

Book List: Diversity and Justice

Literature with Powerful Messages on Diversity and Justice Narrative Non-Fiction, Fiction, and Social Analysis/Activism

Narrative Non-Fiction

Memoirs, ethnographies, investigative journalism
The journeys of people who navigate social barriers

American Prison: A Reporter's Undercover Journey into the Business of Punishment, by Shane Bauer (Penguin Press, 2018).

Behind the Walls: A Guide for Family and Friends of Texas Inmates, by Jorge Antonio Renaud (University of North Texas Press, 2002).

The Best Little Boy in the World, by Andrew Tobias, as John Reid (Random House, 1998).

Black Lotus: A Woman's Search for Racial Identity, by Sil Lai Abrams (Karen Hunter Publishing, 2016)

Compassionate Confinement: A Year in the Life of Unit C, by Laura S. Abrams and Ben Anderson-Nathe (Rutgers University Press, 2013).

Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen, by Jose Antonio Vargas (Dey Street Books, 2018).

The Devil's Highway: A True Story, by Luis Alberto Urrea (Back Bay Books, 2008).

Dirty River: A Queer Femme of Color Dreaming Her Way Home, by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2015).

Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother, by Sonia Nazario (Random House, 2007).

Everyday Desistance: The Transition to Adulthood Among Formerly Incarcerated Youth, by Laura S. Abrams Diane J. Terry (Rutgers University Press, 2017).

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City, by Matthew Desmond (NY: Penguin: 2012).

Forgotten Citizens: Deportation, Children, and the Making of American Exiles and Orphans, by Luis H. Zayas (Oxford University Press, 2015).

Fragile Families: Foster Care, Immigration, and Citizenship, by Naomi Glenn-Levin Rodriguez (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017).

Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States, by Seth Holmes and Philippe Bourgois (University of California Press, 2013).

The Girl Who Smiled Beads: A Story of War and What Comes After, by Clemantine Wamariya and Elizabeth Weil (Crown, 2018).

The Girl with Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story, by Hyeonseo Lee (William Collins, 2015).

Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis, by J. D. Vance (London: William Collins, 2016).

Homeward: Life in the Year After Prison, by Bruce Western (Russell Sage Foundation, 2018).

Hundreds of Interlaced Fingers: A Kidney Doctor's Search for the Perfect Match, by Vanessa Grubbs, (Amistad, 2017).

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, by Maya Angelou (Mass Market Paperback, 2009; first published in 1969).

In the Country We Love: My Family Divided, by Diane Guerrero (Henry Holt and Co., 2016).

The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border, by Francisco Cantú (Riverhead Books, 2018).

My People The Sioux, by Luther Standing Bear (Independently published, 2017, originally published in 1928).

My (Underground) American Dream: My True Story as an Undocumented Immigrant Who Became a Wall Street Executive, by Julissa Arce (Center Street, 2017).

Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America, by Barbara Ehrenreich (Metropolitan Books, 2010).

No House to Call My Home: Love, Family, and Other Transgressions, by Ryan Berg (Nation Books, 2015).

Notes from a Young Black Chef: A Memoir, by Kwame Onwuachi and Joshua David Stein (Knopf, 2019).

One Time, One Place: Mississippi in the Depression: A Snapshot Album, by Eudora Welty (University Press of Mississippi; Silver Anniversary edition, 1996). [Photo essay]

The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates, by Wes Moore (Spiegel & Grau, 2010).

Queer Rock Love: A Family Memoir, by Paige Schilt (Transgress Press, 2015).

Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love & So Much More, by Janet Mock (Atria Books, 2014).

Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools, by Jonathan Kozol (Crown Pub, 1991).

The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man Who Left Newark for the Ivy League, by Jeff Hobbs (Scribner, 2014).

Travels with Lizbeth: Three Years on the Road and on the Streets, by Lars Eighner (St. Martin's Griffin, 2013; first published in 1993).

Warriors Don't Cry: The Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High, by Melba Pattillo Beals (Simon and Schuster, 1995).

What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City, by Monna Hanna Attisha (One World, 2018).

The Yellow House: A Memoir, by Sarah M. Broom (Grove Press, 2019).

Graphic Non-fiction

*To read graphic novels see the pictures first, and then read what's on the page.
Graphic novels share elements of prose, screenwriting, and visual arts.*

A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge, by Josh Neufeld (Pantheon Graphic Library, 2010).

