

2024 AFRICAN AMERICAN BOOKLIST

WE ARE NOT INVISIBLE:

African Americans in the World of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror



2024 African American Booklist

The Detroit Public Library has published its African American Booklist for more than 50 years. This bibliography provides a selected list of books by and/or about African Americans. The works of fiction and nonfiction for adults, children and young adults were reviewed and recommended by librarians of the Detroit Public Library.

The African American Booklist began as a way to commemorate Black History Month and since that time has continued to feature the accomplishments of African Americans in the literary world. Our booklist has become an annual tradition in the community and beyond, and continues to be a highly anticipated publication for book lovers all across the nation.

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COVER ART:



Onzie D. Norman (b.1980) is a self-taught mixed media painter and wood sculptor from Detroit, Michigan. Onzie started in the field of carpentry in high school and later graduated from the Detroit Carpenters Apprenticeship School in 2003. This craft would play an important role in his artistic development. After a vision in 2013, Onzie began to draw, this led to his experimenting with painting on wood. Onzie constructs his own canvas out of wood and uses acrylic, enamel, spray paint, ink, paper, collage and resin to create one-of-a-kind artworks.

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Black National Anthem

LIFT EV'RY VOICE AND SING

Lyrics by: James Weldon Johnson
(1871-1938)

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand.
True to our God,
True to our native land.

From Our Executive Director



PHOTO CREDIT:
KATHRYN DOWGIEWICZ

Award-winning actor Whoopi Goldberg is a long-time fan of science fiction. She once observed that, in 1966, when Nichelle Nichols was cast as Lieutenant Uhura on the TV series *Star Trek*, "there were no Black people in any sci-fi, anywhere." While this was true for film and television during that time, our 2024 African American Booklist, "We Are Not Invisible: African Americans in the World of Science Fiction, Horror and Fantasy," provides a broader perspective. Our essayist, author Nisi Shawl, describes Black science fiction as a wide-ranging genre, with a history that can be traced back to the 19th century. We are pleased to feature this insightful essay that highlights the historical presence and visibility of African Americans in the world of science fiction, horror and fantasy.

Former *Detroit Free Press* writer and author Desiree Cooper's delightful interview with Detroit native and science fiction writer Zig Zag Claybourne (aka Clarence Young), is a must read. Zig Zag declares that "Detroit is a sci-fi city because we have so many extremes. There's a creative energy here that you can't get anywhere else. Other cities are like dynamite; Detroit is nuclear fission." How true is that!

This year's cover is amazing. "Cosmic Vision" is the work of Onzie D. Norman, an extraordinarily talented Detroit artist, who generously allowed us to share his beautiful work with all of you. His work is yet another example of the creative and artistic genius of Detroiters.

We owe a huge thank you for the dedicated and tireless work of the many librarians who recommended the best fiction and non-fiction titles, and to the devoted editing and design team. You make it all happen.

So, please visit the Detroit Public Library to find the perfect thought-provoking, compelling, or just plain fun "good read."

Yours for reading,

Jo Anne G. Mondowney

Jo Anne G. Mondowney
Executive Director

ZIG ZAG CLAYBOURNE

TAKES ON THE UNIVERSE

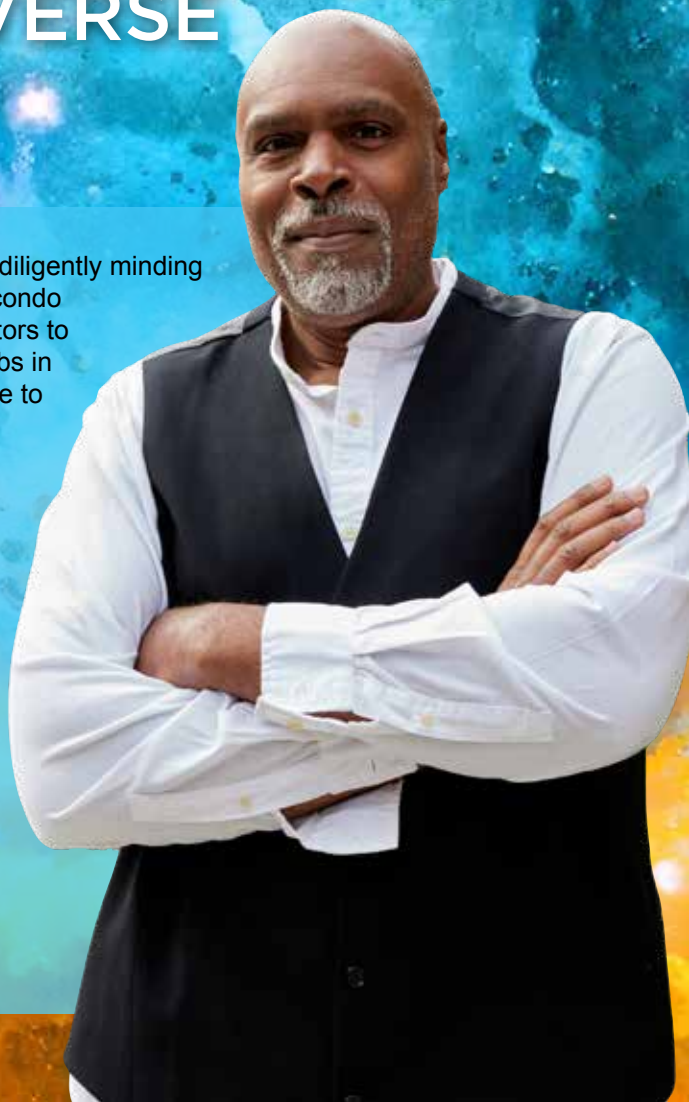
By Desiree Cooper

On a typical weekday, you might find Clarence Young, 57, diligently minding his business. As a maintenance supervisor for a Detroit condo association, there are heating systems to check, contractors to call, complaints to remedy. Young has had a lot of odd jobs in his lifetime which have taught him a valuable lesson: He doesn't care to be around too many people for too many hours in a day.

But at night (or on the weekends, or whenever inspiration and opportunity converge), the mild-mannered problem-solver transforms into Zig Zag Claybourne, the daring, African American science fiction writer with a cult following.

"There are members of my family who don't know who I am," laughed Young.

That may not remain true for long as Black voices are staking a claim in a genre which has traditionally featured white, male writers. With eight books and a trove of essays and short stories to his name, Young is gratified that, finally, "science fiction is shaking up the status quo of science fiction."



“After the success of Disney’s ‘Black Panther’ film, some were saying that people—especially Black people—were ready for The Black Fantastic,” Young blogged in October 2023. “But the truth is that *we were always here*, both as consumers and artists. George Clinton and P-Funk. James Brown as the original, unstoppable, funk cyborg. Mavis Staples and Minnie Ripperton weaving fantasies. Tananarive Due, Octavia Butler, and the queen Toni Morrison showing us where to find the horrors and how to creep past them.”

He’s right. Sheree Thomas’s groundbreaking anthology, *Dark Matter: A Century of Speculative Fiction from the African Diaspora* (2000), affirmed that Black writers had been claiming the future for 100 years. African American science fiction author Samuel Delany won Nebula Awards as far back as the mid-1960s and was inducted in the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame in 2002. Octavia Butler, who began winning Hugo and Nebula Awards in the 1980s, is so revered by a new generation that her 1993 book, *Parable of the Sower*, landed on the *New York Times* bestseller list 14 years after her death. Afrofuturism is now both a movement and a genre as evidenced by *Octavia’s Brood: Science Fiction Stories from Social Justice Movements* (2015), edited by Thomas, Walidah Imarisha and Detroit’s adrienne maree brown. Today, one of science fiction’s best-selling authors is a Black woman, N.K. Jemison.

Young’s most recent release, *Afro Puffs are the Antennae of the Universe* (Obsidian Sky Books, 2020), is a snappy, self-styled “pulp-sci-fi,” where the Black women are smart-mouthed swashbucklers. The book has a screenplay musicality and is rife with allusions to 1970s funk. (When energy crackles through a character’s Afro puffs, Young describes the force as “broadcasting knee-deep, spreading totally deep, for countless freaks.”)

“Younger readers may not get all of my references,” said Young. “But if it works with the flow, I put it in. They can Google it or move on.”

One of six children born and raised in Detroit, Young has a diehard fondness for a city that he says is often misunderstood.

“For every woe that Detroit presents, it balances out with heart,” he said. “I learned to play checkers from the neighborhood drunk. He’d just sit on my porch and teach me to play. I saw that all the time in Detroit; people go out of their way to be compassionate.”

Growing up, he refers to himself as a “blerd,” the only kid in the family who thought it was like Christmas Day when the bookmobile came to the neighborhood. His mother kept books around the house, and Saturday was always library day.

“In the library, there was never an issue about money,” he said. “You could have as many books as you could put in a bag.”

He’s long admired the rhythm of language, dissecting the words of writers from Dr. Seuss, to Kurt Vonnegut and James Baldwin. But it was TV shows like “Star Trek” and “The Twilight Zone” that blasted his imagination into space.

“I loved how science fiction was asking not only ‘what if,’ but ‘why if,’” he said. “It was about the evolution of ideas.”

But as freeing as the genre was, Young soon realized that it was also full of artificial constraints from publishers who were not interested in voices of color, to guardians of the canon who put science above human drama—and then broke the rules whenever it was convenient.

“Science fiction became a place for white, male writers to write about robots and be self-congratulatory,” he said. “We’re now at the end of that era where characters



could engage with blue aliens, but not Black people."

The internet has offered an end-run to traditional gatekeepers, allowing Black writers like Young to gain influence.

"Black sci-fi, fantasy, or horror is rarely just shiny ships, pew pew, pointy ears on aliens, elves, eldritch creatures, or slow-walking knife wielders," he said. "Black imagination has always been directed at transformation. Everything we do as Black people is about changing the state we are in, not just for us, but for everyone. Afrofuturism doesn't just put Blacks in the future with ray guns. The entire world is different because we are there."

Young always begins his tales in a notebook, eschewing the high-tech world of his characters for the low-tech pen and paper.

"I start with the soul of the story, rather than the plot," he said. "My professor at Wayne State University used to always tell us that before you start a story, think about 'What is the gift?' I'm not writing to impress somebody or exclude somebody. I'm writing to grow the world."

For a person who travels light years in his imagination, Young prefers to stay close to home. Except for a stint in Australia, he's always lived in the Detroit metro area.

"Detroit is a sci-fi city because we have so many extremes," he said. "There's a creative energy here

that you can't get anywhere else. Other cities are like dynamite; Detroit is nuclear fission."

If you're looking for one of Young's books, you'll need the secret code. He has written under numerous pen names: C.E. Young, Clarence Young, Thor MF Jones (yes, you read that right), and his most popular, Zig Zag Claybourne. He adopted "Zig Zag" after realizing that too many other authors shared his given name.

"I was once told that because of the way my stories jerk readers one way and then the other, I should be called Zig Zag, and the name stuck," he said. "I believe that writers can be like actors, putting on a different role each time you write."

For a more traditional author, that may be a marketing nightmare. But for Young, it has added to his cache as a writer with a cult following. *Afro Puffs* is the second in a series that started with *The Brothers Jetstream: Leviathan* (Obsidian Sky Books, 2016).

"I wanted to write a book where Black folks do what they've always done: save the world but get zero credit for it," he said about *Brothers Jetstream* in a 2016 interview. "It's an adventure with heart, humor, and the coolest crew since Sulu and Uhura."

He's now working on *Breath, Warmth & Dream: Book One of the Khumalo Trilogy*, which he characterizes as a "cozy fantasy about mother-daughter witches traveling the world." When a publisher wanted him to add a romance element to the book, he balked.

"I hate it when it's not reward enough for the hero or heroine to accomplish a feat; a kiss at the end must be the reward," he said. "I didn't want to write that story."

So, he used Kickstarter to build his own spaceship, starting with a $1,000 goal.

"Before the deadline, it had jumped nine times," he said, adding that famed fantasy author Neil Gaiman reposted his project, and Kickstarter labeled it a "favorite." "I'm now just seeing where it goes."

But the truth is that he knows exactly where it's going: to a place his imagination has never gone before.

To experience Young's universe, ***visit zzclaybourne.com.***



***Desiree Cooper** is a Pulitzer Prize-nominated journalist, a 2015 Kresge Artist Fellow, and author of Know the Mother, a 2016 Foreword Indies Book of the Year. Her latest book, Nothing Special, was designated one of the "Top 10 Children's Books of 2022" by the New York Public Library.*


Tribes
or
Refugees
exploit
ethnic
land



WE ARE NOT INVISIBLE:

African Americans in the World of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror

by: Nisi Shawl

Dark Matter is the title Sheree Renee Thomas gave to her award-winning, groundbreaking series of anthologies collecting imaginative fiction by Black authors. The original volume of **Dark Matter** was the first major anthology put out by a big-name publisher to do that. The series title refers to physicists' name for the universe's invisible mass, the stuff that balances out energy in the basic equations proving our existence. According to theory, the vast bulk of the universe's matter is invisible, undetectable: dark.

The title **Dark Matter** is resonant with me and my fellow Black authors because it's evocative of the huge size of our contribution to literature, and also of how that contribution has been left out of some calculations about the make-up of the literary universe. But we Black science fiction, fantasy, and horror authors and readers are *not invisible*. We never have been. You only have to look at the literary universe in the right way and here we are. This essay is a lens to look through, a way to see us. It's an examination of key genre books, stories, and series written by Black people.

At the essay's end, you'll find an annotated supplementary list of Black-created speculative fiction--the blanket term covering science fiction, fantasy, and horror (sometimes abbreviated as SFFH). The titles on that list are also important to our understanding of where and how African Americans fit into this field.

First, though, let's define our terms. Speculative fiction isn't merely "fiction that speculates," as a former lover and would-be-author used to declare to me. Any kind of fiction does that when its author supposes some nonexistent setting, character, or series of actions. Speculative fiction differs from so-called "mimetic" or mainstream, literary fiction in that its speculations lead the reader away from the reality the majority agrees actually exists. There are three basic "Ifs" at the heart of SFFH. Generally speaking, they follow these templates: "What if?" "If only..." and "If this goes on...."

The first kind of If provides the framework for most discussions of work categorized as science fiction, and it's widely evident in Black-authored varieties, too. "What If" a comet swathed in poisonous gases crashed into the Earth, slaying all but two people: a Black man and a

Invisible (con't)

white woman? W.E.B. Du Bois (yes, *that* W.E.B. Du Bois) asked and answered his particular version of "What If" with his 1920 short story "The Comet."

