

The Jubilee Reader

Recent books by African-American writers, writers from the African diaspora,
and on related topics.
May and June 2022

Fiction

Boys Come First

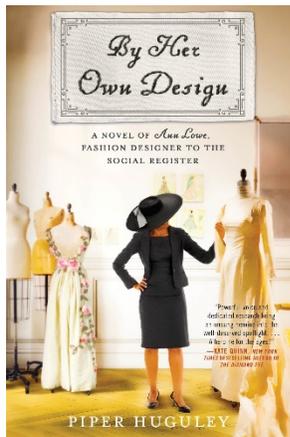
by Aaron Foley

Suddenly single and jobless, a 33-year-old gay man returns home to Detroit, determined to be married by the time he turns 35.

Braking Day

by Adam Oyebanji

A starship fleet prepares for landing after more than a century of travel. A young trainee begins to suspect that all is not right with their plans.



By Her Own Design

by Piper Huguley

Based on the true story of Ann Lowe, the African-American woman who rose above racial prejudice to design and make Jackie Kennedy's wedding dress.

Can't Hide Love

by Cheris Hodges

Taking a break from her family responsibilities, a woman on a singles' cruise finds her responsible world turned upside down by a seven-day fling with the man of her dreams.

A Caribbean Heiress in Paris

by Adriana Herrera

A young Dominican woman at the 1889 Exposition Universelle in Paris crosses paths with a whisky-making earl. Can she stop herself from hoping for love?

Carl Weber's Five Families of New York Part Three: The Bronx

by C. N. Phillips

The five crime families that run New York are at war again, and a man must decide if saving his friend is worth losing his allies.

Daughter of a Queen Pin

by Treasure Hernandez

The daughter of street royalty, Krystal Davenport has beauty and brains; her teachers say the sky's the limit. When tragedy strikes, can she change her fate?

The Eightfold Path

by Steven Barnes

In this graphic novel collection of Buddhist-inspired Afrofuturist stories, eight spiritual pilgrims taking shelter in a cave during a snowstorm learn their purposes in life.

The Garden of Broken Things

by Francesca Momplaisir

A mother returns to Haiti, fleeing a crumbling life in New York. When a massive earthquake hits, she and her family fight for survival.

Greenland

by David Santos Donaldson

A young author rewriting his novel about E.M. Forster's love affair with another man finds his own life echoing that of Forster's partner.

Half-Blown Rose

by Leesa Cross-Smith

An American woman rocked by revelations about her husband's past relocates to Paris and attracts the attention of a man 20 years younger than her.

Hurricane Watch: New and Collected Poems

by Olive Senior

Omnibus edition collecting Jamaican Poet Laureate Senior's first four books of poetry, as well as new and uncollected poems.

The Legacy of Molly Southbourne

by Tade Thompson

In this trilogy-ending novella, a former spy investigates a series of small-town murders and a group of clones prepare for a battle to the death.

Manipulation

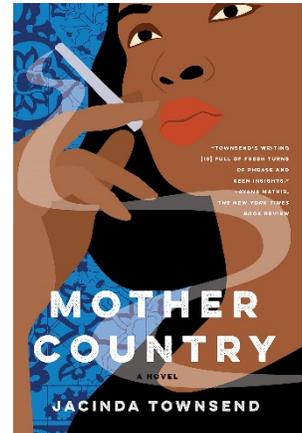
by Roy Glenn

A gangster's plan to leave the world of organized crime is shattered when an associate is murdered, putting him in the crosshairs of the police.

Mother Country

by Jacinda Townsend

A toddler links her Mauritanian birth mother, who was trafficked as a teen, and her adoptive American mother, who cannot have her own children.



Neruda on the Park

by Cleyvis Natera

A family threatened by the construction of luxury condos in their neighborhood engages in increasingly risky actions to save their community.

Nightcrawling

by Leila Mottley

A young woman sexually exploited by members of the Oakland Police Department becomes the face of a public scandal when her story is brought to light.

No Stone Unturned

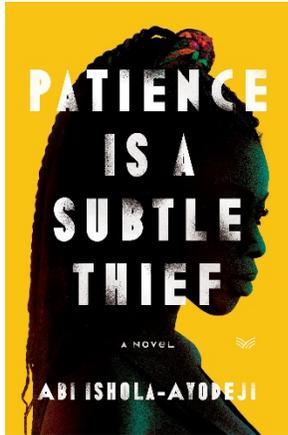
by Brandon Massey

A successful father of two discovers he has an adult daughter. After an argument, she vanishes. To find her, he'll have to explore his own past.

