

The Jubilee Reader

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

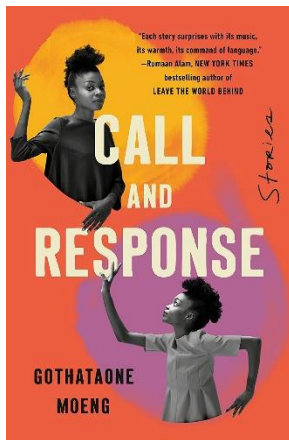
Issue 5 – May/June 2023

Fiction

Big Bad

by Lily Anderson

Buffy the Vampire Slayer returns, this time to an alternate-dimension Sunnydale in which evil has prevailed and Buffy's presence threatens the world's existence.



Call and Response

by Gothataone Moeng

Short stories set in Botswana that chart the lives of ordinary families as they navigate love, relationships, and tradition.

Carl Weber's Kingpins: The Ultimate Hustle

by T. Friday

A pastor's daughter looking to escape her father is faced with tough choices when she finds herself romantically drawn to a recently incarcerated gang member.

The Color of Family

by Jerry McGill

A family faces the repercussions of an accident that leaves one young man paralyzed and his brother miraculously unharmed.

A Dash of Salt and Pepper

by Kosoko Jackson

Reeling from the loss of his job and boyfriend, a young man takes a job as a sous chef and unexpectedly falls for the grumpy single father who runs the kitchen.

Decent People

by De'Shawn Charles Winslow

Returning to her still-segregated North Carolina hometown after 40 years, a woman seeks to prove the innocence of her fiancé, the prime suspect in a triple homicide.

Every Man a King

by Walter Mosley

A private investigator is charged with discovering if the government's charges of murder and espionage against a white nationalist are true or trumped up.

Ghost Season

by Fatin Abbas

The discovery of a corpse in a remote Sudanese border town foreshadows trouble for a group of strangers on an NGO compound.

Glory

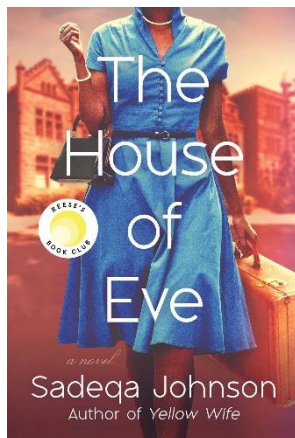
by NoViolet Bulawayo

In a fictional African country ruled by anthropomorphic animals, the downfall of their tyrannical leader creates a power vacuum – and the possibility for a new, liberated society.

Her Best Friend's Brother

by Yahrah St. John

Cut off from her wealthy, disapproving family, a travel blogger finds comfort and passion in an affair with her best friend's brother.



The House of Eve

by Sadeqa Johnson

Unplanned pregnancies unite the lives of two ambitious young women in 1950s Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

I Didn't Think You Existed 2: A Fool in Love

by Hazel Ro

Terrence, struggling with his father's death, wants to divorce his wife. Tiffany's ex-fiancé wants another shot at love. Add money and jealous lovers in, and it gets complicated.

In It to Win It

by Sharon C. Cooper

Two entrepreneurial ex-lovers must face their pasts – and their mutual attraction – when they each set their sights on a prize piece of real estate.

In the Upper Country

by Kai Thomas

In 19th century Canada, the killing of a slave hunter unites a young female writer for an abolitionist newspaper and the old woman – recently delivered to freedom by the Underground Railroad – responsible for his death.

Maame

by Jessica George

In this coming-of-age story, a young woman from a Ghanaian family who put her life on hold to care for her father leaps at the chance to leave her home and experience grown-up "firsts."

The Many Dates of Indigo

by Amber D. Samuel

An accomplished, independent businesswoman on the eve of her 30th birthday sets her eyes on the one thing she doesn't have: a healthy, long-term relationship.

Moonrise Over New Jessup

by Jamila Minnicks

In 1957 Alabama, a woman fleeing an abusive white neighbor falls in love with an activist whose under-the-radar organizing activities threaten the status quo of their all-Black town.

Night Wherever We Go

by Tracey Rose Peyton

A group of six enslaved women on a struggling Texas plantation band together to protect themselves from forced impregnation by the plantation's owners.