Or "What If" laying eggs in the remains of an unsuccessful interstellar colony became the favored breeding method of a long-lived race of sentient centipedes? "Bloodchild," Octavia E. Butler's "pregnant man story," sets this horrid idea forth as its premise, sticks faithfully to it, and comes to an achingly beautiful, brutally truthful conclusion.

The second kind of supposition, "If Only" gives rise to the alternate history subgenre of speculative fiction, a subgenre which I find of immense interest to Black people, and indeed to any demographic group whose voice gets muffled and marginalized by the powers-that-currently-be. Plenty of Black-authored examples exist, from Steven Barnes's novels *Lion's Blood* and *Zulu Heart* to Colson Whitehead's 1999 epic tale of elevator inspectors, *The Intuitionist*. Even more integral to our work is a special subgenre of the alternate history subgenre, the "secret history." In this variant, while events unspooled differently from the dominant narrative, this true and "alternate" account is known to only a select few. Rather than changing history's textbooks, Charles Johnson's novel *Middle Passage*, or Virginia Hamilton's *The Magical Adventures of Pretty Pearl*, for instance, reveal the presence of supernatural beings, West African deities who change the weight and shape and *meaning* of what everyone knows went on during the years of the Transatlantic slave trade.

So, instead of examining developments in Black SFFH chronologically, I'm going to divide it up along the outlines suggested by its "Ifs." For each category I'll give examples of Black authors' contributions. I'll also draw parallels between these categories and widely acknowledged features of Black culture.

What If...

Back, then, to "What If?" and a discussion of works falling under this rubric.

Samuel R. Delany is one of the greatest writers alive, and his SFFH written in this vein exemplifies both the best fictional explorations of "What If" and the particular power found in examining the question from a Black viewpoint. Two novels showcase his importance: his first, *The Jewels of Aptor,* was completed when Delany was a teenager and published in 1962, when he was 20. *Aptor* tells in poetic language of a quest through post-atomic lands filled with mutants and surprising cultural survivals. Longer, more universally celebrated, and a much more difficult text, *Dhalgren* came out in 1975. When you read *Dhalgren* you're automatically enrolled in a secret club made up of a certain bohemian kind of intellectual. A widespread cult has grown up around the book--fittingly, since it's a strange story strangely told: the last line, for instance, famously ends with the words that begin the first.

Delany's double outsider status gives him much-needed perspective from which to write about

aliens and alienation. Both Black and openly homosexual, he knows firsthand how difference from the majority's definition of normal permeates your entire life, and his considerable skill as a writer makes it possible to share his understanding with audiences smart enough to read him.

Though "What If" is certainly a classic science fictional formulation, it's the foundation of other kinds of speculative fiction as well. Another literary giant, Toni Morrison, is represented here primarily by her 1977 novel *Song of Solomon*, which is arguably a fantasy. Building on persistent legends of Black people escaping enslavement by flying back to Africa, Morrison relates the personal history of the descendant of one of those the escapees left behind. Ten years later, in *Beloved*, Morrison again invoked the supernatural when recounting the lasting effects of American chattel slavery on Black people.

Kindred, Octavia E. Butler's best-known novel, is another "What If" fantasy. Inspired by Black History Month, it was written in response to disparaging remarks about their enslaved ancestors made by Black students ignorant of the extent of those ancestors' oppression. Its protagonist is a modern Black woman drawn involuntarily back to the antebellum South. Horrified by the savage, inhumane conditions of chattel slavery, she nevertheless submits to them in order to ensure that a white supremacist lives to sire her grandmother.

Octavia E. Butler's last book, and the last thing we'll consider as an example of the "What If" type of story, is *Fledgling*. This novel could arguably be classified as horror, despite the rigorously scientific explanations for most of its speculative elements. Heroine Shori is a 53-year-old top predator-type of vampire with the appearance of a twelve-year-old Black girl. Octavia actually thought of *Fledgling*, which is starkly realistic in its portrayal of the mechanics of feeding on humans, as a fun, lighthearted romp. Like the other weighty issues (gender roles and ageism, for instance) it goes into, the book deals matter-of-factly with the ingrained racism present in even these nonhuman characters and institutions. Shori's legal and physical battles against the attacks of her white-appearing relatives cries out for the sequels Butler died before writing.

"Writing from where we live, outside of the established literary community, Black authors of SFFH have plenty of experience in ignoring perimeters, parameters, definitions--boundaries of all sorts."

If Only...

The territory covered by "If Only" includes alternate histories such as my own Congolese steampunk novel *Everfair*. When it comes to Black-authored "If Only" concoctions, however, the secret history flavor of "If Only" outdoes the plain old vanilla version. Perhaps this is because it mimics the way Black people's knowledge of particular eras, particular events, and particular historical figures, differs from what's generally accepted.

Though we can fit examples of all SFFH's subgenres under this rubric, fantasy is the most prevalent. One of my favorites is the 2011 children's novel *Akata Witch* by Nnedi Okorafor. Often compared to J.K. Rowling's well-known Harry Potter series, *Akata Witch* supposes that magically endowed children spring from the so-called "Dark" continent of Africa as frequently as they do from the British Isles. Twelve-year-old Sunny, an albino American Black girl living in

Invisible (con't)

Nigeria, attends a wizard's academy with similarly powerful children who must defeat a grown sorcerer threatening life's very existence. This battle takes place in hidden places, and is naturally kept completely off of official records. Shhh! It's secret!

In 1972, Ishmael Reed published *Mumbo Jumbo,* a fantasy which the notoriously chauvinistic literary critic Harold Bloom considers one of the world's 500 most important books. It was certainly an important influence on me and myriad other Black writers when it appeared. An illustrated spree recounting clashes of the heroic proponents of jazz and voodoo with the oppressively prudish fictional Wallflower Order, *Mumbo Jumbo* plays educational tricks with traditional prose formats, tricks akin to the improvisational nature of jazz and other Black arts.

Repatriation of the Third World's stolen art treasures is taking place in real life, but not so swiftly as in *Mumbo Jumbo*, and not under the auspices of a guerilla gang of voodoo practitioners. Sprinkling actual historical figures such as Madam C.J. Walker and Countee Cullen among his fictional protagonists, Reed makes those protagonists and the novel's imagined actions even more believable.

Sam Greenlee's *The Spook Who Sat by the Door* was originally conceived of as a "What If" story. Back in 1969, it was a straightforward (if wishful) tale of overthrowing this country's ruling powers. These days, as we gaze back on the era of the 1960s in a metaphorical rearview mirror, *Spook* more easily fits the "If Only" category. Sometimes it gets classified as a political thriller or a spy novel; this sort of makes sense, since it pits Black ex-CIA agent Dan Freeman against a corrupt political system. But what tips this novel toward alternate history is how he arms and educates Chicago's youth gangs, leading them on to start a violent revolution.

The Reformatory, Tananarive Due's 2023 horror novel, could also be called an alternate history, especially one of the secret sort. Set in the 1950s in Gracetown (a Florida locale Due created out of childhood memories and family lore), *Reformatory* recounts the travails of Gloria and Robert Stephens, a Black brother and sister dealing with sexual assault and institutional terrorism. Ghosts are by no means this novel's scariest elements--the characters whose murderous actions produced these ghosts are far worse. The story of the Stephenses' triumphs over Gracetown's manifestations of cruelty and racism is an alternate history, because in reality they never happened. In reality, the school on which the titular reformatory was based continued imprisoning and torturing young people for years and years after the story ends. But the book is also a true-but-secret history. Acts of resistance such as those accomplished by *Reformatory's* characters--both living and dead--have given hope to decades of communities struggling for freedom.

Imaro, by Charles Saunders, came out in 1981. Some critics claim that this marks the first appearance of fantasy's "sword-and-soul" subgenre (sword-and-sorcery with a majority of African-descended characters). Rather than a novel, it's a collection of six short stories centered on Imaro, who was a "black Tarzan" according to the cover copy. Given the wizards and demons haunting the magical realm of Nyumbani, site of Imaro's struggles, Robert E. Howard's *Conan the Barbarian* is probably a better comparison. Plus, both Imaro and Conan inhabit mythical lands, undergoing adventures set in primordial times--histories hidden from official recognition by the eons which have passed since their time.

The premise of Mat Johnson's *Pym* is even more removed from consensus reality, as it's a secret history of a fictional occurrence. Piercingly witty in its depiction of African-descended people's foibles ("You know, I got Indian in me."), *Pym* is a metafictional account of an out-of-work academic's mission to the South Pole, guided by what he believes to be the diary of a Black follower of Arthur Gordon Pym--the narrator of Edgar Allan Poe's sole novel. With the aid of his immaculate attention to the details undergirding *Pym's* more mundane settings--faculty memos, etc.--Johnson convinces readers to follow him into wilder and wilder scenarios involving bottomless whirlpools and Twinkie-craving yetis. His hero's forays into "the heart of whiteness" are both hilarious and frighteningly insightful--the sort of history whose truths hide in plain sight of the author's and readers' imagination.

If This Goes On...

Finally, we come to the speculative template that acts as the scaffolding for many dystopian fictions and warning stories: "If This Goes On." As prelude and accompaniment to examples falling in this category I offer the thought that dystopias, like all futures (per cyberpunk author William Gibson) are already here, just unevenly distributed. So cautionary tales are already happening all around us--but mostly to Black folks and other marginalized people.

Keeping that thought in mind sharpens the satirical bite of Derrick Bell's short story "The Space Traders." In it, plausibly though of course controversially, the author depicts the advent of aliens willing to trade their endless bounty for the imprisonment and delivery to them of all Blacks living in the U.S. Outlining the legislative process that makes this trade possible, going in for close-ups of the mental acrobatics necessary for majority acceptance of it, Bell bases the depiction of his troubling future on evils existing today.

Likewise, Nalo Hopkinson's *Brown Girl in the Ring*, winner of publisher Warner Aspect's First Novel Contest, postulates the progressive abandonment of minority-populated urban cores. This is the near-future tale of an unwilling medium surviving in such a situation. Organ harvesting, teen motherhood, murder, and other topics vie for reader attention as the fast-paced plot hurls readers through an updated, vividly described version of Canada's Afro-Caribbean subculture. Making "a way out of no way" is a time-honored tradition for Black people; this accounts for *Brown Girl's* relatively upbeat ending.

Octavia E. Butler's Parable series has no such happy conclusion. Butler's *Parable of the Sower* and *Parable of the Talents* were supposed to be followed by a third book, to be titled *Parable of the Trickster*. Extrapolating from negative trends evident thirty decades ago, she

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painted a wincingly accurate portrait of the novel's future: the world of today. But the third book never came. First there was a period when Butler couldn't seem to work on it--a "writer's block" she blamed on her blood pressure medication--and then, too soon, she died. An incomplete series, it's still very much worth our time and attention. Her president's campaign motto is "Make America Great Again." Climate change creates hordes of refugees. Was this scary prescience on her part, or simply astute extrapolation from firsthand knowledge of negative life experiences?

Fantasies aren't usually thought of as cautionary tales, but Tochi Onyebuchi's *Riot Baby* certainly can be read that way. The book's heroine, young Ella Jackson, has visions of the future. That's the sort of power which science may someday be able to explain. However, as events unfold, as Ella's brother Kev gets sucked into the prison system and she learns to fly and teleport and control the ambient temperature, Ella's abilities are contextualized by fear, anger, and the violence visited on the Black community. They aren't surrounded and defined by rationality but by the unofficial apocalypse Onyebuchi projects as running from the grim recent past to the even grimmer near future.

Besides the larger categories represented by our "If" breakdown, there are many sub-categories of SFFH. Readers eager for the same fun they found in earlier stories often look for it in new stories about similar stuff. They explore marketing categories such as military SF; they search bookshelves and ask algorithms for tales of superheroes or generation ships or werewolves, or whatever it was that last charmed them. Every one of these subgenres of SFFH includes work by Black authors: in Rivers Solomon's *An Unkindness of Ghosts*, gender and race discrimination deform the social structure of a vessel travelling through interstellar space for hundreds of years; in L.A. Banks' six-book Crimson Moon series, an elite squad of soldiers are infected with a werewolf virus; and in Minister Faust's *From the Notebooks of Dr. Brain* we're treated to the genesis of a superhero-targeted self-help book.

> **"...Black SFFH authors are blending genres as a matter-of-fact tactic. We keep genre defiance handy in our everyday tool chest.**

And of course there are stories which defy categorization out there, or stories blending genres and subgenres--such as Nnedi Okorafor's novel *Lagoon*, an alien invasion story featuring a road-demon, or Ishmael Reed's "HooDoo Western," *Yellow Back Radio Broke-Down*. Writing from where we live, outside of the established literary community, Black authors of SFFH have plenty of experience in ignoring perimeters, parameters, definitions--boundaries of all sorts. Why should we pay strict attention to lines drawn by the authorities who for so long were unwilling to acknowledge our importance? Recombining literary pleasures, joining forces with other African-descended seekers after fantastic truths, Black SFFH authors are blending genres as a matter-of-fact tactic. We keep genre defiance handy in our everyday tool chest.

Often we'll switch genres from book to book. Sofia Samatar, for instance, made a big splash

in 2013 with her debut novel, the otherworldly fantasy *A Stranger in Olondria*, drawing comparisons to heavy-hitters like Ursula K. Le Guin. But her April 2024 novel, *The Practice, the Horizon, and the Chain*, takes place on a mining ship voyaging through outer space.

Also blurring distinctions between the various categories and subgenres SFFH readers expect to find when they pick up a book, anthologies can serve up multiple categories and mixes. Of particular interest for those who look for Black representation are these four: *Dark Matter*, *Dark Matter 2*, *Octavia's Brood*, and *Africa Risen*.

We started this essay by mentioning the first *Dark Matter* anthology. Published by Warner Books in 2000, *Dark Matter 1* is a groundbreaking anthology covering historic expressions of the Afro-diasporic fantastic such as the aforementioned Du Bois story "The Comet," SF by well-known authors such as Octavia E. Butler, plus Samuel R. Delany's essential essay "Racism in Science Fiction." The latter was the basis for the founding of the Carl Brandon Society; it's often referred to as a cornerstone of SFFH activism. *Dark Matter 1* also included stories by then-newly emergent Black SFFH authors such as Kiini Ibura Salaam and myself.

Dark Matter 2, subtitled *Reading the Bones*, appeared in 2004. Its Table of Contents spans a similarly lengthy period, with contributions from a similarly star-studded list of writers. There are straight up repetitions, such as W.E.B. Du Bois and Tananarive Due, and there are new-at-the-time names now highly acclaimed and multiply-awarded, such as Andrea Hairston and Nnedi Okorafor. Taken together, both volumes provide a nicely condensed overview of Black-authored SFFH--up to a certain point.

