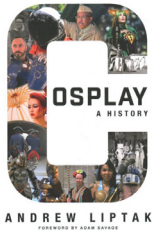


Black Theater, City Life by Macelle Mahala

Black Theater, City Life examines how contemporary African American theater institutions reflect and shape the histories and cultural realities of their cities, with a focus on the arts ecologies in four American cities: Cleveland, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and Atlanta.



Cosplay: A History: The Builders, Fans, and Makers Who Bring Your Favorite Stories to Life by Andrew Liptak

In recent years, cosplay—the practice of dressing up in costume as a character—has exploded, becoming a mainstream cultural phenomenon. But what are the circumstances that made its rise possible?

Andrew Liptak—a member of the legendary 501st Legion, an international fan-based organization dedicated to the dark side of Star Wars—dives into the origins and culture of cosplay to answer this question. *Cosplay: A History* looks at the practice's ever-growing fandom and conventions, its roots in 15th-century costuming, the relationship between franchises and the cosplayers they inspire, and the technology that brings even the most intricate details in these costumes to life.

Do Better: Spiritual Activism for Fighting and Healing from White Supremacy by Rachel Ricketts

Racial justice educator and spiritual activist Ricketts offers tools for healing and liberation that anyone can use, with questions directed to individuals based on their identities and their comfort with social justice.

Girl, Woman, Other by Bernardine Evaristo

The twelve central characters of this multi-voiced novel lead vastly different lives: Amma is a newly acclaimed playwright whose work often explores her black lesbian identity; her old friend Shirley is a teacher, jaded after decades of work in London's funding-deprived schools; Carole, one of Shirley's former students, works hard to earn a degree from Oxford and becomes an investment banker; Carole's mother Bummi works as a cleaner and worries about her daughter's lack of rootedness despite her obvious achievements. From a nonbinary social media influencer to a 93-year-old woman living on a farm in Northern England, these unforgettable characters also intersect in shared aspects of their identities, from age to race to sexuality to class. Sparklingly witty and filled with emotion, centering voices we often see othered, and written in an innovative and fast-moving form that borrows from poetry, *Girl, Woman, Other* is a polyphonic and richly textured social novel that reminds us

Suggested Reading for Adults

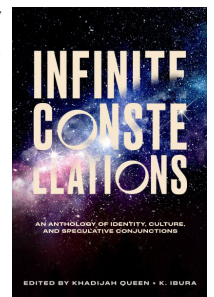
of everything that connects us to our neighbors, even in times when we are encouraged to be split apart.

In Search of the Magic Theater by Karla Huebner

Why, the rather staid young cellist Sarah wonders, should her aunt rent their spare room to the perhaps unstable Kari Zilke? Like the nephew in Hermann Hesse's *Steppenwolf*, Sarah finds herself taking an unexpected interest in the lodger, but she is unable to stop at providing a mere introduction to Kari's narrative of mid-life crisis and self-discovery, and develops her own more troubled tale of personal angst and growth, entwined with the account Kari herself purportedly left behind. Generational tensions, artistic collaborations, and even a romance steeped in Greek myth follow as Kari and Sarah pursue their very different creative paths in theater and music. And while Kari seems to blossom post-divorce, Sarah must grapple with the question of what the role of mothers, fathers, aunts, mentors, and male collaborators should be in her life as a young musician.

Infinite Constellations: An Anthology of Identity, Culture, and Speculative Conjunctions by Khadijah Queen and K. Ibura (ed.)

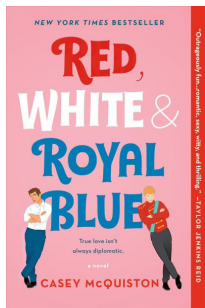
The 43 innovative fictions in *Infinite Constellations* showcase the voices and visions of 30 remarkable writers, both new and established, from the global majority: Native American/First Nation writers, South Asian writers, East Asian writers, Black American writers, Latinx writers, and Caribbean and Middle Eastern writers. These are visions both familiar and strange, but always rooted in the mystery of human relationships, the deep honoring of memory, and the rootedness to place and the centering of culture.