Nubia & the Amazons

by Stephanie Williams

In this graphic novel collection, Nubia, Queen of Themyscira, must reckon with her past and find a path forward when new Amazons arrive in her homeland.

Nubia, Queen of the Amazons

by Stephanie Williams

In this graphic novel collection, Amazons from around the world have come to Themyscira to witness history and the crowning of their new leader.

A Quiet Teacher

by Adam Oyebanji

A former intelligence agent working as a language instructor at a prestigious private school must put his skills to use when a friend is accused of the murder of a wealthy parent.

Riding Shotgun

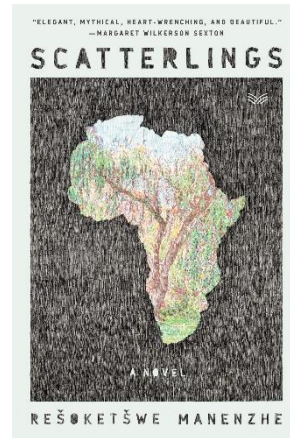
by Racquel Williams

A young woman who learned to take care of herself by any means necessary while growing up in the projects falls for a wealthy bad boy. They're a toxic pair, but who knew bad could be so good?

River Sing Me Home

by Eleanor Shearer

Freed from slavery but facing a life of servitude, a young Barbadian woman flees her plantation home and begins a search for her children that will eventually take her across the seas to Trinidad.



Scatterlings

by Resoketswe Manenzhe

In 1927 South Africa, the Immorality Act criminalizes the relationship of a Black woman and her white partner – leading to an act that changes their lives.

Someone Had to Do It

by Amber Brown

A fashion intern's life is turned upside down when she overhears the It-girl daughter of the company's owner plotting her father's demise.

A Spell of Good Things

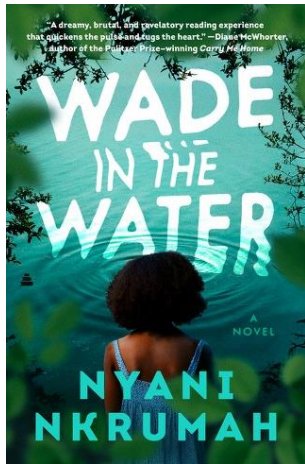
by Ayobami Adebayo

In modern-day Nigeria, the lives of a young tailor's apprentice and a doctor who comes from a wealthy family are brought together by a sudden act of violence.

The Union

by Leah Vernon

1,000 years from now, in a realm ruled by an Black elite class, a young woman begins to look at the world differently when an enslaved girl saves her from an assassination attempt.



Wade in the Water

by Nyaneba Nkrumah

In early-1980s Mississippi, a young Black girl befriends a white woman from New Jersey who has come to town to interview its residents for her

thesis on the Civil Rights movement.

When Trying to Return Home: Stories

by Jennifer Maritza McCauley

Short stories about belonging, the meaning of home, and freedom, featuring a cast of Black American and Afro-Latino characters in Puerto Rico, Pittsburgh, Louisiana, Miami, and beyond.

With Your Bad Self

by Kerika Fields

In 1940s Brooklyn, a woman must decide whether she will wait for the love of her life to return from the war, or if she will move on with the man she's being pushed to marry.

Non-Fiction

Arts and Literature

Bigger Than Bravery: Black Resilience and Reclamation in a Time of Pandemic

by Valerie Boyd

Award-winning author Boyd curates this anthology of essays, poems, and influential nonfiction about the intersecting pandemics of Covid-19 and systemic racism.

Grocery Shopping With My Mother: Poems

by Kevin Powell

A collection of 32 poems (and four "bonus tracks") that explore the complexities of modern relationships.

Biography

Barkley: A Biography

by Timothy Bella

A comprehensive new biography of NBA legend and sports commentator Charles Barkley.