Good Talk: A Memoir in Conversations, by Mira Jacob (One World, 2019).

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood, by Marjane Satrapi, translated from the French (Pantheon Graphic Library, 2004). [short book]

Poppies of Iraq, by Brigitte Findakly and Lewis Trondheim, translated from the French by Helge Dascher (Drawn and Quarterly, 2017). [short book]

Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia 1992-1995, by Joe Sacco (Fantagraphics Books, 2018).

Fiction

Contemporary & a hint of contemporary classic novels¹, science fiction/fantasy, graphic novels
A deepening understanding of the complexity of the human experience

America is Not the Heart: A Novel, by Elaine Castillo (Viking, 2018).

An American Marriage: A Novel, by Tayari Jones (Algonquin Books, 2018).

Americanah: A Novel, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Alfred A. Knopf, 2013).

Behold the Dreamers: A Novel, by Imbolo Mbue (New York: Random House, 2016).

The Boat People: A Novel, by Sharon Bala (New York: Doubleday, 2018).

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time, by Mark Haddon (National Geographic Books, 2007).

Exit West: A Novel, by Mohsin Hamid (Penguin, 2018).

The Gone Dead: A Novel, by Chanelle Benz (Ecco, 2019).

The Hate U Give, by Angie Thomas (Balzer + Bray, 2017).

Home Fire: A Novel, by Kamila Shamsie (Riverhead Books, 2017).

Homegoing: A Novel, by Yaa Gyasi (Vintage, 2017). YA

Housegirl: A Novel, by Michael Donkor (Picador, 2018).

House of Stone: A Novel, by Novuyo Rosa Tshuma (W. W. Norton & Company, 2019).

The Invention of Wings: A Novel, by Sue Monk Kidd (Tinder Press, 2014).

Japanese Roses: A Novel of the Japanese American Internment, by Theresa Lorella (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013).

A Kind of Freedom: A Novel, by Margaret Wilkerson Sexton (Counterpoint, 2017).

The Kinship of Secrets, by Eugenia Kim (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2018).

The Map of Salt and Stars: A Novel, by Jennifer Zeynab Joukhadar (Touchstone, 2018).

¹ [What Is a Modern Classic?](#)

Midnight's Children: A Novel, by Salman Rushdie (Random House, 2006; originally published in 1983).

On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous: A Novel, by Ocean Vuong (Penguin Press, 2019).

The Other Americans: A Novel, by Laila Lalami (Pantheon, 2019).

The Poet X: A Novel by Elizabeth Ace (HarperTeen, 2018). (A verse novel) **YA**

The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales, by Virginia Hamilton (Knopf Books for Young Readers, 1993).²

Piecing Me Together, by Renée Watson (Bloomsbury, 2018). **YA**

A Place for Us: A Novel, by Fatima Farheen Mirza (SJP for Hogarth, 2018).

Push: A Novel, by Sapphire (Random House, 1996).

Pushing the Bear, by Diane Glancy (Mariner Books, 1998).

Small Country: A Novel, by Gaël Faye (Hogarth, 2018).

Their Eyes Were Watching God: A Novel, by Zora Neale Hurston (Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2006; first published in 1937).

There There: A Novel, by Tommy Orange (Knopf; 2018).

The Underground Railroad: A Novel, by Colson Whitehead (Doubleday, 2016).

We Need New Names: A Novel, by NoViolet Bulawayo (Hachette UK, 2013).

When the Emperor Was Divine: A Novel, by Julie Otsuka (Anchor, 2003).

Sci-Fi, Cli-Fi* & Fantasy

*Cli-Fi: Climate Fiction (takes on what might happen to our planet due to global warming)

American War: A Novel by Omar El Akkad (Vintage, 2018). [Cli-Fi]

Ancillary Justice, by Ann Leckie (New York: Orbit, 2013).

Children of Blood and Bone (Legacy of Orisha), by Tomi Adeyemi (Square Fish, 2019). **YA**

²This book is a retelling of 24 black American folk tales originating in slavery. Although it's a collection of separate narratives, I am including it, because it is an interwoven story related through oral tradition.

Clade, by James Bradley (Titan Books, 2017). [Cli-Fi]

The Dispossessed, by Ursula K. LeGuin (New York: Perennial Classics, 2003).