Africa Risen: A New Era of Speculative Fiction was originally conceived as a third Dark Matter anthology. It departs from the template of the first two in several ways, though: the publisher is Tordotcom, not Warner; Thomas shares the editing credit with Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki and Zelda Knight; there's no nonfiction; there are no reprints; and, most importantly, a far higher proportion of the contributors come from outside the United States, with many of them living on the actual continent of Africa rather than somewhere in Africa's diaspora.

Including relative beginners like Shingai Njeri Kagunda alongside veterans like Steven Barnes, *Africa Risen* embodies the new era of its subtitle with joy and self-assurance. Sandra Jackson-Opoku has been imported from "mainstream" literature; Tobias Buckell and Maurice Broaddus, staples of the current Black SFFH menu, appear in this anthology series for the first time. Akua Lezli Hope is one of the few contributor names familiar from the Table of Contents of the *Dark Matter* volumes; nevertheless, many of the unfamiliar names are becoming widely known and highly respected.

Africa Risen was published in 2022. *Octavia's Brood: Science Fiction Stories from Social Justice Movements* came out in 2015, years earlier. But it, too, looked to the future, to a world "without war, without prisons, without capitalism." Both editors are Black. Some of the contributing authors are as well: Pauline Gumbs, LeVar Burton, and Gabriel Teodros, for example. And Kalamu ya Salaam, who also appeared in both volumes of *Dark Matter*. Focusing on activism rather than racial background means that the editors included authors who are neither Black nor white, and some who are "people of pallor," but it's a good idea to incorporate *Octavia's Brood* in this essay because editing is creative work. Brown's and Imarisha's work rounds out our anthologies with a well-supported foray into the territory of

Invisible (con't)

more general SFFH. A territory that should, by now, be ready to acknowledge our exceedingly evident visibility.

Finally, we must address the most common question directed at speculative fiction authors and audiences, the question people are always asking: Why? Why write SFFH? Why read it? What's in it for Black people? Journalists, and audiences at her speaking engagements, often asked Octavia E. Butler what SFFH did for her and others of her race. The climax of her essay "Positive Obsession" answers that in part, explaining the way that it gets our thoughts off "the beaten track" as Octavia called it--which is to say, off of the extraordinarily narrow pathways worn into our minds by those who dominate our intellectual landscape. Or as I sometimes put it when using academic language, "Science fiction, fantasy, and horror de-privilege hegemony." Reading and writing these sorts of stories leads us to view the status quo with healthy suspicion, and to question the inevitability--the legitimacy, even--of consensus reality.

Speculative fiction also helps us imagine the triumph of justice, whether we picture it as happening in a future society, as in Karen Lord's *Galaxy Game*; or part of a magical secondary world, as in N.K. Jemisin's *The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms*; or embedded in a hidden history, the fruit of secret knowledge, as in the Black Panther comics and movies; or in Pauline Hopkins' 1903 novel *Of One Blood*; or in *My Life in the Bush of Ghosts*, Amos Tutuola's 1954 tour of a West African otherworld.

> **"And it situates us in futures, pasts, parallel dimensions, far off planets, and enchanted realms where we've always been. Where we can be clearly seen."**

Speculative fiction can portray current inequalities via pointed metaphors, too, as Jemisin does with her Broken Earth trilogy.

In short, with the aid of Black-authored science fiction and fantasy, Black imagination is liberated to take us beyond mundane life's boundaries when it uses SFFH as its vehicle. And it situates us in futures, pasts, parallel dimensions, far off planets, and enchanted realms where we've always been. Where we can be clearly seen.

In addition to writing about where Black authors' SFFH stories can be found, how they work, and why they're so important, I've compiled a recommended reading list of 27 essential titles. Some are by authors already mentioned. Octavia E. Butler has her own list, because she's so instantly recognizable to just about everyone, everywhere that the titles are going to stand out anyway--and her work's so powerful that reading it can lead to reading related work by dozens of other Black SFFH authors.

There are a couple of ways to use the book list following this essay. For instance, you can make a disciplined effort, alone or with likeminded readers. You can challenge yourself to tackle one listing per week, or--since it's in chronological order--one decade per week. Of course some of the older titles are going to be full of archaic and unfamiliar turns of phrase,

and a couple of the novels are fairly long. But a few of my suggestions are short stories, and a few are children's books. Perhaps you've even read some of them previously. That ought to make such a time-limited challenge entirely feasible.

On the other hand, for a host of reasons, approaching the list more casually may be your best bet. However you decide to approach this resource, it's all yours.



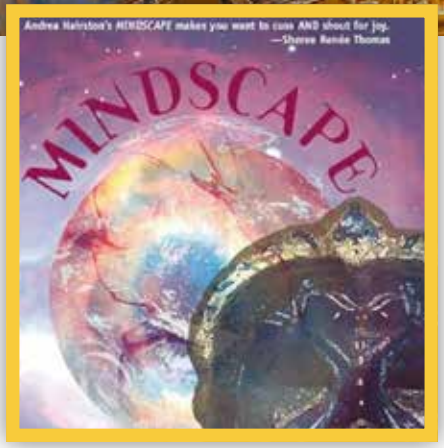
Nisi Shawl *is an African American writer and editor best known for their widely acclaimed instructional text Writing the Other: A Practical Approach, the multiple award-winning New Suns anthologies, and the 2016 Nebula finalist novel Everfair. In 2019 they received the Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award for distinguished service to the genre of science fiction. They edited Bloodchildren: Stories by the Octavia Butler Scholars, and co-edited Strange Matings: Science Fiction, Feminism, African American Voices, and Octavia E. Butler. Shawl lives in Seattle, where they take frequent walks with their cat.*

Supplemental Reading List

1859 *Blake, or the Huts of America* by Martin R. Delany: This account of a fictional slave revolt with hints about a subsequent Utopia is often cited as the first African American science fiction novel.

1887 "The Goophered Grapevine" by Charles Chesnutt: The author's first published short story, and a good representative of Chesnutt's popular "Uncle Julius" tales, "Grapevine" is heavily laden with "eye dialect" (stylized and phoneticized depictions of nonstandard speech), but is noteworthy as the first story by a Black writer to appear in the prestigious glossy magazine *The Atlantic*.

1970 *Les Blancs* by Lorraine Hansberry: A delirious air of surrealism pervades this play examining Europe's colonialist control of Africa and Africans; though best known for her 1959 drama *A Raisin in the Sun*, Hansberry considered *Les Blancs* her most important work.



***Mindscape* by Andrea Hairston**

1988 *Mama Day* by Gloria Naylor: This is an ambitiously structured narrative combining romance with folklore and delving deep into the apparent dichotomy between magic and common sense set on the imaginary Georgia sea island of Willow Springs.

1998 *The River Where Blood Is Born* by Sandra Jackson-Opoku: Spanning continents and centuries, this novel by *Africa Risen* contributor Opoku is an intergenerational saga of Black people's legacy of dreams and defiance.

2000 *Midnight Robber* by Nalo Hopkinson: Taking us first to a near-Utopian planet settled by a Caribbean Island-majority population, then to that world's transdimensional prison colony, *Brown Girl in the Ring* author Hopkinson uses island-influenced dialogue and narration to tell the moving tale of innocent bystander Tan-Tan's adaptation to strange new living conditions.

2001 *Futureland* by Walter Mosley: For years known for his superb crime novels, Mosley published these nine loosely connected short stories as a warning about how technology can be used to rob us of our hard-won civil rights.

2003 *Zulu Heart* by Steven Barnes: Set in a world in which Europe's population was devastated by the Black Plague, this alternate history includes such thrilling episodes as the deployment (by a disabled teen-aged girl!) of a newly-invented, hacked together submarine.

2003 *The Good House* by Tananarive Due: Like her latest novel, *The Reformatory*, this tale of a haunted mansion deliciously showcases Due's power to invoke blinding terror and her intimate knowledge of the violence directed toward young Black men.

2004 *Coyote Kings of the Space-Age Bachelor Pad* by Minister Faust: Mentioned earlier as the author of *From the Notebooks of Dr. Brain*, Faust kicked off his career as a novelist with this account of a grail-ish quest pursued by two teenaged Ethiopian-Canadian SF fans facing down a gang of white drug dealers.

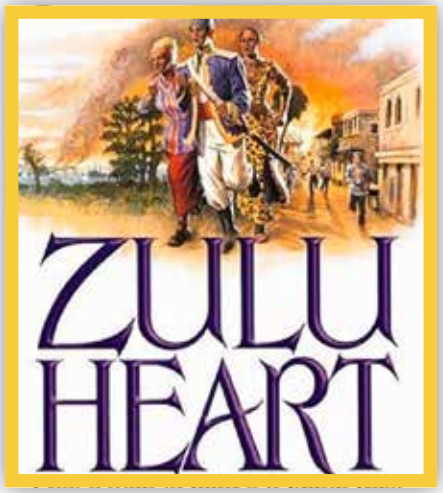
2006 *Mindscape* by Andrea Hairston: After decades of teaching and writing plays, Professor Hairston won the Carl Brandon Society's Parallax Award for first foray into prose SFFH--an iconoclastic novel about the new nations of a post-invasion Earth divided by alien-tech-powered barriers.

2010 *Who Fears Death* by Nnedi Okorafor: A novel that haunted my dreams for weeks after I read it, *Who Fears Death* captivated an international audience with its grim yet elegant account of a child of rape born into a post-apocalyptic Africa.

2010 *Redemption in Indigo* by Karen Lord: Telling a Senegalese folktale as science fiction, Lord's debut novel stretched the familiar parameters of these related genres to the breaking point and beyond, winning multiple prestigious awards.

2011 *Changa's Safari* by Milton Davis: In the tradition of Saunders' *Imaro* (mentioned in essay), Davis spins a sword-and-soul novel out of related short stories centering on a crew of adventurers which includes a mysterious, silent, veiled Tuareg warrior, a headstrong sorceress, and a disinherited prince of the Kongo.

2012 *Arctic Rising* by Tobias Buckell: In this near-future "cli-fi" thriller, airship pilot Anika Duncan goes up against corporate interests in a battle for the fate of an ecologically devastated Earth.



***Zulu Heart* by Steven Barnes**

2013 *The Summer Prince* by Alaya Dawn Johnson: This account of a love triangle set in a far-future Brazil's multi-tiered matriarchy won the Andre Norton Award.

2013 *Koontown Killing Kaper* by Bill Campbell: Dripping with irreverence, this fast-paced satire of Black stereotypes pits Foxy Brown-esque P.I. Genevieve Noire against a serial killer targeting rappers.

2014 *Elysium* by Jenn Brissett: A beautifully accomplished and ambitious vision of characters with shifting genders encountering literally ethereal computer architecture.

2015 "The Devil in America" by Kai Ashante Wilson: Wilson's brilliant, devastating retelling of the hideous, oft-repeated destruction of a Black town or neighborhood by mobs of angry whites--Rosewood, Tulsa, Wilmington, etc.--is stunningly imparted through gorgeous and moving prose. (If you need to talk after you read it, contact me via my website and I'll send you my phone number.)

2016 *Everfair* by Nisi Shawl: Modesty could have kept me from including a novel I wrote, but according to several reliable critics I changed the genre by daring to imagine Black people and other people of color could triumph over their colonizers--joyfully!

2017 *Buffalo Soldier* by Maurice Broaddus: This is the first of Broaddus' novels set in his steampunk-y North America; it follows a Jamaican spy and the weirdly talented boy he protects as they flee from scheming politicians, corrupt priests, and a dangerous, deeply committed enemy agent.

2018 *Dread Nation* by Justina Ireland: Zombies rewrite U.S. history when they shamble forth from Civil War battlefields, leading to the forced conscription of Black and Native zombie slayers, with special concessions granted to "Attendants": slayers assigned to exclusively guard one rich white family each.

2018 *The Belles* by Dhonielle Clayton: The first of Clayton's three Young Adult novels about a dystopian fantasy world in which young women's magic controls the precious commodity of beauty, *Belles* was a *New York Times* bestseller and was picked as one of the best books of the year by both *Kirkus* magazine and the Chicago Public Library.

2020 *A Chorus Rises* by Bethany C. Morrow: A sequel to her earlier young adult fantasy *A Song Below Water*, this captivating exploration of a Black high school student's life as an "Eloko" (a siren-like creature from African mythology) also examines the "don'ts" of fashion missteps and the "do's" of model minorities.

2021 *Flowers for the Sea* by Zin Rocklyn: This dazzling debut novella has been described as *Rosemary's Baby* by way of Octavia E. Butler, and its gothic tale of an ostracized mother-to-be expecting the birth of a miraculous monster gains richness and strength from Rocklyn's sleek, spare prose.

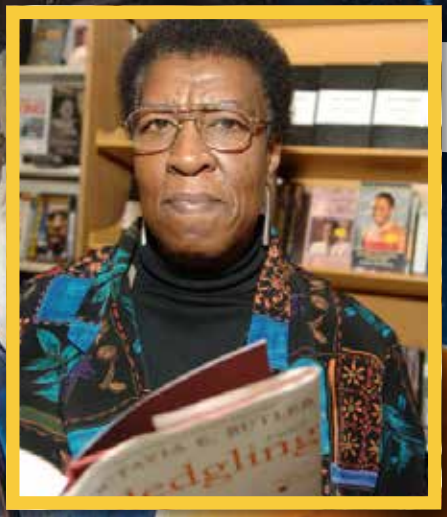


***Everfair* by Nisi Shawl**

2022 *The Ballad of Perilous Graves* by Alex H. Jennings: This acclaimed debut showcases a vision of a New Orleans joyously animated by musical magic--the precious, beating heart of the city which teenage wizards Perry, Brendy, and Peaches must defend with all their skill and hardheadedness.

2023 *Jackal, Jackal* by Tobi Ogundiran: In short stories ranging from the chilling flash of "Here Sits His Ignominy" to the Ignyte Award-winning intricacies of "The Lady of the Yellow-Painted Library," these are tales with a deep, accurate bite.

So that's the list. It's long yet incomplete. It's missing some great books, books I've read that you'll want to read, too. Someday. But when you've made it all the way through the books and stories mentioned in "We Are Not Invisible" plus the ones included in this list, you'll definitely have a good idea of what Black speculative fiction is. You'll know that its authors and inspirations and readers are not invisible; you'll spot us as easily as you spot your own reflection in a crowded mirror. You'll know what you're seeing when you find Black SFFH in a library or on a bookstore's shelves, and you'll be able to point it out to anyone else who needs to see it.