Historically Black: American Icons Who Attended HBCUs

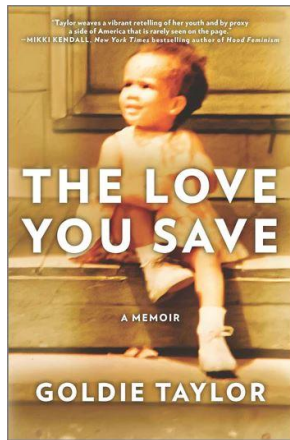
by Alonzo Vereen

A collection of biographies and illustrated portraits of more than thirty icons who attended historically Black colleges and universities.

Love & Justice: A Story of Triumph on Two Different Courts

by Maya Moore

In this memoir, WNBA star Moore and Jonathan Irons, the man she helped free from prison and later married, explore their faith, their connection, and how Moore stepped away from basketball to prove Jonathan's innocence and inspire activism in others.



The Love You Save: A Memoir

by Goldie Taylor

NPR correspondent Taylor recounts her horrific childhood in East St. Louis, her complicated relationships with her family, and the literature that

provided her with visions of a new life.

Never Forget Our People Were Always Free: A Parable of American Healing

by Benjamin Todd Jealous

Former NAACP head Jealous draws from a life lived on America's racial fault line to deliver a series of parables that calls on readers to reconcile, heal, and work fearlessly to make America one nation.

Quilt of Souls: A Memoir

by Phyllis Biffle Elmore

From renowned quilter, storyteller, and genealogist Elmore, a memoir that celebrates quilting, family, and the power of the past.

Saxophone Colossus: The Life and Music of Sonny Rollins

by Aidan Levy

The first full biography of jazz legend Rollins, whose life and seven-decade-long career has – until now – gone largely unexplored.

Shirley Chisholm: Champion of Black Feminist Power Politics

by Anastasia Carol Curwood

An exploration of the public image, political commitments, and private experiences of Shirley Chisholm, America's first Black congresswoman and, later, the first Black major-party presidential candidate.

Straight Shooter: A Memoir of Second Chances and First Takes

by Stephen A. Smith

A memoir exploring the personal and professional highs and lows of ESPN personality Smith's life in front of and behind the camera.

Business & Economics

Inclusive Sponsorship: A Bold Vision to Advance Women of Color in the Workplace

by Jhaymee Tynan

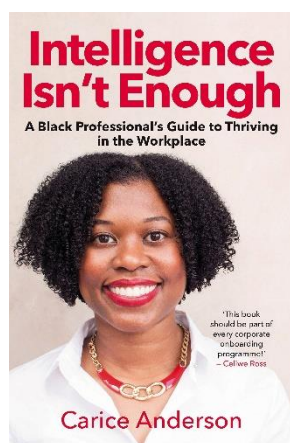
Female executive and talent advisor Tynan explores how career sponsorship can accelerate women of color into senior leadership and how it can also be transformational for their employers.

The White Wall: How Big Finance Bankrupts Black America

by Emily Flitter

An examination of the American financial services industry that exposes practices designed to maintain the racial wealth gap, drawing on data, history, legal scholarship, and personal stories to provide a look at what it means to bank while Black.

Careers



Intelligence Isn't Enough: A Black Professional's Guide to Thriving in the Workplace

by Carice Anderson

Drawing on interviews with 30 successful Black leaders, Anderson

provides advice and examines principles of career success for Black professionals in the workplace.

College Guides

The Black Family's Guide to College Admission: A Conversation About Education, Parenting, and Race

by Timothy L. Fields

In this guide to the college admissions process, the authors discuss specific concerns for Black families that are not often addressed by school counselors or other resources.

Cooking

Enebla: Recipes from an Ethiopian Kitchen

by Luladey Moges

Family photos and other ephemera accompany recipes for aromatic wot stews, breakfast scrambles, colorful salads of fresh vegetables, authentic injera sourdough flatbread, and more.

Vegan Africa: Plant-Based Recipes from Ethiopia to Senegal

by Marie Kacouchia

In this collection of more than 70 plant-based recipes for African dishes, Kacouchia draws from the cultures and traditions of more than 15 countries, years of cooking expertise, and memories from her Ivory Coast childhood.

Crafts & Hobbies

Black Girls Sew: Projects and Patterns to Stitch and Make Your Own

by Hekima Hapa

In this sewing guide from the nonprofit group Black Girls Sew, readers are provided with the tools, skills, and encouragement needed to create a powerful sense of self and style.

