

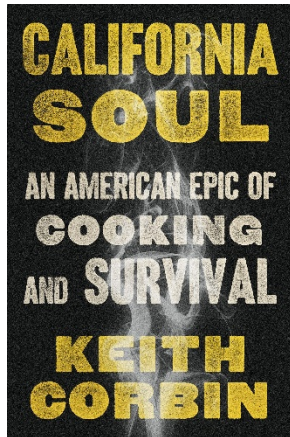
by Sophia A. Nelson

A memoir from the author of *The Woman Code* providing life lessons that emphasize the importance of self-care, self-love, and self-understanding.

The Black Period: On Personhood, Race, and Origin

by Hafizah Geter

A poet reclaims her origin story as the queer daughter of a Muslim Nigerian immigrant and a Black American visual artist in a memoir that combines lyrical prose, biting criticism, and haunting visuals.



California Soul: An American Epic of Cooking and Survival

by Keith Corbin

A memoir about gangs, drugs, cooking, and living life on the line — on the streets and in the kitchen.

Everything I Never Dreamed: My Life Surviving and Standing Up to Domestic Violence

by Ruth M. Glenn

A raw and uplifting memoir from the CEO and president of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, chronicling her personal battle against abuse and violence.

The Forerunner: A Story of Pain and Perseverance in America

by Cori Bush

A memoir that sheds light on a harrowing personal journey and urges political leadership to prioritize meeting the needs of our most marginalized communities.

Fruit Punch: A Memoir

by Kendra Allen

A memoir about the exultant and harrowing experience of growing up as a Black child who was desperate to create a reality for herself in America.

Illustrated Black History: Honoring the Iconic and the Unseen

by George McCalman

A collection of 145 original portraits and biographical reflections that celebrate Black pioneers in politics, science, literature, music, and more.

Scenes From My Life: A Memoir

by Michael Kenneth Williams

In this memoir, actor Michael Kenneth Williams traces his life from his childhood and his early years as a dancer to his battles with addiction and the bar fight that left his face with his distinguishing scar.

Token Black Girl: A Memoir

by Danielle Prescod

Racial identity, pop culture, and delusions of perfection collide in this frank memoir by fashion and beauty insider Danielle Prescod.

A Visible Man: A Memoir

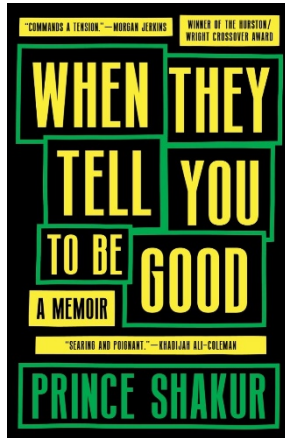
by Edward Enninful

In this memoir of breaking barriers, Edward Enninful — the first Black editor-in-chief of British Vogue — discusses his journey through one of the world's most exclusive industries.

Walking in My Joy: In These Streets

by Jenifer Lewis

Self-described “traveling fool and nature freak” Jenifer Lewis recounts her real-life travel adventures from around the world, demonstrating how she walks in her joy by seeking pleasure in everyday encounters.



When They Tell You to Be Good

by Prince Shakur

In this memoir, Prince Shakur recounts his radicalization and self-realization through examinations of place, childhood, queer identity, and a history of uprisings.

Wolf Hustle: A Black Woman on Wall Street

by Cin Fabré

From landing clients worth hundreds of millions, to gaining, losing, and then regaining fortunes in seconds, Cin Fabré examines her years spent building a career on Wall Street.

You Should Sit Down for This: A Memoir About Wine, Life, and Cookies

by Tamera Mowry

In this memoir, TV star Tamera Mowry-Housley tells how she tapped into her faith to hone her happiness and create a path forward for herself.

You've Been Chosen: Thriving Through the Unexpected

by Cynthia Marshall

An optimistic memoir by one of the most influential Black business leaders in America today, offering hope and practical guidance for navigating life's most difficult challenges.

Cooking

KosherSoul: The Faith and Food Journey of an African American Jew

by Michael Twitty

The James Beard award-winning author of the *The Cooking Gene* explores the cultural crossroads of Jewish and African diaspora cuisine and issues of memory, identity, and food.

Sunday Best: Cooking Up the Weekend Spirit Every Day

by Adrienne Cheatham

In this collection, Adrienne Cheatham showcases her signature style of cooking, sharing more than 100 recipes that combine her family's Southern roots, her classical training in professional kitchens, and her multicultural influences.