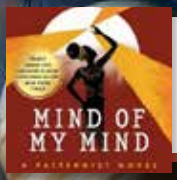
Octavia Estelle Butler

1947 - 2006

Octavia gets her own list. That's how important she is to Black science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Here are the sources of that importance--including a few already referred to in the main essay.



1976 - *Patternmaster*



1977 - *Mind of My Mind*



1978 - *Survivor*



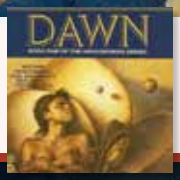
1979 - *Kindred*



1980 - *Wild Seed*



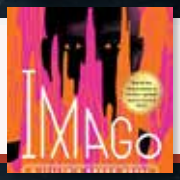
1984 - *Clay's Ark*



1987 - *Dawn*



1988 - *Adulthood Rites*



1989 - *Imago*



1993 - *Parable of the Sower*



1995 - *Bloodchild and Other Stories*



1998 - *Parable of the Talents*



2005 - *Fledgling*



2005 - *Bloodchild and Other Stories*, Second Edition



2014 - *Unexpected Stories*

Best of Fiction



BEST OF 2023

Head, Cheryl A.
Time's Undoing
EP Dutton, 2023
A young journalist from Detroit investigates the mysterious death of her great-grandfather in Birmingham, Alabama.
(e-book, audio available)

Lister, Sheryl
No Reservations
Harper Muse, 2024
After the death of their best friend, three women decide to live life more freely.
(e-book, audio available)

Mosley, Walter
Touched
Atlantic Monthly Press, 2023
In a dystopian fantasy, Martin goes back and forth between two worlds where he is forced to defend against evil.
(e-book, audio available)

McBride, James
The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store
Riverhead Books, 2023
The history of a community home to both Jews and African Americans is retold after the discovery of a body in a well.
(e-book, audio available)

Ward, Jesmyn
Let Us Descend
Scribner, 2023
Annis is comforted by memories of her mother, after being sold to a plantation by the slave owner who fathered her.
(e-book, audio available)

THEMED TITLES

Cauley, Kashana
The Survivalists
Random House, 2024
Aretha's plans for a successful career are in danger when she falls for a doomsday prepper.

Key, Justin C.
The World Wasn't Ready for You
HarperCollins, 2023
A speculative sci-fi short story collection addressing social injustices.

Lemming, Kimberly
That Time I Got Drunk and Saved a Human
Orbit, 2024
A spirited young lady finds herself in a hostage situation with multiple dragons.
(e-book, audio available)

Moreau, Khalia
The Princess of Thornwood Drive
Forever, 2023
Tragedy drives a young lady into a fantasy world, trapped on the other side of reality.
(e-book, audio available)

Mosley, Walter
Touched
Atlantic Monthly Press, 2023
In a dystopian fantasy, Martin goes back and forth between two worlds where he is forced to defend against evil.
(e-book, audio available)

Okorafor, Nnedi
The Shadow Speaker
Daw, 2023
In 2074, teenaged Ejii goes on a mission to avenge her father's murder.
(e-book, audio available)

Okorafor, Nnedi
Like Thunder
Daw, 2023
It is now 2077, Ejii and her best friend Dikéogu realize their magical quest never ended.
(e-book available)

Okungbowa, Suyi Davies
Warrior of the Wind
Orbit, 2023
Under threat from menacing forces, a group of friends take a journey to return a valuable heirloom to their homeland.
(e-book, audio available)

Shawl, Nisi
Kinning
Tor Books, 2024
After the war, the Prince and Princess return to Everfair with the hope of bringing empathy and equality to their people.
(e-book, audio available)

Fiction (con't)

Smith, Aaron X.
Afrocentricity in Afrofuturism: Toward Afrocentric Futurism
University Press of Mississippi, 2023
An examination of the intersectionality of historical and philosophical concepts in Black culture.
(audio available)

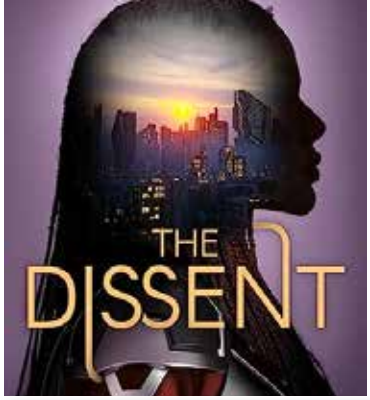
Tsamaase,Tlotlo
Womb City
Erewhon, 2024
Futuristic tale of revenge set within a dystopian surveillance state.
(e-book, audio available)

Turnbull, Cadwell
We are the Crisis
Blackstone Publishing, 2023
Monsters and humans continue to battle in a futuristic United States.

Vernon, Leah
The Dissent
47 North, 2023
Two aristocratic sisters band together to fight a new common enemy.

FICTION

Alicia, Kristen
You've Been Served
Entangled Publishing, 2023
Chef Simone Alexander decides to change careers and enter law school after consulting a Magic 8 Ball.
(e-book, audio available)



Leah Vernon
The Dissent

Alers, Rochelle
Take the Long Way Home
Kensington Publishing, 2023
Moving through multiple continents and decades, a woman remembers the many obstacles and relationships during her lifetime.
(e-book, audio available)

Arceneaux, Danielle
Glory Be: A Glory Broussad Mystery
Pegasus Books, 2023
A small-time bookie and scam artist investigate the death of her best friend.
(e-book, audio available)

Bilal, Aaliyah
Temple Folk
Simon & Schuster, 2023
Collection of stories that give an intimate portrayal of the thoughts and feelings of Black Muslims.
(e-book, audio available)

Black, Regina
Art of Scandal
Grand Central Publishing, 2023
A politician's wife begins a relationship with a younger man after her marriage implodes.
(e-book, audio available)

Brown, Tracy
Brooklyn
Griffin, 2024
After years of conniving and treacherous behavior, Brooklyn faces justice from an unlikely source.
(e-book available)

Bryce, Denny S.
The Other Princess
William Morrow, 2023
Spending her childhood as a possession of Queen Victoria, a woman tries to find a place of her own in the world.
(e-book available)

Bump, Gabriel
The New Naturals
Algonquin Books, 2023
A grief-stricken couple relocates to western Massachusetts in hopes of creating a safe society.
(e-book, audio available)

Burns, V.M.
Murder on Tour
Kensington Books, 2023
A Michigan bookstore owner tries to prevent a murder at a book festival.
(e-book available)

Carr, Charlene
Hold My Girl: A Novel
Sourcebooks Landmark, 2023
Katherine and Tess both dream of motherhood, but a devastating mistake alters both of their lives.
(e-book available)

Christopher, Andie J.
Unrealistic Expectations
Berkley Romance, 2023
Just as her new book is being published, a relationship guru has to save face by finding a new boyfriend.
(e-book available, & audio available)

Clark, Tracy
Fall
Thomas & Mercer, 2023
Detective Harriet Foster investigates the death of two corrupt city aldermen.

Cole, Briana
In Their Shadows
Dafina, 2023
A bigamist and a scam artist's lifestyle are threatened by a mysterious adversary.
(e-book, audio available)

Crown, Zaire
Silent Judgement
Dafina, 2023
A hearing-impaired killer discovers some hard truths about his life after serving a 12-year prison sentence.
(e-book available)

Glenn, Roy
A Motive for Murder
Urban Books, 2023
Shy has promised her husband that she would leave street life behind, but she is determined to avenge her friend's murder first.
(e-book available)

Head, Cheryl A.
Time's Undoing
EP Dutton, 2023
A young journalist from Detroit investigates the mysterious death of her great-grandfather in Birmingham, Alabama.
(e-book, audio available)

Hughley, Piper
American Daughters
William Morrow, 2024
The children of two powerful men develop a lifelong relationship at the beginning of the American century.
(e-book, audio available)

Jackson-Brown, Angela
Homeward
Harper Muse, 2023
After losing her husband in the Vietnam war, Rose returns home to Georgia and becomes involved in the Civil Rights Movement.
(e-book available)

Jackson, Brenda and Naima Simone
One Steamy Night / An Off-limits Merger
Harlequin Books, 2023
Nadia reluctantly believes Jackson could love her and refuses to marry him
(e-book available)

Jenkins, Beverly
A Christmas to Remember
Avon Books, 2023
In the popular Blessings Series, Henry Adams hosts his first big Christmas celebration with a tree lighting ceremony and wedding.
(e-book, audio available)

Jones, Stephen Mack
Deus X
Soho Crime, 2023
In this 4th installment, August Snow defends a local priest from a rogue faction of the Diocese.
(e-book, audio available)

Karrington, Kaylha
The Side Effects of Loving You
Urban Books, 2023
Three young women try to navigate street life and toxic relationships.

Kyles, Cedric
Flipping Boxcars
Amistad Press, 2023
Babe risks the security of his family after a business scheme fails.
(e-book available)

La Salle, Eric
Laws of Annihilation
Poisoned Pen Press, 2023
A race war is brewing in New York City. Two NYPD detectives and an FBI agent are determined to find the killer that is pushing the city over the edge.
(e-book, audio available)



Briana Cole
In Their Shadows

Lister, Sheryl
A Perfect Pairing
Forever, 2023
A realtor moves back to her hometown to start a new chapter in her life not knowing that her ex has also decided to do the same.
(e-book available)

Lister, Sheryl
No Reservations
Harper Muse, 2024
After the death of their best friend, three women decide to live life more freely.
(e-book, audio available)

Fiction (con't)

Littles, T.C.
The Laws of Loyalty
Urban Books, 2023
To the shock of her upper-class parents, Morgan runs off with Javon, known to be one of the most dangerous criminals in Detroit.
(e-book available)

Marcus, Danielle
Jack Girlz
Black Odyssey, 2023
Three Detroit women develop a dangerous plan to get fast money.
(e-book, audio available)

Martin, Alexa
Next-Door Nemesis
Berkley, 2023
Collins Carter moves back to her parent's home and finds love with the boy next door.

Mathis, Ayana
The Unsettled: A Novel
Knopf, 2023
Ava attempts to raise and love her son differently than her mother raised her. But the trauma and pain of the past makes life difficult.
(e-book, audio available)

Matthews, Olivia
Coconut Drop Dead
St. Martin's Paperbacks, 2023
The police believe the death of a reggae singer may be an accident but Lyndsay the co-owner of the Spice Isle Bakery is not convinced.
(e-book, audio available)

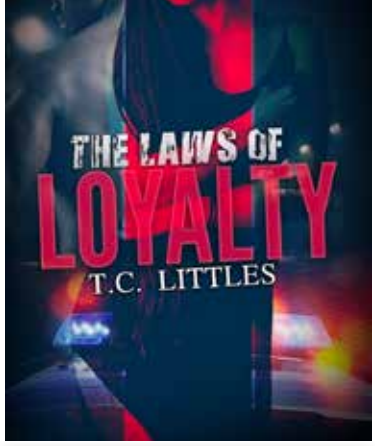
McBride, James
The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store
Riverhead Books, 2023
The history of a community home to both Jews and African Americans is retold after the discovery of a body in a well.
(e-book, audio available)

Miller, Vanessa
The American Queen
Thomas Nelson Inc., 2024
A former enslaved woman and her husband build a community together after the Civil War in South Carolina.
(e-book, audio available

Millner, Denene
One Blood
Forge Books, 2023
Three generations of women make extreme sacrifices so their children can have better lives.
(e-book, audio available)

Peele, Jordan, and John Joseph Adams
Out There Screaming: An Anthology of New Black Horror
Random House, 2023Collection of diabolical and supernatural stories.
(e-book, audio available)

Platt, Christine and Catherine Wigginton Greene
Rebecca, Not Becky
Amistad Press, 2023
De'Andrea develops an unexpected friendship with her neighbor in an upper-crust neighborhood.
(e-book available)



T.C. Littles
The Laws of Loyalty

Pope, Mondell
The Boys in the Club
Urban Books, 2023
Four young men distract themselves with partying, which leads to even more problems and bad decisions.
(e-book available)

Riley, Vanessa
Murder in Drury Lane
Kensington, 2023
Lady Abigail enjoys the theater; it is one of the few places she feels comfortable--until a dead body is found in the prop room.
(e-book available)

St. John, Yahrah
Frenemy Fix-Up
Afterglow Books by Harlequin, 2024
Determined to improve his health, Colin hires yoga instructor and ex-girlfriend Shay to get him back in shape.

Tate, ReShonda
The Queen of Sugar Hill: A Novel of Hattie McDaniel
William Marrow, 2024
A fictional depiction of the life and career of the first African American to win an Oscar.
(**e-book, audio available**)

Ward, Jesmyn
Let Us Descend
Scribner, 2023
Annis is comforted by memories of her mother after being sold to a plantation by the slave owner who fathered her.
(e-book, audio available)

Williams, Sheila
No Better Time: A Novel of the Spirited Women of the 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion
Amistad, 2024
Women from all walks of life make extreme sacrifices to serve their country during WWII.

Williams, Tia
A Love Song for Ricki Wilde
Grand Central Publishing, 2024
A woman leaves Atlanta to start a new adventure in Harlem as a flower shop owner and artist.

Zari
Double Life
Urban Books, 2023
The two worlds of a successful realtor and drug queenpin collide.
(e-book available)

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Barnes, Rodney
Monarch
Image Comics, 2023
After aliens invade Earth, Travon finds himself tasked with protecting his family and friends from imminent doom.
(e-book available)

Chuck D
Summer of Hamn: Hollowpointlessness Aiding Mass Nihilism
Enemy Books, 2023
The tragedy of gun violence is told in rhythmic prose with edgy artistic illustrations. Do believe the hype because this book will educate and entertain.
(e-book available)

Doox, Mark
The N-Word of God
Fantagraphics, 2024
Literary graphic novel combining the author's passion for art, social commentary, and spirituality.

Golden, Bradley and Marcus Roberts, et al.
Shook! A Black Horror Anthology
Dark Horse Books, 2024
Some of today's best comic writers are represented in this collection, which pays tribute to Southern gothic horror.
(e-book available)

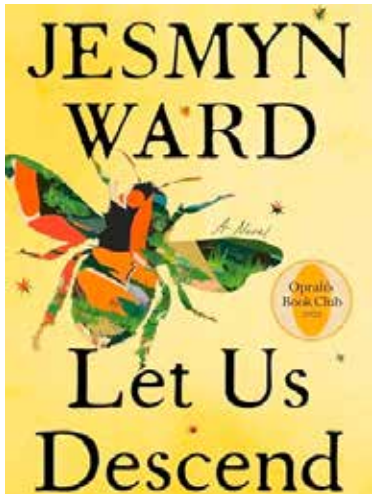
Jama-Everett, Ayize
Box of Bones: Book Two
Rosarium Publishing, 2023
A graduate student discovers a mysterious box while working on her dissertation. Seemingly harmless, chaos ensues to all that encounter this box of horrors.