You Will Be Able to Sew Your Own Clothes By the End of This Book

by Juliet Uzor

This beginners' guide to creating your own wardrobe covers core skills – such as how to make accurate measurements – and contains 15 straightforward projects for headbands, dresses, and more.

Fashion & Style

Natural & Curly Hair

by Johnny Wright

Celebrity hairstylist Wright centers natural and curly hair within the African diaspora and presents chemical-free tricks, tips, and advice for getting a halo of soft, healthy curls.

Health & Fitness

The 5 Principles: A Revolutionary Path to Health, Inner Wealth, and Knowledge of Self

by Stic.man

Rapper, producer, and champion of healthy living Stic discusses the five principles that center his approach to wellness: knowledge, nutrition, exercise, rest, and consistency.

History

I Can't Wait to Call You My Wife: African American Letters of Love and Family in the Civil War Era

by Rita Roberts

A collection of letters exchanged between African Americans during the Civil War era, featuring reproductions of selected original letters.

I Saw Death Coming: A History of Terror and Survival in the War Against Reconstruction

by Kidada E. Williams

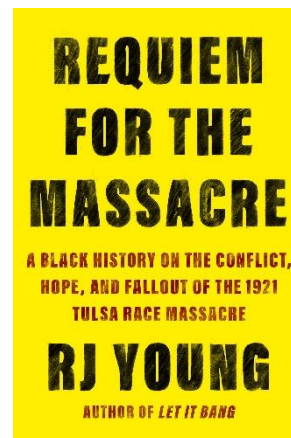
Drawing on overlooked sources and new readings of established material, this history

recreates the Reconstruction period from the viewpoint of African Americans transitioning to freedom in the South after the end of the Civil War.

No Right to an Honest Living: The Struggles of Boston's Black Workers in the Civil War Era

by Jacqueline Jones

Highlighting the everyday struggles of ordinary Black workers in Boston before, during, and after the Civil War, this history explores the challenges faced by Black northerners in abolitionist Boston.



Requiem for the Massacre: A Black History on the Conflict, Hope, and Fallout of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre

by R. J. Young

In this work of cultural excavation, Young blends memoir and immersive journalism to investigate one of the worst acts of domestic terrorism in U.S. history.

Stokely Carmichael and Black Power

by Gordon Parks

An examination of the relationship between photographer and writer Parks and Civil Rights leader Carmichael, with a focus on Parks' 1967 *Life* magazine essay and photographs of Carmichael.

Interior Design

Aphrochic: Celebrating the Legacy of the Black Family Home

by Bryan Mason

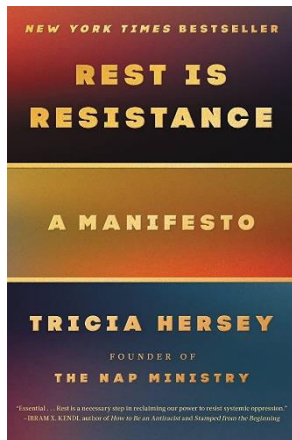
An interior design book featuring the stunning homes of actors, musicians, and other individuals who have made significant contributions to Black American culture.

Social Science

Power: The Rise of Black Women in America

by Charity C. Elder

A disquisition on Black womanhood weaving theoretical frameworks of history and sociology with interviews, ethnographic observation, and anecdotes gleaned from history, pop culture, and the author's lived experiences.



Rest is Resistance: A Manifesto

by Tricia Hersey

Hersey encourages readers to connect to the liberating power of rest, daydreaming, and naps as a foundation for healing and justice.

White Women: Everything You Already Know About Your Own Racism and How to Do Better

by Regina Jackson

Jackson and Rao, the founders of Race2Dinner, an organization which facilitates conversations between white women about racism, seek to free white women from the oppressive need to be nice by deconstructing nine aspects of traditional white woman behavior.

Spirituality

Afro-Brazilian Numerology: Awakening Your Better Self With the Wisdom of the Orishas

by Diego de Oxóssi

This complete guide to working with the Birth Odus of your Orisha Birth Chart presents detailed interpretations of each of the 16 Birth Odus and shares techniques to help you improve the positive qualities of your chart.