Fierce Femmes and Notorious Liars: A Dangerous Trans Girl's Confabulous Memoir, by Kai Cheng Thom (Metonymy Press, 2016). **YA**

The Fifth Season: Every Age Must Come to an End, by N.K. Jemisin (Orbit, 2015).

Iron Council, by China Miéville (Del Rey/Ballantine Books, 2004).

Kindred, by Octavia Butler (Boston: Beacon Press, 1988).

Midnight Robber, by Nalo Hopkinson (Warner Books, 2000).

The Necessary Beggar, by Susan Palwick (Tor, 2005).

Parable of the Sower, by Octavia E. Butler (Four Walls Eight Windows, 1993).

Trail of Lightning (The Sixth World), by Rebecca Roanhorse (Saga Press, 2018). [Cli-Fi]

An Unkindness of Ghosts, by Rivers Solomon (Akashic Books, 2017).

The Wall: A Novel, by John Lanchester (W. W. Norton & Company, 2019)

We Cast a Shadow: A Novel, by Maurice Carlos Ruffin (One World, 2019).

Who Fears Death, by Nnedi Okorafor (Daw Books, Inc., 2010).

Wild Seed, by Octavia Butler (Doubleday, 1980).

Graphic Novels

*To read graphic novels see the pictures first, and then read what's on the page.
Graphic novels share elements of prose, screenwriting, and visual arts.*

Aya: Love in Yop City (Volume 2), by Marguerite Abouet and Clément Oubrerie, translated from the French by Helge Dascher (Drawn and Quarterly, 2013).

Kindred: A Graphic Novel Adaptation, by Damian Duffy, John Jennings, Nnedi Okorafor, and Octavia E. Butler (Abrams ComicArts, 2017).

Notes for a War Story, by Gipi, translated from the Italian by Spectrum (First Second, 2007).
[short book]

Pride of Baghdad, by Brian K. Vaughan and Niko Henrichon (Vertigo, 2008). [short book]

7 Generations: A Plains Cree Saga, by David A. Robertson, author, and Scott Henderson, illustrator (HighWater Press, 2012). [short book]

The Strange, by Jérôme Ruillier, translated from the French by Helge Dascher (Drawn and Quarterly, 2018). [short book]

I Am Alfonso Jones, by Tony Medina, author, Stacey Robinson, illustrator, and John Jennings, illustrator (Tu Books, 2017). YA [short book]

Zahra's Paradise by Khalil, author, and Amir, illustrator, both anonymous (First Second, 2011).

Social Analysis

Historical, research, policy, and community-based analyses

Issues, activism, and visions for social change

Alice Walker: A Woman for Our Times, by Deborah G. Plant (ABC-CLIO, 2017).

As Long as Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice, from Colonization to Standing Rock, by Dina Gilio-Whitaker (Beacon Press, 2019).

Barbara Jordan: Speaking the Truth with Eloquent Thunder, by Barbara Jordan (University of Texas Press, 2007).

Becoming Ms. Burton: From Prison to Recovery to Leading the Fight for Incarcerated Women, by Cari Lynn and Susan Burton (The New Press, 2017).

Becoming Transnational Youth Workers: Independent Mexican Teenage Migrants and Pathways of Survival and Social Mobility, by Isabel Martinez (Rutgers University Press, 2019).

Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living, by Krista Tippett (Penguin Books, 2017).

Beyoncé in Formation: Remixing Black Feminism, by Omise'eke Natasha Tinsley (University of Texas Press, 2018).

Biological Exuberance: Animal Homosexuality and Natural Diversity, by Bruce Bagemihl (Stonewall Inn Editions, 2000).

The Body Is Not an Apology: The Power of Radical Self-Love, by Sonya Renee Taylor (Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2018).

Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice, by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2018).

The Case Against Free Speech: The First Amendment, Fascism, and the Future of Dissent, by P. E. Moskowitz (Bold Type Books (2019)).

The Class Ceiling: Why It Pays To Be Privileged, by Sam Friedman and Daniel Laurison (Policy Press, 2019).

A Disability History of the United States (ReVisioning American History), by Kim E. Nielsen (Boston: Beacon Press, 2012).

Dispossession and the Environment: Rhetoric and Inequality in Papua New Guinea, by Paige West (Columbia University Press, 2016).

Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds, by Adrienne M. Brown (Ak Press, 2017).