The Other Mother

by Rachel M. Harper

A musical prodigy's world is turned upside down when he learns from his estranged grandfather that his parentage is not what he thought it was.



Patience is a Subtle Thief

by Abi Ishola-Ayodeji

In 1990s Nigeria, a young woman searching for the truth behind her mother's exile finds herself drawn into a life of crime by her cousin.

Rich Wives Association

by India

Being married to a celebrity isn't as great as it looks. When the cameras are off, the Rich Wives Association must pay their dues.

Theatre of Marvels

by Lianne Dillsworth

A mixed-race woman in a Victorian London variety show becomes determined to help free a kidnapped African performer.

Things They Lost

by Okwiri Oduor

A lonely and spirit-haunted Kenyan girl blessed and cursed with a charming, powerful mother searches for love, friendship, and belonging.

Truth, Lies and Mr. Grey

by Shelly Ellis

In this sequel to *The Three Mrs. Greys*, three scorned women with one husband in common find themselves grappling with uncertain futures.

A Woman of Endurance

by Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa

In 19th century Puerto Rico, an enslaved African woman attempts to reconcile a brutal past with a less-dangerous present.

Non-Fiction

Biographies & Memoirs

Asylum: A Memoir & Manifesto

by Edefe Okporo

Gay-rights activist Okporo, whose life in Nigeria was threatened after his neighbors learned that he was gay, details his experiences as an asylum-seeker in America.

Barack Obama: Conservative, Pragmatist, Progressive

by Burton Kaufman

The former President's two terms in office are examined through the lens of his often-ignored pragmatism and conservative values.

Black Boy Smile: A Memoir in Moments

by D. Watkins

Author, professor, and editor-at-large Watkins remembers life on the impoverished streets of Baltimore at the height of the crack epidemic.

Call Me Chef, Dammit!: A Veteran's Journey from the Rural South to the White House

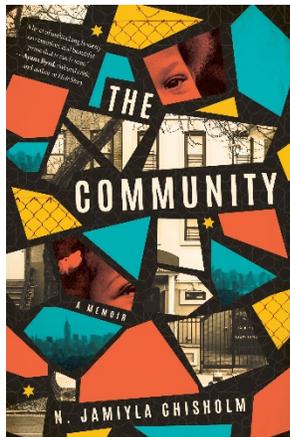
by Andre Rush

Army veteran, television personality, and White House chef Rush recounts his impoverished childhood, military career, struggles with PTSD, and culinary adventures.

The Catch Me If You Can: One Woman's Journey to Every Country in the World

by Jessica Nabongo

Nabongo, the first African-American woman to visit every country in the world, recounts her travel adventures and details her top 100 destinations.



The Community: A Memoir

by N. Jamiyla Chisholm

A journalist who came of age in The Community, a Muslim cult led by the charismatic Dwight York, details life inside the group.

Constructing a Nervous System: A Memoir

by Margo Jefferson

In her follow-up to *Negroland*, Jefferson examines the musicians, writers, athletes, and other luminaries who contributed to her own sense of self.

Fierce Love: A Memoir of Family, Faith, and Purpose

by Sonya Curry

The mother of NBA stars Seth and Stephen Curry recounts a life informed by her Christian faith and a belief in the power of education and family.

First Impressions: Off-Screen Conversations With a Bachelor on Race, Family, and Forgiveness

by Matt James

Former athlete and current non-profit CEO James - *The Bachelor's* first African-American lead - discusses his run on that show, as well as his experiences growing up biracial in North Carolina.

Game: An Autobiography

by Grant Hill

Basketball superstar and Atlanta Hawks co-owner Hill recounts a lifetime of wins and losses, on and off the court.

Grief is Love: Living With Loss

by Marisa Renee Lee

Former Obama White House appointee Lee combines personal stories with research and advice about grief and living with the loss of a loved one.

The High Desert

by James Spooner

Afropunk Festival cocreator Spooner recounts embracing punk rock as a rural Californian in the 1980s in this graphic novel.

It Was All a Dream: Biggie and the World That Made Him

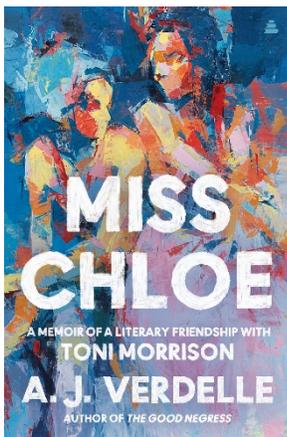
by Justin Tinsley

Biography of Christopher Wallace - aka The Notorious B.I.G. - that examines his too-short life, contributions to rap, and the cultural forces that shaped his art.