Lindell, Lawrence
Blackward
Drawn & Quarterly, 2023
Four quirky queer friends who don't fit in anywhere join forces, resulting in awkward and hilarious adventures.
(e-book available)

Ridley, John
GCPD: The Blue Wall
DC Comics, 2023
Renee Montoya, the new commissioner for the Gotham City Police Department, tries to keep the city's criminal underbelly at bay while rebuilding her corrupted police force.
(e-book available)

Waiters, Tyrell
Vern, Custodian of the Universe
Flying Eye Books LTD., 2023
Sometimes in life you will need to make lemonade out of lemons. However, what do you do when you have to clean intergalactic ooze?

Walker, Morganne
Soul Beat, Volume 1: The Payback
Rockport Publishers, 2023
The devil wants to claim the souls of all mankind but only the living have the chance to escape his harrowing grip.



Jesmyn Ward
Let Us Descend

Best of Non-Fiction



BEST OF 2023

Brown, Tabitha
I Did a New Thing: 30 Days to Living Free
William Morrow & Co., 2024
Highlights personal stories to encourage readers to try something new every day for at least one month.
(e-book, audio available)

Butler, Bethonie
Black TV: Five Decades of Groundbreaking Television from Soul Train to Black-ish and Beyond
Black Dog & Leventhal Press, 2023
A celebratory retrospective of the actors, writers and showrunners who created a space for today's storytellers.
(e-book available)

Cane, Clay
***The Grift: The Downward Spiral of Black Republicans from the Party of Lincoln to the* Cult of Trump**
Sourcebooks Inc., 2024
Asks and answers the question, "How did the nation go from Frederick Douglass to Clarence Thomas?"
(e-book, audio available)

Hylton, Antonia
Madness: Race and Insanity in a Jim Crow Asylum
Legacy Lit., 2024
Peabody and Emmy award-winning journalist documents the history of Crownsville Hospital, one of the few remaining asylums constructed during the Jim Crow era.
(audio available)

Wilkinson, Crystal
Praisesong for the Kitchen Ghosts: Stories and Recipes from Five Generations of Black Country Cooks
Clarkson Potter, 2024
An accomplished cook reveals the rich culinary legacy of Black Appalachia through stories and recipes.
(e-book available)

ART, MUSIC & POETRY

Briscoe, Connie and Milton Washington
Stepping Out: The Unapologetic Style of African Americans Over Fifty
Clarkson Potter, 2023
A dynamic collection of photographs celebrating the style, creativity and sophistication of mature adults "of a certain age."
(e-book available)

Brown, Cole, Natalie Johnson and John Legend
Black Love Letters
Get Lifted Books, 2023
A collection of love letters written by influential African Americans.
(e-book available)

Butler, Bethonie
Black TV: Five Decades of Groundbreaking Television from Soul Train to Black-ish and Beyond
Black Dog & Leventhal Press, 2023
A celebratory retrospective of the actors, writers and showrunners who created a space for today's storytellers.
(e-book available)

Davis, Ebonee
Daughter: The Soul Journey of a Black Woman in America Having a Human Experience
Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2023
Introspective poems and essays take readers on a spiritual journey that revels in self-love and personal desire.
(e-book available)

Denise, Lynnée
Why Willie Mae Thornton Matters
University of Texas Press, 2023
Explores the life of *Big Mama Thornton*, who was an innovator and a musical inspiration throughout her career.
(e-book available)

Ellis, JJJJJerome
Aster of Ceremonies: Poems
Milkweed Editions, 2023
The fictive voices of the ancestors are uplifted through experimental verse in this sophomore release.

Henderson, Odie
Black Caesars and Foxy Cleopatras: A History of Blaxploitation Cinema
Harry N Abrams Inc., 2024
A definitive account of the genre and the lasting influence on today's Black cinema.
(e-book available)

Non-Fiction (con't)

Keizer, Arlene
Fraternal Light: On Painting While Black
The Kent State University Press, 2023
Showcases the life of 20th Century painter Beauford Delaney through a series of connected poems.
(e-book available)

Kinard III, Willie
Orders of Service
Alice James Books, 2023
Weaves together religion, storytelling, and history in exploration of growing up queer and Black
in the South.

McLemore, Lamonte and Chris Murray
Black Is Beautiful: Jet Beauties of the Week
Powerhouse Books, 2023
Compilation of photographs from the iconic magazine showcases the everyday beauty and elegance of Black women and Black culture.

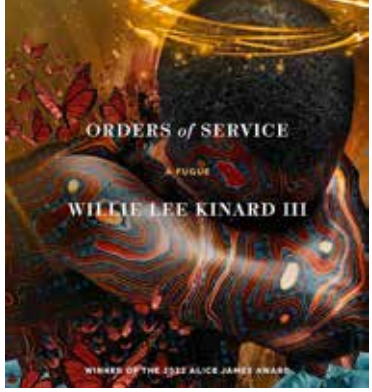
McCrae, Shane
The Many Hundreds of the Scent: Poems
Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2023
Ancient mythology, contemporary rock music, and childhood memories coalesce in this lyrical collection.

Michael, B.
Muse: Cicely Tyson and Me: A Relationship Forged in Fashion
Amistad Press, 2024
A visually stunning photographic memoir highlights over twenty years of glamorous moments created for award shows, galas, high profile funerals and a special weekend with Oprah.

Osinaike, Olatunde
Tender Headed
Akashic Books, 2023
An examination of Black masculinity from a bold new voice in American poetry.

Sebro, Adrien
Scratchin' and Survivin': Hustle Economics and the Black Sitcoms of Tandem Productions
Rutgers University Press, 2023
Insightful look at the creative team behind the popular sitcoms of the 1970s and how their struggle often paralleled the plot lines they wrote.

Simon, Kate, Patti Smith, Lenny Kravitz and Keith Richards
Rebel Music: Bob Marley & Roots Reggae
Genesis Publications, 2023
A collection of over 400 photographs of the musical legend throughout his career, many never before seen.



Willie Kinard III
Orders of Service

Tempestt, Mimi
The Delicacy of Embracing Spirals
City Lights Books, 2023
Spirals are a metaphor in this poetry collection for how personal lives and larger social forces intertwine.

Terry, Chris L. and James Spooner
Black Punk Now
Soft Skull Press, 2023
An anthology of contemporary works that capture the style and identity of this rebellious underground genre.
(e-book available)

Tick, Judith
Becoming Ella Fitzgerald: The Jazz Singer Who Transformed American Song
W. W. Norton & Co Inc., 2023
A landmark biography sheds new light on a powerful woman who set the standard for musical excellence in the twentieth century.
(e-book, audio available)

Wiley, Kehinde and Claudia Schmuckli
Kehinde Wiley: The Archaeology of Silence
Delmonico Books, 2023
Features new paintings and sculptures that reference iconic works of art depicting violence against Black bodies.

Womack, Ytasha
Black Panther: A Cultural Exploration
Becker & Mayer Books, 2023
Examines the influential aspects of the beloved character from the 1960's to the age of Afrofuturism.
(e-book available)

Zamore, Shaz and Amber Wendler
Been Outside: Adventures of Black Women, Nonbinary, and Gender Nonconforming People in Nature
Mountaineers Books, 2023
A series of essays and poems explore how exposure to the natural world and life sciences have transformed the lives of Black women.

BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIRS

Arsenault, Raymond
John Lewis: In Search of the Beloved Community
Yale University Press, 2024
Describes the life of a towering figure in the struggle for Civil Rights and how his influence endures, inspiring the current fight for social justice.
(e-book available)

Boozer, Carlos, Mike Krzyzewski and Loretta Hunt
Every Shot Counts: A Memoir
Hanover Square Press, 2023
ESPN commentator shares how overcoming a traumatic incident propelled him toward a basketball career spanning two decades.
(e-book, audio available)

Craig, Ralph H. and Jan Willis
Dancing in My Dreams: A Spiritual Biography of Tina Turner
Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2023
A detailed look at how a spiritual transformation and diverse metaphysical beliefs shaped the legendary singer's spirituality.
(e-book available)

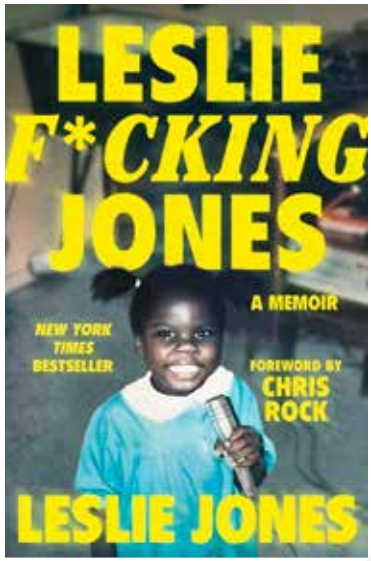
Ford, Tanisha C.
Our Secret Society: Mollie Moon and the Glamour, Money, and Power Behind the Civil Rights Movement
Amistad Press, 2023
Intriguing portrait of a socialite and philanthropist who raised millions to support the Civil Rights Movement and other noble causes.
(e-book, audio available)

Jenkins Jay, Jezzy
Adversity for Sale: Ya Gotta Believe
HarperCollins Leadership, 2023
Iconic rapper retraces his steps to share what it took for him to escape the streets to become a successful artist, family man and entrepreneur.
(e-book, audio available)

Juicy J and Soren Baker
Chronicles of the Juice Man: A Memoir
Hanover Square Press, 2023
Platinum-selling rapper and producer tells the story of his rise from a poor but ambitious child to an award–winning recording artist and respected musical veteran.
(e-book, audio available)

Jones, Leslie
Leslie F*cking Jones
Grand Central Publishing, 2023
Essays offer a refreshing and candid look at the struggles the comedian faced as a Black woman building her career in comedy.

Leigh, Spencer
Little Richard: Send Me Some Lovin'
McNidder and Grace, 2023
An engaging biography about the transformative and charismatic musical icon.



Leslie Jones
Leslie F*cking Jones

Non-Fiction (con't)

Robinson, Staci
Tupac Shakur: The Authorized Biography
Crown Publishing, 2023
Interviews, photos, and other personal mementos reveal the life of one of the most influential music figures, even in death.
(e-book, audio available)

Shatz, Adam
The Rebel's Clinic: The Revolutionary Life of Frantz Fanon
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2024
Biography of the writer and activist whose influence continues to inspire modern movements for social and racial justice.
(e-book available)

Smith, Pinkett Jada
Worthy
Dey Street Books, 2023
A candid memoir of a Hollywood actress, wife, mother and her relationships.
(e-book, audio available)

Stone, Sly
Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin): A Memoir
AUWA, 2023
The founder of psychedelic funk band, *Sly and the Family Stone*, shares his life story, from small town Texas to big city Los Angeles – with many detours and stops along the way.
(e-book, audiobook available)

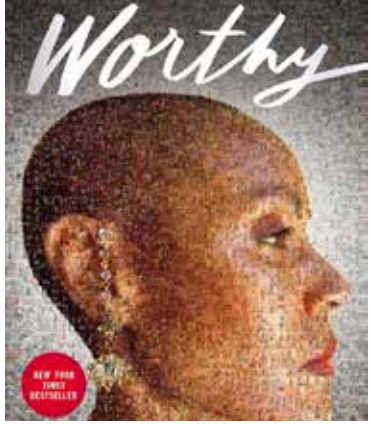
Thompson, Kenan
When I Was Your Age: Life Lessons, Funny Stories & Questionable Parenting Advice from a Professional Clown
HarperCollins, 2023
SNL's longest serving cast member shares his humorous and positive view of parenthood and enjoying life.
(e-book, audio available)

Trotter, Tariq
The Upcycled Self: A Memoir on the Art of Becoming Who We Are
One World, 2023
A co-founder of *The Roots* provides a compelling account of the creative and emotional relationships that shaped him.
(e-book, audio available)

Washington, Kerry
Thicker Than Water: A Memoir
Little Brown Spark, 2023
Accomplished actor, director, and activist allows an intimate view into both her public and private livesas she navigates a life-changing journey of self-discovery.
(e-book, audio available)

BUSINESS, FINANCE & CAREER

Aliche, Tiffany the Budgetnista
Made Whole: The Practical Guide to Reaching Your Financial Goals
Rodale Books, 2023
Financial educator presents a 10-step action plan to improve and manage personal finance.



Jada Pinkett Smith
Worthy

Cole, Pinky
I Hope You Fail: Ten Hater Statements Holding You Back from Getting Everything You Want
Harper Collins Leadership, 2023
Despite years of struggle and setbacks, the *Slutty Vegan* shares how she became the most successful vegan restaurateur in the world.
(e-book, audio available)

Hamilton, Arlan and Rachel L. Nelson
Your First Million: Why You Don't Have to Be Born into a Legacy of Wealth to Leave One Behind
Little, Brown Spark, 2023
A Black female venture capitalist imparts meaningful guidance for building wealth and achieving entrepreneurial goals.

Norwood, Jessica
Believe-In-You Money: What Would It Look Like If the Economy Loved Black People?
Berrett-Koehler Pub., 2023
A guidebook that provides methods to break down the systemic barriers that have historically obstructed Black

entrepreneurs from gaining success.
(e-book available)

Simmons, Lauren
Make Money Move: A Guide to Financial Wellness
Amistad Press, 2023
Former Wall Street day trader lends her professional experience and fiscal expertise to encourage young adults to develop a confident financial mindset.

Souffrant, Jamila
Your Journey to Financial Freedom: A Step-by-step Guide to Achieving Wealth and Happiness
Hanover Square Press, 2023
A popular podcaster asserts that you can lead a joyful life while becoming fiscally responsible and financially independent.
(e-book, audio available)

COOKING & ENTERTAINMENT

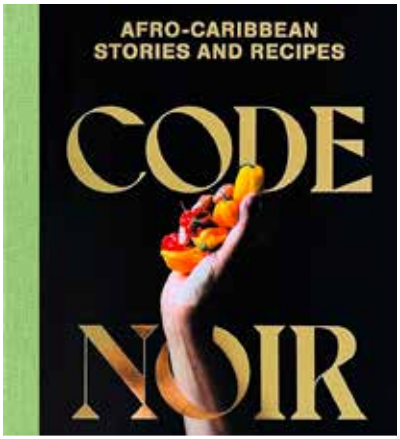
Dogg, Snoop, Earl "E-40" Stevens and Antonis Achilleos
Snoop Dogg Presents Goon with the Spoon
Chronicle Books, 2023
Two iconic rappers share more than 65 recipes used to create their favorite meals, from cocktails to desserts.
(e-book available)

Espada, Lorenzo
Somethin' Outta Nothin': 100 Creative Comfort Food Recipes for Everyone
DK Publishing, 2023
Self-taught social media chef shows how to create easy and delectable meals, even when times are tight.
(e-book available)

Komolafe, Yewande
My Everyday Lagos: Nigerian Cooking at Home and in the Diaspora
Ten Speed Press, 2023
75 recipes reflect the many cuisines found in the West African country; including traditional favorites like jollof rice and groundnut stew.
(e-book available)

Lewis, Lelani
Code Noir: Afro-Caribbean Stories and Recipes
Tra Publishing, 2024
Presenting over 80 classic and new dishes, a chef and culinary activist shares the history and culture of the region.