Erotic Islands: Art and Activism in the Queer Caribbean, by Lyndon K. Gill (Duke University Press Books, 2018).

Exile and Pride: Disability, Queerness, and Liberation, by Eli Clare (Duke University Press, 2015).

Extraordinary Bodies: Figuring Physical Disability in American Culture and Literature, by Rosemarie Garland Thomson (Columbia University Press, 2017).

For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood... and the Rest of Y'all too: Reality Pedagogy and Urban Education, by Christopher Emdin (Boston: Beacon Press, 2016).

From the Eye of the Storm: The Experiences of a Child Welfare Worker, by Cynthia Crosson-Tower (Waveland Press, 2015).

Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: America, the Cold War, and the Roots of Terror, by by Mahmood Mamdani (Pantheon, 2004).

The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present, by David Treuer (Riverhead Books, 2019).

I Put a Spell on You: The Autobiography of Nina Simone, by Nina Simone (Philips, 2006).

Incarceration Nations: A Journey to Justice in Prisons Around the World, by Baz Dreisinger (Other Press, 2017).

The Injustice Never Leaves You: Anti-Mexican Violence in Texas, by Monica Muñoz Martinez (Harvard University Press, 2018).

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption, by Bryan Stevenson (Spiegel & Grau, 2014).

Kids at Work: Lewis Hine and the Crusade Against Child Labor, by Russell Freedman (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1994). [Photo Essay]

Lakota Woman, by Mary Crow Dog (Grove Press, 1990).

The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail, by Jason De Leon (University of California Press, 2015).

The Last Girl: My Story of Captivity, and My Fight Against the Islamic State, by Nadia Murad (Tim Duggan Books, 2017)

Leadership in Turbulent Times, by Doris Kearns Goodwin (Simon & Schuster, 2018).

Light of the Stars: Alien Worlds and the Fate of the Earth, by Adam Frank (W. W. Norton & Company, 2018)

Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present, by Harriet A. Washington (Doubleday Books, 2006).

Memes to Movements: How the World's Most Viral Media Is Changing Social Protest and Power, by An Xiao Mina (Beacon Press, 2019).

Mountains Beyond Mountains: A Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World, by Tracy Kidder (Random House, 2003).

Normal Life: Administrative Violence, Critical Trans Politics, and the Limits of Law, by Dean Spade (Duke University Press, 2015).

Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, by Carmon Irin, Shana Knizhnik, and Kathleen Krull (Dey Street Books, 2015).

On the Other Side of Freedom: The Case for Hope, by DeRay Mckesson (Viking, 2018).

Reason in a Dark Time: Why the Struggle Against Climate Change Failed -- and What It Means for Our Future, by Dale Jamieson (Oxford University Press, 2014).

Refugees in Extended Exile: Living on the Edge, by Jennifer Hyndman and Wenona Giles (Routledge, 2016).

A Sand County Almanac (Outdoor Essays & Reflections), by Aldo Leopold (Ballantine Books, Reprint edition, 1986).

Small Pox: The Death of a Disease (Vol. 237), by D.A. Henderson. (Prometheus Books, 2009).

The Social Transformation of American Medicine: The Rise of a Sovereign Profession and the Making of a Vast Industry, by Paul Starr (Basic Books, 2017; originally published in 1982).

Soil Not Oil: Environmental Justice in an Age of Climate Crisis, by Vandana Shiva (South End Press, 2008).

Solution Focused Brief Therapy in Alternative Schools, by Cynthia Franklin, Calvin L. Streeter,, Linda Webb, and Samantha Guz (Routledge, 2018).

Spoken Soul: The Story of Black English, by John Russell Rickford (Wiley, 2000).

Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America, by Ibram X. Kendi (Bold Type Books, 2017). [608 pages]

Unequal City: Race, Schools, and Perceptions of Injustice, by Carla Shedd (Russell Sage Foundation, 2015).

Until We Are Free: My Fight for Human Rights in Iran, by Shirin Ebadi (Random House, 2016).

We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For: Inner Light in a Time of Darkness by Alice Walker (The New Press: 2007).

Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy, by Cathy O'Neil (Broadway Books, 2017).

When They Call You a Terrorist. A Black Lives Matter Memoir by Patrisse Khan-Cullors (St. Martin's Press, 2018).

Working: Researching, Interviewing, Writing, by Robert A. Caro (Knopf (2019).