The Way Home: A Celebration of Sea Islands Food and Family With Over 100 Recipes

by Kardea Brown

Food Network star Kardea Brown celebrates Gullah Geechee culinary traditions and provides 125 family recipes in this cookbook.

Current Affairs

Africa is Not a Country: Notes On a Bright Continent

by Dipo Faloyin

An opinionated, stereotype-busting portrait of contemporary Africa in all its splendid diversity, by one of its leading new writers.

Black Skinhead: Reflections on Blackness and Our Political Future

by Brandi Collins-Dexter

Cultural, personal, and political essays that explore the alliance between Black voters and the Democratic party and reveal decades of simmering disaffection in Black America.

Black Women Will Save the World: An Anthem

by April Ryan

White House correspondent April Ryan reflects on “The Year That Changed Everything” — 2020 — and the unprecedented role that African American women played in upholding democracy.

No More Police: A Case for Abolition

by Mariame Kaba

Bestselling author Mariame Kaba and attorney Andrea Ritchie explore why policing perpetuates harm, how many contemporary police reforms have failed, and why an investment in community resources can create greater safety.

Red Hot City: Housing, Race, and Exclusion in Twenty-first Century Atlanta

by Daniel Immergluck

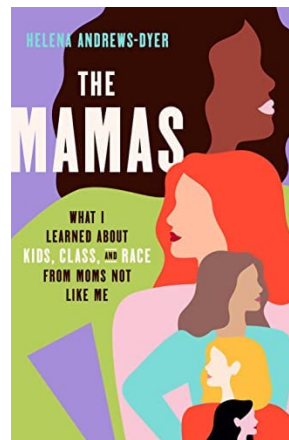
An examination of how Atlanta’s growth-at-all-costs planning and policy have exacerbated inequality and racial division within the city.

The Third Reconstruction: America’s Struggle for Racial Justice in the Twenty-First Century

by Peniel E. Joseph

Examining the climax of a “Third Reconstruction,” historian Joseph draws connections between the election of Barack Obama, the rise of Black Lives Matter, and to the failed assault on the Capitol.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



The Mamas: What I Learned About Kids, Class, and Race from Moms Not Like Me

by Helena Andrews-Dyer

A Washington Post culture writer chronicles the challenges she faces

as a Black mother in a mostly white mommy group in a time of gentrification, racial reckoning, and a global pandemic.

The Waymakers: Clearing the Path to Workplace Equity With Competence and Confidence

by Tara Jaye Frank

Using case studies, data, and candid storytelling, Tara Jaye Frank outlines how leaders with power and position can clear the path to workplace equity.

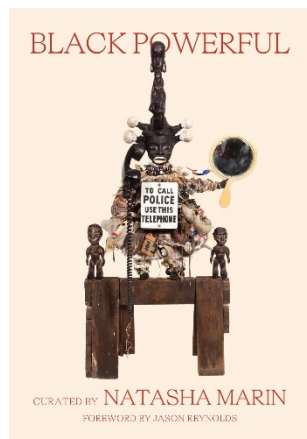
Education

The Ultimate Guide to HBCUs

by Braque Talley

An all-in-one guide to Historically Black Colleges and Universities which includes profiles of every HBCU in the country, highlights of their programs and degrees offered, and more.

Essays



Black Powerful

by Natasha Marin

Award-winning viral curator and poet Natasha Marin follows up *Black Imagination* with a collection of sharply rendered reflections from more than 100 Black voices.

Starry Messenger: Cosmic Perspectives on Civilization

by Neil deGrasse Tyson

In this collection of essays, astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson shines new light on the crucial fault lines of our time — war, politics, religion, truth, beauty, gender, and race.

Victory is Assured: Uncollected Writings of Stanley Crouch

by Stanley Crouch

In this posthumous collection of previously unpublished essays, writer and critic Stanley Crouch tackles subjects as varied as Malcolm X and Quentin Tarantino's *Django Unchained*.

Health

The Sex Lives of African Women: Self-discovery, Freedom, and Healing

by Nana Darkoa Sekyiamah

In this celebration of the liberation, individuality, and joy of their multifaceted sexuality, blogger Nana Darkoa Sekyiamah talks openly and intimately to African women around the world about sex.

History

American Sirens: The Incredible Story of the Black Men Who Became America's First Paramedics

by Kevin Hazzard

The story of an unjustly forgotten group of Black men in Pittsburgh who became the first paramedics in America, saving lives and changing the course of emergency medicine.