Rose, Danni
Danni's Juke Joint Comfort Food Cookbook: Modern-Day Recipes, Ole Skool Flavas
Harvest, 2023
Food Network host shares the beloved Southern-inspired recipes that are staples in her family and community.
(e-book available)



Lelani Lewis
Code Noir: Afro-Caribbean Stories and Recipes

Tillery, Carolyn Q.
African-American Heritage Cookbook: Traditional Recipes and Fond Remembrances from Alabama's Renowned Tuskegee Institute
Dafina, 2024
An updated edition with more than 200 classic dishes that pay tribute to the culinary history and culture of the famous HBCU.

Tipton-Martin, Toni
Juke Joints, Jazz Clubs, and Juice: A Cocktail Recipe Book: Cocktails from Two Centuries of African American Cookbooks
Clarkson Potter, 2023
A collection of concoctions cultivated from historic cookbooks tells the stories behind the advent of Black mixology.
(e-book available)

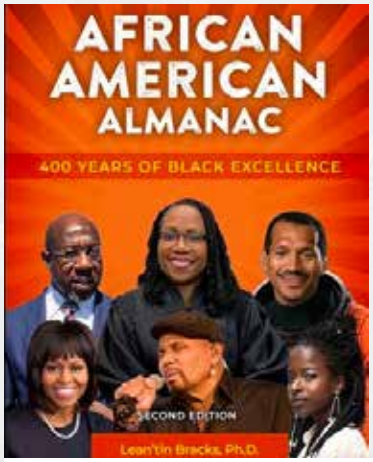
Wilkinson, Crystal
Praisesong for the Kitchen Ghosts: Stories and Recipes from Five Generations of Black Country Cooks
Clarkson Potter, 2024
An accomplished cook reveals the rich culinary legacy of Black Appalachia through stories and recipes.
(e-book available)

HEALTH & SCIENCE

Blackstock, Uché
Legacy: A Black Physician Reckons with Racism in Medicine
Viking Press, 2024
Captivating story of an ER doctor who along with her twin sister followed their mother's path; graduating from Harvard Medical school and working in a flawed healthcare system.
(e-book, audio available)

Non-Fiction (con't)

Buolamwini, Joy
Unmasking AI: My Mission to Protect What Is Human in a World of Machines
Random House Inc., 2023
A renowned expert in Artificial Intelligence exposes the widespread racial and gender biases encoded in the technology, and her fight to combat the harm already created.
(e-book, audio available)



Lean'tin Bracks, Ph.D.
African American Almanac: 400 Years of Black Excellence

Common
And Then We Rise: A Guide to Loving and Taking Care of Self
HarperOne, 2024
Award-winning rap artist and activist shares the importance of prioritizing physical and mental health by focusing on the body, nutrition and spirituality.
(e-book, audio available)

Holmes, Linda Janet
Safe in Midwives' Hands: Birthing Traditions from Africa to the American South
Mad Creek Books, 2023
Using interviews with various midwives, the author details cultural birthing and postpartum traditions.

Leiba, Elizabeth
Protecting My Peace: Embracing Inner Beauty and Ancestral Power
Mango, 2024
Presents holistic strategies to create transformative experiences that result in inner strength and self-acceptance.
(e-book, audio available)

HISTORY

Barron, Justine and Rabia Chaudry
They Killed Freddie Gray: The Anatomy of a Police Brutality Cover-Up
Arcade Pub., 2023
A thorough investigative account of the Baltimore native's controversial death.

Bracks, Ph.D., Lean'tin
African American Almanac: 400 Years of Black Excellence
Visible Ink Press, 2023
This new edition celebrates the impact, inspiration and contributions of hundreds of influential figures throughout history.
(e-book available)

Brown, Karida L. and Charly Palmer
The New Brownies' Book: A Love Letter to Black Families
Chronicle Books 2023
Based on *The Brownies' Book* by W.E.B. DuBois, authors present a positive, historic view of Black families.

Chafe, William H.
Lifting the Chains: The Black Freedom Struggle Since Reconstruction
Oxford University Press, 2023
Provides an overview of the impact historically Black institutions made in shaping the Civil Rights Movement.

Durkin, Hannah
The Survivors of the Clotilda: The Lost Stories of the Last Captives of the American Slave Trade
Amistad, 2024
A thorough history of the Clotilda, the last slave ship that landed on American soil in 1860.

Hecimovich, Gregg
The Life and Times of Hannah Crafts: The True Story of the Bondwoman's Narrative
Ecco Press, 2023
Through rigorous research, the identity of the first known Black female author is revealed.
(e-book, audio available)

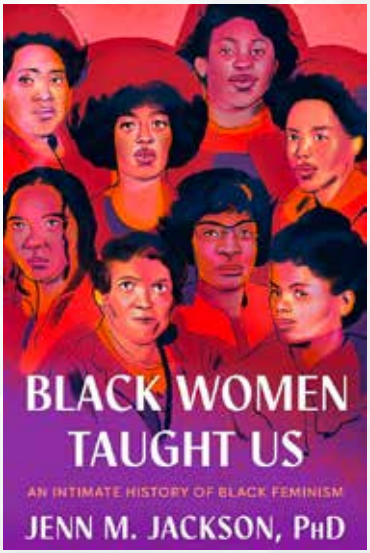
Jackson, Jenn M.
Black Women Taught Us: An Intimate History of Black Feminism
Random House Inc., 2024
An homage to unsung women who've shaped both historic and modern liberation movements.

Jones, W. Dwayne and Galveston Historical Foundation, et al.
Galveston's Juneteenth Story: And Still We Rise
History Press, 2024
Previously untold narratives detail the history of the oldest commemoration of the end of slavery, also known as Emancipation Day.

Long, Michael G.
Bayard Rustin: A Legacy of Protest and Politics
NYU Press, 2023
More than 20 contributors draw a fascinating picture of the pacifist who became one of the primary architects of the Civil Rights Movement.
(e-book, audiobook available)

Melville, Doug
Invisible Generals: Rediscovering Black Legacy, and a Quest to Honor America's First Black Generals
Black Privilege Pub., 2023
The author documents the lives and struggles of his great-uncle, Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., and his father, Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., across several eras of American history.

Penningroth, Dylan C.
Before the Movement: The Hidden History of Black Civil Rights
Liveright Pub. Corp., 2023
New research demonstrates how African Americans strategically used and shaped the law to advance civil rights and social justice.



Jenn M. Jackson
Black Women Taught Us: An Intimate History of Black Feminism

Reid, Joy-Ann
Medgar and Myrlie: Medgar Evers and the Love Story That Awakened America
Mariner Books, 2024
An analysis of the extraordinary couple who worked hand-in-hand to fight segregation and secure basic human rights for Black Americans.
(e-book, audio available)

Rothman, Joshua D.
The Ledger and the Chain: How Domestic Slave Traders Shaped America
Basic Books, 2023
Examines the history of the North Atlantic slave trade and its impact on U.S. economic growth.

Yeebo, Yepoka
Anansi's Gold: The Man Who Looted the West, Outfoxed Washington, and Swindled the World
Bloomsbury Pub., USA, 2023
Highlights the story of John Ackah Blay-Miezah, a Ghanaian diplomat who blazed a trail of white-collar crime in the U.S. during the 1970's.

INSPIRATIONAL, RELIGION & SELF-HELP

Bird, Stephanie Rose
African American Magick: A Modern Grimoire for the Natural Home
Weiser, 2023
Author explains how you can enhance holistic health by practicing ancient rituals and methods based on the four seasons.

Breedlove, Gina
Vibration of Grace: Sound Healing Rituals for Liberation
Sounds True, 2023
Highlights various forms of mindfulness and self-care that can positively transform the individual and broader society.
(e-book, audio available)

Non-Fiction (con't)

Brown, Tabitha
I Did a New Thing: 30 Days to Living Free
William Morrow & Co., 2024
Highlights personal stories that challenge readers to try something new every day for at least one month.

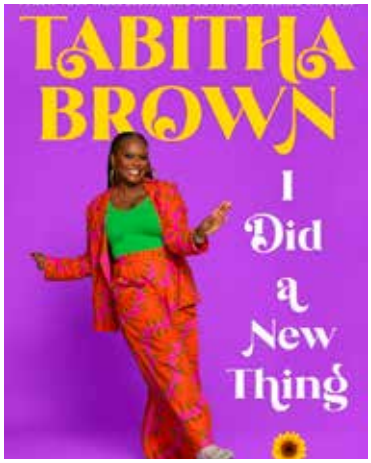
Caraballo, Jor-El
Self-Care for Black Men: 100 Ways to Heal and Liberate
Adams Media Corp., 2023
Practical advice to help men navigate daily challenges, find peace and tend to their mental health.
(e-book, audio available)

Irwyn L. Ince Jr., and Christina Edmondson
Hope Ain't a Hustle: Preserving by Faith in a Weary World
IVP, 2024
Hope is not fiction or fantasy, but a tool to navigate the boldness of hope in today's difficult times.

Nittle, Nadra
bell hooks' Spiritual Vision: Buddhist, Christian, and Feminist
Fortress Press, 2023
An introspective look at the famed scholar and author who wove her spiritual practices and political ideologies into her work.
(e-book available)

Pressley-Sanon, Toni
Lifting as They Climb: Black Women Buddhists and Collective Liberation
Shambhala Publications, 2024
An exploration of six women who have embraced and adapted Buddhist principles to address the challenges of social injustice, sexual violence and gender bias.
(e-book available)

Proctor-Reeder, Diane, Joyce Dinkins and Matthew Parker
Brotherhood: 40 Success Stories and Faith Principles for Black Men in Community
Our Daily Bread Publishing, 2023
Hopeful devotional messages provide inspiration and insight to lead men to pursue and develop their God-given talents.



Tabitha Brown
I Did a New Thing: 30 Days to Living Free

Steele, Janee M., and Charmeka S. Newton
Black Lives Are Beautiful: 50 Tools to Heal from Racial Trauma and Promote Positive Racial Identity
Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2023
Provides constructive self-help solutions for African Americans to address and counter the negative effects of racialized trauma.

Toussaint, Alex
Activate Your Greatness
Henry Holt & Company, 2023
Includes motivational wisdom and methods to help readers find greater life purpose.

Walrond, Karen
Radiant Rebellion: Reclaim Aging, Practice Joy, and Raise a Little Hell
Broadleaf Books, 2023
The author discusses how to remove the fear and negative thoughts that may emerge as we grow older.
(e-book, audio available)

POLITICAL, SOCIAL SCIENCES & EDUCATION

Bereal, Adriant Khadafhi
The Black Yearbook
4 Color Books, 2024
Features a wide range of photographs and interviews that reflect the diverse experiences of African American students in higher education.





Boykin, Keith
Why Does Everything Have to Be About Race?: 25 Arguments that Won't Go Away
Bold Type Books, 2024
Various misperceptions about race and racism in American society are debunked.

Cadet, Akilah
White Supremacy Is All Around: Notes from a Black Disabled Woman in a White World
Hatchette Go, 2024
Founder and CEO provides a worldview of systemic racism based on her experiences.

Cane, Clay
The Grift: The Downward Spiral of Black Republicans from the Party of Lincoln to the Cult of Trump
Sourcebooks Inc., 2024
Asks and answers the question, "How did the nation go from Frederick Douglas to Clarence Thomas?"
(e-book, audio available)

Davis, Angela Y.
Abolition: Politics, Practices, Promises
Haymarket Books, 2024
Famed activist presents a broad history of abolitionist exercises and struggles in the U.S. through a series of essays and other writings.

Dibinga, Omekongo
Lies About Black People: How to Combat Racist Stereotypes and Why It Matters
Prometheus Books, 2023
Author encourages readers to identify and challenge harmful racist biases towards African Americans.
(e-book available)

Ealey, Maya
The Anti-Racist Vocab Guide: An Illustrated Introduction to Dismantling Anti-Blackness
Chronicle Books LLC, 2024
An illustrated glossary of historic and contemporary terms of race and racism in the U.S.

Elder, Larry and Candace Owens
As Goes California: My Mission to Rescue the Golden State and Save the Nation
Bombardler Books, 2023
A political commentator argues that democratic policies have systematically failed the State of California and the U.S. at large and proposes a new leadership direction.
(e-book available)

Fumudoh, Ziwe
Black Friend: Essays
Abrams Image, 2023
Combining pop-culture commentary and personal stories, the author provides a compelling introspective account of her journey to explore and understand her racial and sexual identity.
(e-book available)

Gasman, Marybeth and Levon T. Esters
HBCU: The Power of Historically Black Colleges and Universities
John Hopkins University Press, 2024
Highlights the contributions and impact of these institutions that continue to shape Black culture and leadership.
(e-book available)

Gilliam, Fatimah
Race Rules: What Your Black Friend Won't Tell You
Berrett-Kohler Press, 2024
Author addresses and challenges virtue signaling and other performative antiracist measures.

Harris, Jasmine L.
Black Woman, Ivory Tower: Revealing the Lies of White Supremacy in American Education
Broadleaf Books, 2024
Provides a compelling examination of racism in the education system and the impact on Black women.

Hooker, Juliet
Black Grief/White Grievance: The Politics of Loss
Princeton University Press, 2023
Presents the viewpoint of the two dominant forces shaping the American political divide.
(e-book, audio available)

Jabali, Malaika
It's Not You, It's Capitalism: Why It's Time to Break Up and How to Move on
Algonquin Books, 2023
A compelling, humorous and scathing critique of capitalism that proposes an alternate socialist-based worldview.
(e-book, audio available)

Jenkins, Toby S., Walter Kimbrough and James A. Banks
The Hip-Hop Mindset: Success Strategies for Educators and Other Professionals
Teachers College Press, 2023
Explores how the genre grew to become a cultural force in African American life and continues to evolve as a mindset for both personal growth and professional excellence.

