

## Center Library

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## Special Collection of Asian and Asian American Literature

**Narrative Non-Fiction, Fiction, Social Analysis/Social Action, Children's Literature**

*A prism of worldviews, including books by authors with worldwide origins/roots and books in translation<sup>1</sup>*

### Narrative Non-Fiction

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

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

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

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

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

*Here We Are: American Dreams, American Nightmares (A Memoir)*, by Aarti Namdev Shahani (Celadon Books, 2019). [India]

*I'm in Seattle, Where Are You?: A Memoir*, by Mortada Gzar, translated from the Arabic by William Hutchins (Amazon Crossing, 2021). [Kuwait, Iraq]

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<sup>1</sup> How do I determine authors' ethnic heritage or origins? For the most part, I am able to find sources where authors have identified it themselves by indicating where they were born or where their parents were born. When I am unable to find self-identification, I look at credible sources (usually more than one), such as literary or other types of articles, and I draw on Wikipedia.

*Illicit Flirtations: Labor, Migration, and Sex Trafficking in Tokyo*, by Rhacel Parreñas (Stanford University Press, 2011). [Philippines]

*Last Night at the Telegraph Club*, by Malinda Lo (Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2021). [China]

*The Ungrateful Refugee: What Immigrants Never Tell You*, by Dina Nayeri (Catapult, 2019). [Iran]

### Graphic Novels Non-Fiction

*Graphic novels share elements of prose, screenwriting, and visual arts.*

*The Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir*, by Thi Bui (Abrams ComicArts, 2017). [Vietnam]

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

*Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*, by Marjane Satrapi, translated from the French by Blake Ferris and Mattias Ripa (Pantheon Graphic Library, 2004). [Iran]

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

### **Fiction**

Contemporary and modern classic novels<sup>2</sup>, 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). [Philippines]

*The Boat People: A Novel*, by Sharon Bala (New York: Doubleday, 2018). [United Arab Emirates]

*Exit West: A Novel*, by Mohsin Hamid (Penguin, 2018). [United Kingdom, Pakistan]

*Home Fire: A Novel*, by Kamila Shamsie (Riverhead Books, 2017). [United Kingdom, Pakistan]

*The Kinship of Secrets*, by Eugenia Kim (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2018). [Korea]

*Little Fires Everywhere: A Novel*, by Celeste Ng (Penguin, 2017). [Hong Kong]

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

*Midnight's Children: A Novel*, by Salman Rushdie (Random House, 2006; first published in 1983). [United Kingdom/India]

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<sup>2</sup> [What Is a Modern Classic?](#)

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

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

*Refuge: A Novel*, by Dina Nayeri (Riverhead Books, Reprint edition, 2018). [Iran]

*Secret Daughter: A Novel*, by Shilpi Somaya Gowda (William Morrow, 2011). [India]

*Tokyo Ueno Station: A Novel*, by Yu Miri, translated from the Japanese by Morgan Giles (Riverhead Books, 2020). [Japan, Korea]

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

*Women Dreaming* by Salma (Rajathi), translated from the Tamil by Meena Kandasamy (Tilted Axis Press, November, 2020). \*Author [story](#) in *fountainink* [India]

*Zahra's Paradise*, A Graphic Novel by Amir, author, and Khalil, illustrator, both anonymous (First Second, 2011). [Iran]

### **Social Analysis/Social Action**

Historical, research, policy, and community-based analyses

*Issues, activism, and visions for social change*

*Black Wave: Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the Forty-Year Rivalry That Unraveled Culture, Religion, and Collective Memory in the Middle East*, by Kim Ghattas (Henry Holt and Co., 2020). [Lebanon]

*Good Economics for Hard Times*, by Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo (PublicAffairs, 2019). [India, France] \*2019 Nobel Prize in Economics

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

*Guest House for Young Widows: Among the Women of ISIS*, by Azadeh Moaveni (Random House, 2019). [Iran]

*Hungry Translations: Relearning the World through Radical Vulnerability*, by Richa Nagar (University of Illinois Press, 2019). [India]

*The Last Girl: My Story of Captivity, and My Fight Against the Islamic State*, by Nadia Murad (Tim Duggan Books, 2017). [Iraq] \*2018 Nobel Peace Prize

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

*Television and the Afghan Culture Wars: Brought to You by Foreigners, Warlords, and Activists*, by Wazmah Osman (University of Illinois Press, 2020). [Afghanistan ]

*Until We Are Free: My Fight for Human Rights in Iran*, by Shirin Ebadi (Random House, 2016).  
[Iran] \*2019 Nobel Peace Prize

### International and Multicultural Children's Literature<sup>3</sup>

Philosophies of Life From Across the World in Folktales and Other Stories for Readers of All Ages  
*How the world looks different in other cultures*



**China:** *Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic*, by Ginnie Lo

**Iran:** *The Little Black Fish*, by Samad Behrang

**Japan:** *My First Book of Haiku Poems*, by Esperanza Ramirez-Christensen

**Korea:** *The Name Jar*, by Yangsook Choi

**Pakistan:** *Leila in Saffron*, by Rukhsanna Guides

**Philippines:** *Jack & Agyu*, by Justine Villanueva

**Vietnam:** *A Different Pond*, by Bao Phi

<sup>3</sup> See [Child's Play: International Children's Literature](#), *Words Without Borders Magazine*, April 2020.