The Many Lives of Andrew Young

by Ernie Suggs

A chronicle of the life of two-term Atlanta mayor and civil rights leader Young, featuring hundreds of full-color photographs.



Miss Chloe: A Memoir of a Literary Friendship With Toni Morrison

by A. J. Verdelle

Memoir detailing the friendship between Toni Morrison and her protégé Verdelle, author of *The Good Negroess*.

My Seven Black Fathers

by Will Jawando

Attorney and activist Jawando celebrates seven "fathers" who were instrumental in shaping his sense of self and providing him with a path in life.

Rickey: The Life and Legend of an American Original

by Howard Bryant

The life and career of A's legend and Hall of Famer Henderson is explored in this base-stealing biography.

The Tears of a Man Flow Inward: Growing Up in the Civil War in Burundi

by Pacifique Irankunda

The author, a survivor of Burundi's 13-year-long ethnic civil war, recounts the horrors he and his family witnessed during the conflict.

Tough: My Journey to True Power

by Terry Crews

Old Spice model, NFL star, and actor Crews recounts a life spent grappling with - and moving forward from - the repercussions of toxic masculinity.

True: The Four Seasons of Jackie Robinson

by Kostya Kennedy

In this new biography, author Kennedy focuses on four transformative years - 1946, 1949, 1956, and 1972 - in the life of baseball great Jackie Robinson.

Where the Children Take Us: How One Family Achieved the Unimaginable

by Zain E. Asher

In this memoir, CNN anchor Asher pays homage to her mother, who raised four children on her own after her husband was killed in an automobile accident.

Careers

Career Remix

by Damon Brown

Business coach and Cuddlr co-founder Brown provides tips for managing the personal and professional sides of career management and planning.

Get Your Career in Shape: A Five-Step Guide to Achieve the Success You Need, Want, and Deserve

by Candace Steele Flippin

TEDx speaker Flippin provides practical career advice for women seeking to advance their careers.

Cooking

Bludso's BBQ Cookbook: A Family Affair in Smoke and Soul

by Kevin Bludso

Los Angeles-based and Texas-raised chef Bludso seasons his barbecue recipes and knowledge with personal stories of his life inside and outside the kitchen.

Gullah Geechee Home Cooking

by Emily Meggett

Meggett, known as "The Matriarch of Edisto Island," provides Gullah Geechee recipes, as well as history about her community.

My America: Recipes From a Young Black Chef

by Kwame Onwuachi

James Beard Award-winning chef Onwuachi follows *Notes From A Young Black Chef* with a recipe-packed celebration of the food of the African diaspora.

Watermelon & Red Birds: A Cookbook for Juneteenth and Black Celebrations

by Nicole A. Taylor

James Beard Award-nominated writer Taylor combines essays with classic and modern recipes in this celebration of the Juneteenth holiday.

Crafts

Knit 2 Socks in 1

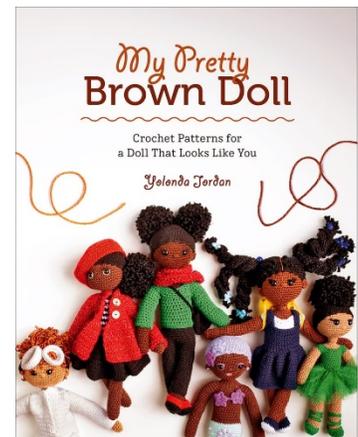
by Safiyyah Talley

Knitting instructor Talley provides readers with the secrets to knitting two socks at the same time.

My Pretty Brown Doll: Crochet Patterns for a Doll That Looks Like You

by Yolanda Jordan

Crochet expert Jordan offers patterns and crochet techniques in this book on creating African-American amigurumi dolls.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Actions Speak Louder: A Step-by-Step Guide to Becoming an Inclusive Workplace

by Deanna Singh

DEI consultant Singh provides plans and action steps for business leaders hoping to create more diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplaces.

Created Equal: The Painful Past, Confusing Present, and Hopeful Future of Race in America

by Ben Carson

Carson draws upon his experiences as a member of a racial minority to look at the state of race relations in America today.

The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves

by Shawn A. Ginwright

San Francisco State University professor Ginwright examines four myths about social movements and proposes four healing-centered replacements.