Non-Fiction (con't)

Norris, Michele
Our Hidden Conversations: What Americans Really Think About Race and Identity
Simon& Schuster, 2024
A comprehensive and honest narrative based on individual stories and anecdotes provides an insight into the beliefs held by many.
(e-book, audio available)



Plant, Deborah G.
Of Greed and Glory: In Pursuit of Freedom for All
Amistad Press, 2024
Focuses on various examples of how slavery continues in America today and defines a collective course toward personal sovereignty for all.
(e-book, audio available)

Rascoe, Ayesha
HBCU Made: A Celebration of the Black College Experience
Algonquin Books, 2024
Presents personal stories of famous alumni, revealing how these institutions positively shaped African American lifestyles and values.
(e-book, audio available)

Reed, Steven L.
First, Best Lessons in Leadership and Legacy from Today's Civil Rights Movement
Avery Publishing Group, 2023
Memoir and historical critique of the modern Civil Rights Movement from the first elected Black mayor of Montgomery, Alabama.

Smith, Christen A. and Lorraine Leu
Black Feminist Constellations: Dialogue and Translation Across the Americas
University of Texas Press, 2023
Provides a comprehensive narrative of struggles shared by women worldwide, re-imagining the meaning of liberation.

Smith, Tracy K.
To Free the Captives: A Plea for the American Soul
Alfred A. Knopf, 2023
A compelling historic and personal narrative that defines how slavery has shaped and continues to impact African American life.
(e-book, audio available)

Spiering, Charlie
Amateur Hour: Kamala Harris in the White House
Threshold Editions, 2024
Critical examination of the professional and political journey that led to becoming the Vice President of the United States.
(e-book, audio available)

Willis, Raquel
The Risk It Takes to Bloom: On Life and Liberation
St. Martin's Press, 2023
Provides a biographical account of the search for identity and journey towards political activism.
(e-book available)

Woodson, Kevin
The Black Ceiling: How Race Still Matters in the Elite Workplace
University of Chicago Press, 2023
Illustrates the need for businesses to address the social alienation, stigma and anxiety faced by African American professionals.

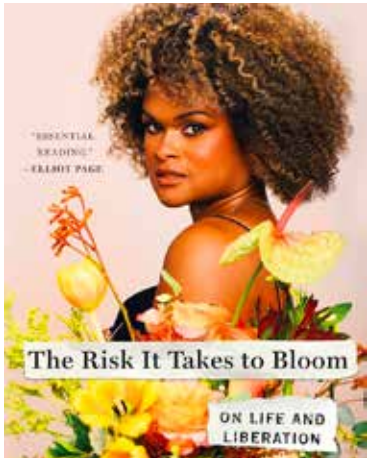
X, Malcolm
Quotations of Malcolm X
Applewood Books, 2023
A compilation of nearly 100 quotes from the iconic human rights activist.



SPORTS & RECREATION

Babb, Valerie
The Book of James: The Power, Politics, and Passion of Lebron
Public Affairs, 2023
A thought-provoking examination of how race has shaped the public perception of the sports icon and activist.

Eisenberg, John
Rocket Men: The Black Quarterbacks Who Revolutionized Pro Football
Basic Books, 2023
A definitive history of the evolution of Black quarterbacks in the NFL, from early pioneers to today's gridiron stars.



Raquel Willis
The Risk It Takes to Bloom: On Life and Liberation

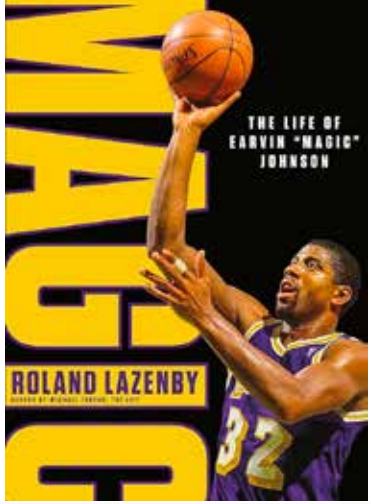
Evans, Martinus
Slow AF Run Club: The Ultimate Guide for Anyone Who Wants to Run
Avery Publishing Group, 2023
An inclusive and practical handbook with the tools and encouragement needed to begin running, even if you think you can't.
(e-book, audio available)

Gervin, George and Scoop Jackson
Ice: Why I Was Born to Score
Triumph Books, 2023
Basketball legend and NBA Hall-of-Famer provides an entertaining and heartfelt account of his life and career.

Lazenby, Roland
Magic: The Life of Earvin "Magic" Johnson
Celadon Books, 2023
A comprehensive biography of the beloved sports legend and entrepreneur.
(e-book, audio available)

Lee, Philip and Larry Lester
Black Stats Matter: Integrating Negro League Numbers into Major League Records
McFarland Publishing, 2023
A revisionist racial history of Major League Baseball, highlighting record achievements first accomplished by Negro League superstars.

Morgan, David Lee, Jr.
Breaking Through the Lines: The Marion Motley Story
Press Box Books, 2023
A compelling story of one of the first African American athletes who reintegrated pro football in 1946.



Roland Lazenby
Magic: The Life of Earvin "Magic" Johnson

Paul, Rich, Jesse Washington and LeBron James
Lucky Me: A Memoir of Changing the Odds
Roc Lit 101, 2023
Motivational story of a young man's chance encounter with a future sports legend that catapults him into the multibillion-dollar sports industry.
(e-book, audio available)

Semenya, Caster
The Race to Be Myself
W. W. Norton & Co. Inc., 2023
Trailblazing athlete discusses her life and the intersection of gender and sports; revealing the negative consequences she faced personally and professionally.
(e-book available)

Taylor, Jean-Jacques
Coach Prime: Deion Sanders and the Making of Men
Mariner Books, 2023
An account of one of the NFL's most iconic players and his drive to create champions on and off the field.

Youth Books



THEMED TITLES

Adeyemi, Tomi
Children of Anguish and Anarchy (Legends of the Orisha, Book 3)
Henry Holt & Co, 2024
Zelie returns to fight for the freedom of herself and the peopleof Orisha in a foreign land.
(e-book, audio available)

Anders, Charlie Jane
Promises Stronger Than Darkness (Unstoppable, Book 3)
Tor Teen, 2023
Teen space princess Elza and her friends must fight evil forces to save the world.
(e-book, audio available)

Anthony, Hotep
Mask of the Orisha
Black Sands Entertainment, 2023
Three teens face challenges when they join a military group that has seized power after the disappearance of the peace loving Orishas.

Epps, Omar
Nubia: The Reckoning
Delacorte Press, 2023
Two teens must harness their powers to face a familiar enemy and a powerful force that threatens the world.
(e-book, audio available)

Gibbs, Shawneé and Shawnelle Gibbs
Ghost Roast
HarperCollins, 2024
Chelsea tries to distance herself from her father's profession in order to fit in at her new school.
(e-book available)



Michael Datcher
Harlem at Four

Hendrix, Isi
Adia Kelbara and the Circle of Shamans
Balzer + Bray, 2023
A twelve-year-old begins a quest of self-discovery in the hopes of understanding her mysterious powers.
(e-book, audio available)

Shawl, Nisi
Speculation
Tu Books, 2023
A pair of magical glasses reveals the past and a family's secret.
(e-book available)

Thomas, Angie
Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Manifestor Prophecy
Blazer + Bray, 2023
A tween girl discovers she has a magical gift as she tries to save her dad.
(e-book, audio available)

PICTURE AND BOARD BOOKS

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi
Mama's Sleeping Scarf
HarperCollins, 2023
A beloved mother's scarf accompanies a child on many adventures with her family.
(e-book, audio available)

Barnes, Derrick
Santa's Gotta Go!
Nancy Paulsen Books, 2023
Santa soon wears out his welcome as a guest when his sleigh conks out at the Macks' house.
(e-book, audio available)

Bingham, Winsome
The Walk
Harry N. Abrams, 2023
A little girl accompanies her grandma on a walk to the polling station and learns the significance of voting.
(e-book, audio available)

Brantley-Newman, Vanessa
Nesting Dolls
Crown Books for Young Readers, 2023
Feeling alienated, Anyiaka learns to accept herself and the unique beauty of her family through her grandma's artwork.
(e-book available)

Cameron-Gordon, Maya
Mermaid Princesses: A Sister's Tale
HarperCollins, 2023
A colorful underwater tale featuring mermaids and princess sisters.
(e-book available)

Datcher, Michael
Harlem at Four
Random House Studio, 2023
When a young girl and her father go on a museum adventure, they go back in time to 1904 to explore their bustling neighborhood.
(e-book available)

Youth Books (con't)

Devine, Cara
The Brilliant Ms. Bangle
Feiwel & Friends, 2023
A new school librarian finds creative ways to engage with the students.

Furukawa, Dominique
Black Girls: A Celebration of You!
HarperCollins, 2023
A tribute to the spectrum of all types of girls.

Giddens, Rhiannon
We Could Fly
Candlewick, 2023
A mother encourages her daughter to take flight and explore the world just as her ancestors did.
(e-book available)

Gorman, Amanda
Something, Someday
Viking Children's Books, 2023
A small boy cleans up his neighborhood by planting a garden.
(e-book, audio available)

Grant, Shauntay
Snowy Mittens: A Winter Adventure
Abrams Appleseed, 2023
You can feel the cold and the fun in this depiction of winter, family and love.
(e-book available)



Omar Epps
Nubia: The Reckoning

Grant, Shauntay
When I Wrap My Hair
Quill Tree Books, 2024
A child feels her deep roots and lineage around her when she wraps her hair.

Gray, Gary R.
I'm From
HarperCollins, 2023
A young boy navigates his everyday experiences that help him understand that he is loved.

Hammond, Tiffany
A Day with No Words
Wheat Penny Press, 2023
An autistic child demonstrates how he communicates without saying a word.
(e-book, audio available)

Johnson, Kevin
Cape
Roaring Brook Press, 2023
A young boy overcomes fear and pain in this story about loss, love, and a magic cape.

Marley, Bob and Cedelia Marley
Is This Love
Chronicle Books, 2023
A story adaptation of one of the world's most beloved songs.
(e-book, audio available)

Millner, Denene
Miles Morales Spider-Man: Through a Hero's Eyes
Marvel Press, 2023
Miles learns about himself when he meets a local artist.
(e-book available)

Noel, Melvina
Mama's Library Summers
Cameron Kids, 2024
A mother takes her children to the library each summer so that they can learn more about the struggles and triumphs in Black history.

Pinkney, Andrea
Hey, Baby Girl!
Cartwheel Books, 2023
A child is celebrated with love and affirmation and shown that she can do anything.

Rajan, Rekha S.
This Is Music: Voice
Penguin Random House, 2023
Explore musical voices worldwide, from choirs to yodelers, and perhaps, find your own in the process.
(e-book, audio available)

Taylor, Stephanie
I'm Going to Be a Princess
Nosy Crow Inc., 2023
A loving tribute to some remarkable women in history and a beautiful mother-daughter relationship.

Wallace, Gwendolyn
The Light She Feels Inside
Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2023
Maya creates a brighter world by embracing her feelings through the lens of strong Black women in history as she works towards positive change.
(e-book available)

JUVENILE FICTION

Clayton, Dhonielle
The Memory Thieves (Conjureverse, Book 2)
Henry Holt and Co. (BRY), 2023
In this sequel to *The Marvellers*, Ella has made friends but continues to struggle to find her place at Global Magic School.

Giles, Chrystal
Not an Easy Win
Random House Books for Young Readers, 2023
A troubled boy finds acceptance and purpose at a community center where he learns to play chess.

Hendrix, Isi
Adia Kelbara and the Circle of Shamans
Balzer + Bray, 2023
A twelve-year-old begins a quest of self-discovery in the hopes of understanding her mysterious powers.
(e-book, audio available)

Hermon, Daka
Nightmare King
Scholastic Press, 2023
Since Shane's accident, every time he falls asleep he's drawn into the dark world of the Nightmare King.
(e-book available)

Rhodes, Jewell Parker
Treasure Island: Runaway Gold
Quill Tree Books, 2023
A reimagining of the classic novel set in modern-day Manhattan.
(e-book, audio available)

Sanders, DaVaun
Keynan Masters and the Peerless Magic Crew
Inkyard Press, 2023
A young poet discovers the enchanting mysteries within the verses of his own poetry.
(e-book, audio available)

Shawl, Nisi
Speculation
Tu Books, 2023
A pair of magical glasses reveals the past and a family's secret.
(e-book available)

Smart, Ciannon
Rayleigh Mann in the Company of Monsters
HarperCollins, 2023
A mischievous young man learns that his father is the Bogey Mann, the leader of the monsters in Below-London.
(e-book available)

Thomas, Angie
Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Manifestor Prophecy
Blazer + Bray, 2023
A tween girl discovers she has a magical gift as she tries to save her dad.
(e-book, audio available)

Woodson, Jacqueline
Remember Us
Nancy Paulsen Books, 2023
Basketball-loving Sage tries to figure out where she fits amid life threatening changes in her neighborhood.
(e-book, audio available)

JUVENILE GRAPHIC NOVELS

Barnes, Derrick
Like Lava in My Veins
Nancy Paulsen Books, 2023
An understanding teacher helps a young boy learn how to handle his Superpowers at his new school.
(e-book, audio available)

Brooks, Nick
Too Many Interesting Things are Happening to Ethan Fairmont
Union Square Kids, 2023
In this sequel, out of this world sci-fi meets themes of friendship, community, and social justice.
(e-book available)

Doucet, Rashad
Art Club
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2024
A young artist is determined to save his after-school art program from closing.
(e-book available)



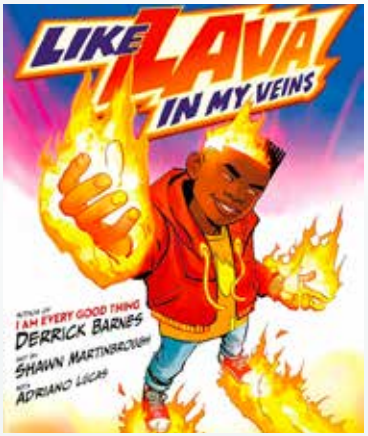
Daka Hermon
Nightmare King

Youth Books (con't)

Hunter, H.D.
Futureland: The Nightmare Hour
Penguin Random House, 2023
Cam and his friends try to discover who is sabotaging a theme park before it's too late.