By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow's Legal Executioners

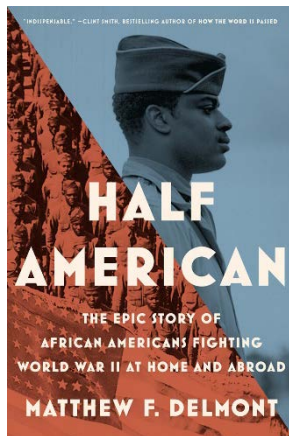
by Margaret A. Burnham

A renowned legal scholar investigates Jim Crow-era violence, the legal apparatus that sustained it, and its enduring legacy.

Grace: President Obama and Ten Days in the Battle for America

by Cody Keenan

Barack Obama's chief speechwriter recounts ten dramatic days during the Obama presidency, when a president's words could bring the nation together or tear it apart.



Half American: The Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad

by Matthew F. Delmont

A definitive history of World War II from the African

American perspective, written by civil rights expert and Dartmouth history professor Matthew Delmont.

The Long Alliance: The Imperfect Union of Joe Biden and Barack Obama

by Gabriel Debenedetti

An inside look at the historically close, complicated, occasionally codependent, and at times uncertain relationship between Joe Biden and Barack Obama.

My People: Five Decades of Writing About Black Lives

by Charlayne Hunter-Gault

A collection of ground-breaking reportage from Emmy Award-winning journalist Charlayne Hunter-Gault chronicling the experience of Black life in America today.

Waging a Good War: A Military History of the Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1968

by Thomas E. Ricks

Pulitzer Prize-winning war reporter Thomas E. Ricks offers a fresh perspective on the civil rights movement, arguing that recruiting, training, discipline, and organization — the hallmarks of a successful military campaign — played as important a role as the movement's emphasis on nonviolence.

Poetry

Black Oak: Odes Celebrating Powerful Black Men

by Harold Green III

From the author of *Black Roses*, poetry honoring the lives and achievements of groundbreaking men such as Tyler Perry, Barry Jenkins, Billy Porter, Chance the Rapper, LeBron James, Colin Kaepernick, and John Legend.

Heart First Into This Ruin: The Complete American Sonnets

by Wanda Coleman

The first complete collection of Wanda Coleman's original and inventive sonnets, long regarded as among her finest work.

Science

The Milky Way: An Autobiography of Our Galaxy

by Moiya McTier

In this autobiography of the titular galaxy, astrophysicist Moiya McTier details what humans have discovered about it — from its formation to its eventual death — and what we don't yet know.

Self-Help

Marriage Be Hard: 12 Conversations to Keep You Laughing, Loving, and Learning With Your Partner

by Kevin Fredericks

Husband-and-wife team of comedian Kevin Fredericks and influencer Melissa Fredericks discuss the keys to upholding your vows (while staying sane) in this comic, candid guide to relationships.

Platonic: How the Science of Attachment Can Help You Make and Keep Friends as an Adult

by Marisa G. Franco

How do we make and keep friends in a society that often prizes romantic love at the expense of other relationships? Franco unpacks the often counterintuitive findings about the bonds between us.

Rest is Resistance: A Manifesto

by Tricia Hersey

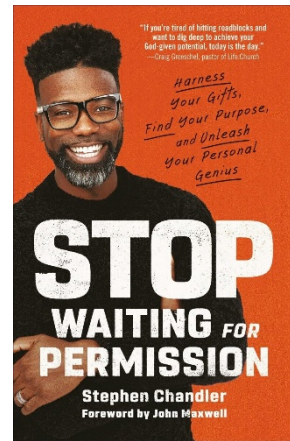
Tricia Hersey, aka The Nap Bishop, encourages us to connect to the liberating

power of rest, daydreaming, and naps as a foundation for healing and justice.

Sis, Take a Breath: Encouragement for the Woman Who's Trying to Live and Love Well (But Secretly Just Wants to Take a Nap)

by Kirsten Watson

In this work of Christian self-help, mother and podcaster Kirsten Watson offers guidance and encouragement on how to keep on going — and smiling — when the world seems overwhelming.



Stop Waiting for Permission: Harness Your Gifts, Find Your Purpose, and Unleash Your Personal Genius

by Stephen Chandler

From the pastor of one of America's fastest-growing churches, this

manifesto will show you how to dream, plan, and ultimately achieve your great calling in life.

You Owe You: Ignite Your Power, Your Purpose, and Your Why

by Eric Thomas

In this self-help manifesto, Eric Thomas argues that you should take control of your life — advice he wishes he was given when he was lost, homeless, failing in school, and dealing with the challenges of being a Black man in America.