Our Unfinished March

by Eric Holder

Former Attorney General of the United States Holder examines how the right to vote was won, and how the right has been weakened since 2013's *Shelby County v. Holder* case.

The Power of Dignity: How Transforming Justice Can Heal Our Communities

by Victoria Pratt

Newark Municipal Court Judge Pratt discusses the concept of "procedural justice," which places an emphasis on addressing the humanity of all who come before the court.

Raising Antiracist Children: A Practical Parenting Guide

by Britt Hawthorne

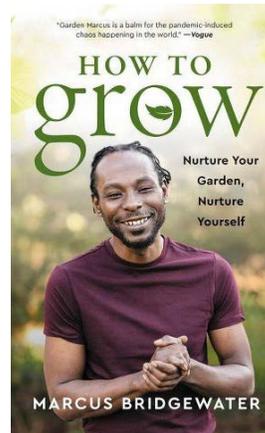
Antiracist advocate Hawthorne provides inclusivity and activism tools that parents, caregivers, and educators can use in shaping the lives of their young charges.

Gardening

Black Flora: Profiles of Inspiring Black Flower Farmers and Florists

Teresa J. Speight

Podcaster, gardener, and garden writer Speight shares interviews and profiles of African-American florists and flower farmers.



How to Grow: Nurture Your Garden, Nurture Yourself

by Marcus Bridgewater

Popular TikTok gardener Bridgewater explores the connections between gardening and mental health, physical fitness, and spiritual awareness.

You Grow, Gurl!: Plant Kween's Lush Guide to Growing Your Garden

by Christopher Griffin

Instagram plant guru Griffin provides plant parents with tips and tools designed to nurture one's inner and outer gardens.

Health

Plant Power: Flip Your Plate, Change Your Weight

by Ian K. Smith

A guide to plant-based eating that provides readers with recipes and a four-week program designed to flip the meat/plant ratio in one's diet.

You Can Have a Better Period: A Practical Guide to Calmer and Less Painful Periods

by Le'Nise Brothers

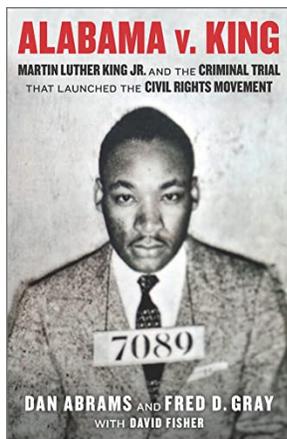
Podcaster, yoga teacher, and registered nutritionist Brothers outlines practical nutrition and lifestyle changes that can lead to easier, less painful periods.

History

African Founders: How Enslaved People Expanded American Ideals

by David Hackett Fischer

Using more than two decades of research, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Fischer demonstrates how the early American republic was shaped by African voices, ideas, and culture.



Alabama v. King: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Criminal Trial That Launched the Civil Rights Movement

by Dan Abrams and Fred D. Gray

Martin Luther King's defense lawyer when King was tried for his

role in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, takes readers behind the scenes of Alabama V. King.

A Lynching at Port Jervis: Race and Reckoning in the Gilded Age

by Philip Dray

In this investigation of the 1892 lynching of Robert Lewis in Port Jervis, New York, historian Dray examines the crime and the local response to it.

The Movement Made Us: A Father, a Son, and the Legacy of a Freedom Ride

by David J. Dennis, Jr.

In this memoir and history of the Civil Rights Movement, a young man explores the role his father - one of the organizers of the Freedom Rides - played in the movement.

River of the Gods: Genius, Courage, and Betrayal in the Search for the Source of the Nile

by Candice Millard

A history of the search for the source of the White Nile, led by two English explorers and guided by Sidi Mubarak Bombay, the formerly enslaved East African man who became the backbone of the expedition.

The South: Jim Crow and Its Afterlives

by Adolph L. Reed

Civil rights activist Reed combines memoir and analysis in this history of the Jim Crow South.

We Refuse to Forget: A True Story of Black Creeks, American Identity, and Power

by Caleb Gayle

Northeastern University professor Gayle explores the history of the Creek Nation, a Native American tribe which owned slaves and accepted Black people as full members.

Religion

The Good Samaritan: Luke 10 for the Life of the Church

by Emerson Powery

Messiah University professor Powery explores how the parable of the Good Samaritan can be applied to modern life and the church today.

Truth's Table: Black Women's Musings on Life, Love, and Liberation

by Ekemini Uwan

The hosts of the Truth's Table podcast look at religion, relationships, and race from a female African-American and Christian perspective in this collection of essays and stories.