Miller, Sharee
Curlfriends: New in Town
Little, Brown Ink, 2023
Charlie transforms herself in order to make a good impression at her new school, but finds out that being herself is enough.
(e-book available)

Reynolds, Jason
Stuntboy, In-Between Time
Atheneum Books, 2023
Portico's super hero powers prove to be futile when he can't keep his family from falling apart.
(e-book, audio available)



Derrick Barnes
Like Lava in My Veins

JUVENILE NON-FICTION

Duncan, Alice Faye
Traveling Shoes: The Story of Willye White, US Olympian and Long Jump Champion
Calkins Creek, 2023
The story of Willye B. White and how she became an Olympic athlete.

Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux
Small Shoes, Great Strides: How Three Brave Girls Opened Doors to School Equality
Carolrhoda Books, 2023
A story of three young girls who integrated a New Orleans elementary school in 1960.
(e-book, audio available)

Reynolds, Jason
There Was a Party for Langston
Atheneum Books, 2023
A depiction of the happy celebration in honor of poet Langston Hughes.
(e-book, audio available)

Taylor, Sonya Renee
The Book of Radical Answers: Real Questions from Real Kids Just Like You
Dial Books for Young Readers, 2023
This book offers insights for young readers on health, sex, gender, race, and justice.
(ebook, audio available)

Wilson, Jamia
A Year of Black Joy: 52 Black Voices Share Their Life Passions
Magic Cat, 2023
This collection celebrates the life passions and contributions of people from around the world.
(e-book available)

JUVENILE BIOGRAPHIES

Abdul-Qaadir, Bilqis
Lion on the Inside: How One Girl Changed Basketball
Kids Can Press, 2023
A Muslim American girl's love of basketball brings her to some difficult decisions.
(e-book available)

Armand, Glenda
Ira's Shakespeare Dream
Lee & Low Books, 2024
The story of a Black Shakespearean actor during the 1800s.

Jones, Jennifer
On the Line: My Story of Becoming the First African American Rockette
HarperCollins, 2023
An autobiographical story is about an activist known for becoming an award-winning dancer.

Lee, Chiquita Mullins and Carmella Van Vleet
You Gotta Meet Mr. Pierce! The Storied Life of Folk Artist Elijah Pierce
Random House, 2023
Barber Elijah Pierce was a noted woodcarver, and his shop became his studio.
(e-book available)

Moore, Saxton, Jr.
Born Driven: Wendell Scott
Oni Press, 2023
Based on the true story of the first NASCAR champion to break the color line.

TEEN NON-FICTION

Dill, Khodi
Stay Up: Racism, Resistance, and Reclaiming Black Freedom
Annick Press, 2023
This book helps young readers to better understand, examine, and take-action against racism and its influence.

Thakur, Sophia
Wearing My Mother's Heart
Penguin Random House, 2023
A series of poems evoking the experiences of girls and their growth into womanhood.
(e-book, audio available)

TEEN FICTION

Adeyemi, Tomi
Children of Anguish and Anarchy (Legends of the Orisha, Book 3)
Henry Holt & Co, 2024
Zelie finds herself trafficked across foreign seas to face her final enemy and save her people.

Anders, Charlie Jane
Promises Stronger Than Darkness (Unstoppable, Book 3)
Tor Teen, 2023
Three teens come together for a last-ditch effort to save the galaxy.
(e-book, audio available)

Avila, Lorraine
The Making of Yolanda La Bruja
Levine Querido, 2023
A young woman who experiences dangerous visions about a racist new student relies on the powers of her ancestors for protection.
(e-book, audio available)

Baptiste, Bethany
The Poisons We Drink
Sourcebooks Fire, 2024
A teen brewer of illicit love potions seeks revenge after her mother's murder.
(e-book available)

Barrow, Rebecca
And Don't Look Back
Margaret K. McElderry Book, 2023
A teen girl must stand up to the ghosts of her mother's past.
(e-book, audio available)

Benton-Walker, Terry J.
Blood Debts (Blood Debts, Book 1)
Tor Teen, 2023
Twins in New Orleans work together to fight for their family, their magic, and each other.
(e-book, audio available)

Burton, Gabi
Sing Me to Sleep
Bloomsbury YA, 2023
The story of a hidden siren navigating love, blackmail, and a kingdom full of secrets.

Cole, Kamilah
So Let Them Burn
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2024
Faron faces a harrowing choice when her sister forms a forbidden bond with an enemy dragon.
(e-book, audio available)

Coles, Jay
Outer Banks: Dead Break
Amulet Books, 2023
Based on the popular *Netflix* show, a pulse-pounding mystery told from the alternating perspectives of Kiara and Pope.
(e-book, audio available)

Davenport, Nia
Out of Body
Balzar + Bray, 2024
Betrayed by her best friend, Megan must fight to get her life back.

Epps, Omar
Nubia: The Reckoning
Delacorte Press, 2023
Teenage family members fight a war amongst themselves, with the fate of the world at stake.

Forna, Namina
The Eternal Ones (Deathless, Book 3)
Delacourt Press, 2024
Deka faces life-altering choices amidst an empire that is falling apart.

Johnson, Kim
Invisible Son
Random House, 2023
Seventeen-year-old Andre Jackson returns home from a juvenile detention center to clear his name of a crime he did not commit.

Youth Books (con't)

Lewis, Britney S.
The Dark Place
Disney Hyperion, 2023
Hylee disappears to a sinister place, and reappears with questions that need answers and demand action.
(e-book available)

Lewis, Kayvion
Thieves' Gambit
Nancy Paulsen Books, 2023
A teenage master thief enters a dangerous competition to save her mother's life.
(e-book, audio available)

McBride, Amber
Gone Wolf
Feiwel & Friends, 2023
In 2111, a girl and her dog dream of freedom as they live their lives confined to a small room.
(audio available)

McKinney, L.L.
Escaping Mr. Rochester
HarperTeen, 2024
In a retelling of *Jane Eyre*, two young women form a bond while escaping Mr. Rochester's alarming schemes.

Meade, Lily
The Shadow Sister
Sourcebooks Fire, 2023
A teenager attempts to unearth the mysterious circumstances behind her sister's disappearance and sudden return.
(e-book, audio available)



Lily Meade
The Shadow Sister

Miller, Keith F.
Pritty
HarperCollins, 2023
Two boys get caught in a sinister plot that threatens their relationship and everything they love.

Moskowitz, Circe
All These Sunken Souls: A Black Horror Anthology
Amberjack Publishing, 2023
A collection of thoughtfully terrifying creations from both celebrated authors and lively new writers.
(e-book available)

Paige, Danielle
Wish of the Wicked
Bloomsbury USA, 2023
Sixteen-year-old Farrow survives a proclamation of death to all Ententes and plans retaliation.

Raughley, Sarah
Song of Wrath (Bones of Ruin Trilogy, Book 2)
Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2023
Iris is an immortal who is desperately grasping an opportunity to change, but with terrifying consequences.

Sambury, Liselle
Tender Beasts
Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2024
Sunny tries to track down a murderer and prove her brother's innocence.

Shea, Jamison
I Feed Her to the Beast and the Beast Is Me
Henry Holt & Co 2023
An elite ballet dancer strikes a deal with a primordial power to become a prima ballerina.

Springer, Lisa
There's No Way I'd Die First
Delacorte Press, 2023
Noelle wants to throw the ultimate Halloween party, but the cheap clown she hires has a murderous streak.

Wellington, Joelle
Their Vicious Games
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2023
Adina enters a prestigious but deadly competition in an attempt to secure admission to an Ivy League college.
(e-book, audio available)

TEEN BIOGRAPHIES

Keith, Tony, Jr.
How the Boogeyman Became a Poet
HarperCollins, 2024
A young poet confronts issues with identity and self-discovery through his writing.
(e-book, audio available)

TEEN GRAPHIC NOVELS

Anthony, Hotep
Mask of the Orisha
Black Sands Entertainment, 2023
Three teens face challenges when they join a military group that has seized power after the disappearance of the peace loving Orishas.

Alsaqa, Jordan
Cooking with Monsters: The Beginner's Guide to Culinary Combat
IDW Publishing, 2023
Two young girls attend a school where they learn to fight monsters and prepare them as a tasty meal.
(e-book available)

Baitie, Elizabeth-Irene
Flying Up the Mountain
Norton Young Readers, 2023
Ato is on a journey to discover potential hidden gems at the bird sanctuary that he built with his now-deceased father.

Bullock, Joshua
Monarchs (Volumes 1-4)
Black Sands Entertainment, 2023
Ja'Khari and Pepper are dreaming of joining the greatest fighters in the entire universe.

Gibbs, Shawneé and Shawnelle Gibbs
Ghost Roast
HarperCollins, 2024
Chelsea tries to distance herself from her father's profession in order to fit in at her new school.
(e-book available)

Giles, Lamar
Static: Up All Night
DC Comics, 2023
After a tough breakup, Virgil navigates a night of super-villains, a music festival, and adventures with friends.
(e-book available)

Gobert, Rudy
Bash! Vol.1
Titan Nova, 2023
Rudy sets out to become the best BASH player by constantly improving his game, but danger lurks around the corner.

Ukazu, Ngozi
Bunt!: Striking Out on Financial Aid
First Second Books, 2024
Molly Bauer's college dreams depend on assembling a group of misfit artists to play in a high-stakes softball game.

Walls, Jasmine
Brooms
Levine Querido, 2023
In 1930s Mississippi, Billie Mae and her best friend Loretta want to change the restrictive rules of using magic.
(e-book available)



Forthcoming Titles in 2024



Goldberg, Whoopi
Bits and Pieces: My Mother, My Brother, and Me
Blackstone Publishing, 2024

Haddish, Tiffany
I Curse with Joy
Diversion Books, 2024





Monroe, Mary
Double Lives
Dafina Books, 2024

Swinson, Kiki
Where There's Smoke
Dafina Books, 2024

Tyree, Omar
Control
Dafina Books, 2024



2024 Calendar

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

The Mission



The Detroit Public Library enlightens and empowers people by providing diverse and dynamic pathways to literacy and learning.

Detroit Public Library Locations

BOWEN BRANCH LIBRARY
3648 W. Vernor
Detroit, MI 48216
313.481.1540



CAMPBELL BRANCH LIBRARY
8733 W. Vernor
Detroit, MI 48209
313.481.1550



CHANDLER PARK BRANCH LIBRARY
12800 Harper
Detroit, MI 48213
313.481.1560



CHANEY BRANCH LIBRARY
16101 Grand River
Detroit, MI 48227
313.481.1570



CHASE BRANCH LIBRARY
17731 W. Seven Mile
Detroit, MI 48235
313.481.1580



CONELY BRANCH LIBRARY
4600 Martin
Detroit, MI 48210
313.481.1590



DOUGLASS BRANCH FOR SPECIALIZED SERVICES
3666 Grand River
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Detroit, MI 48207
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12929 W. McNichols
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12350 E. Outer Drive
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KNAPP BRANCH LIBRARY
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Detroit, MI 48212
313.481.1770



LINCOLN BRANCH LIBRARY
1221 E. Seven Mile
Detroit, MI 48203
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14100 Kercheval
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313.481.1800



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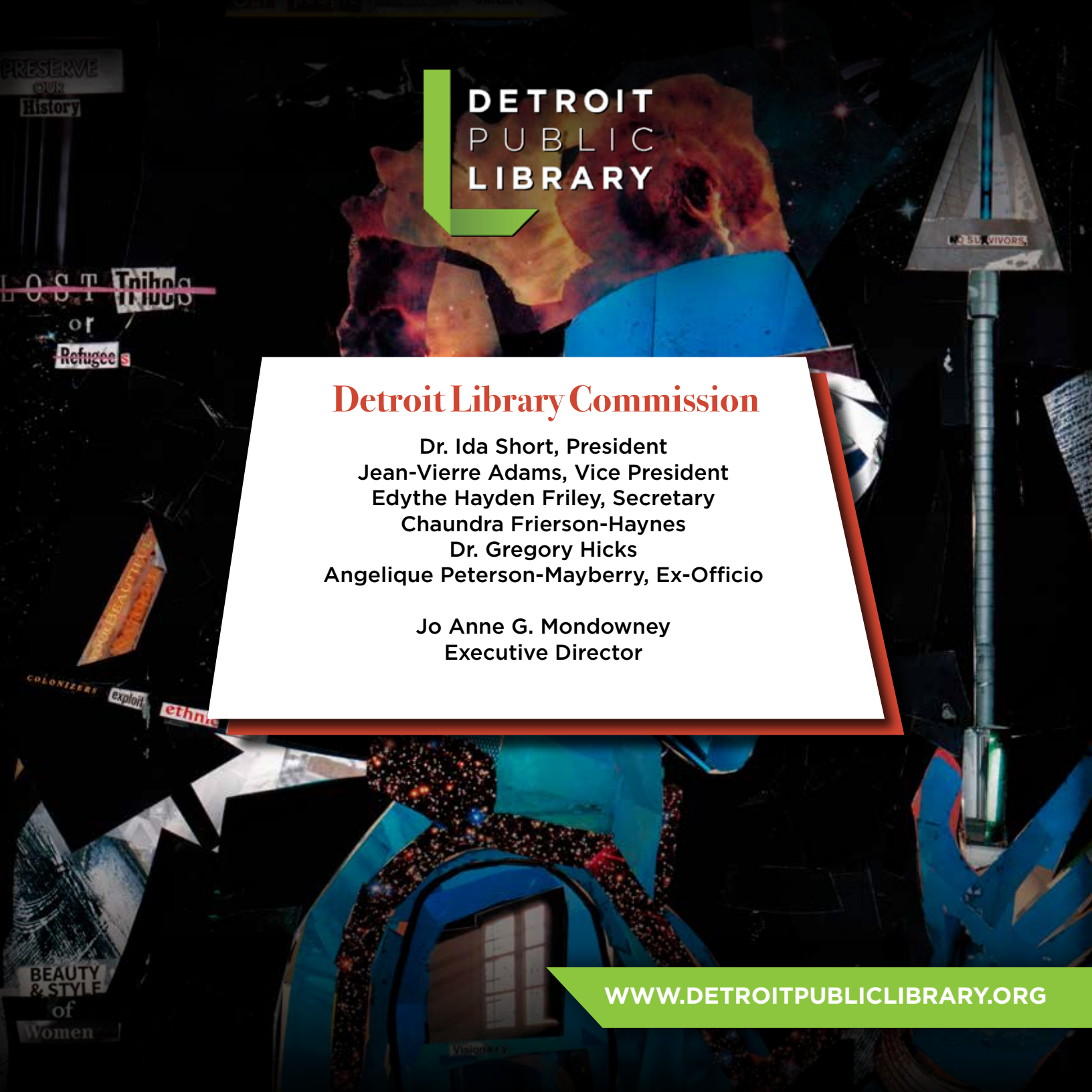


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313.481.1870





DETROIT PUBLIC LIBRARY

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