My Own Directions: a Black Man's Journey in the American Theatre by Sheldon Epps

A life in the theatre is often well described as a rollercoaster ride, with all the excitement and occasional anguish that come with the highs and lows. The author's journey in the American Theatre has been amplified even further by his experience as a Black man who has frequently been "one of the few", "the first" or even "the only." His satisfying and rewarding directing career has been full of rewards and opportunities as well as huge challenges and frustrations, along with the anger that has come from being "chased by race" for so many years. Much of the author's experience comes from two-decades of tenure as Artistic Director of Pasadena Playhouse, one of the oldest

and well-known theatres in America, and for a time early in his career, one of the whitest. This is the unique story of how the author came into leadership at Pasadena Playhouse after a successful career directing on Broadway, in London and at theatres all over the world. In intimate detail, it relates how the theatre was radically changed and reignited by his leadership, including his insistence on making diversity a priority both onstage and off. It is the very personal story of a person who wanted his race to be recognized, but never used as a limitation or a reason to be less than fully respected. In many ways, this memoir tells the story of what people of color in America must face repeatedly to make their lives matter.



Red White and Royal Blue
by Casey McQuiston

When his mother became President, Alex Claremont-Diaz was promptly cast as the American equivalent of a young royal. Handsome, charismatic, genius--his image is pure millennial-marketing gold for the White House. There's only one problem: Alex has a beef with an actual prince, Henry, across the pond. And when the tabloids get hold of a photo involving an Alex-Henry altercation, U.S./British relations take a turn for the worse. Heads of family, state, and other handlers devise a plan for damage control: staging a truce between the two rivals. What at first begins as a fake, Instagramable friendship grows deeper, and more dangerous, than either Alex or Henry could have imagined. Soon Alex finds himself hurtling into a secret romance with a surprisingly unstuffy Henry that could derail the campaign and upend two nations and begs the question: Can love save the world after all? Where do we find the courage, and the power, to be the people we are meant to be? And how can we learn to let our true colors shine through?

So You Want to Talk About Race? by Ijeoma Oluo

Oluo offers direct advice on how to have a conversation about race. She analyzes topics that may lead to contentious conversations, such as cultural appropriation, affirmative action, police brutality, the N-word, microaggressions, and the model minority myth. In doing so, Oluo provides background information on each topic and talking points to allow for having more constructive conversations. With a clever approach that uses anecdotes, facts, and a little humor, the author challenges all readers to assess their own beliefs and perceptions while clearly looking at polarizing issues.

South Central Noir by Gary Phillips (ed.)

Within these pages you'll find stories of those walking the straight and narrow--until something untoward happens. Maybe it's someone taking a step out of line, getting caught up in circumstances spiraling out of their control. Maybe they're planning the grift, the grab... whatever it is to finally put them over. Other times the steps they take are to get themselves or people they care about out from under. You'll find the offerings

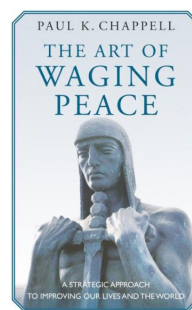
in these pages are a rich mix of tone--tales told of hope, survival, revenge, and triumph.

Symphony of Secrets by Brendan Slocumb

A gripping page-turner from the celebrated author of book club favorite *The Violin Conspiracy*: Music professor Bern Hendricks discovers a shocking secret about the most famous American composer of all time—his music may have been stolen from a Black Jazz Age prodigy named Josephine Reed. Determined to uncover the truth that a powerful organization wants to keep hidden, Bern will stop at nothing to right history's wrongs and give Josephine the recognition she deserves.

Tanqueray by Stephanie Johnson

In 2019, *Humans of New York* featured a photo of a woman in an outrageous fur coat and hat she made herself. She instantly captured the attention of millions. Her name is Stephanie Johnson, but she's better known to HONY followers as "Tanqueray," the indefatigable woman who was once one of the best-known burlesque dancers in New York City. Brandon Stanton chronicled her life in the longest series he had yet posted on HONY, but, now, Stephanie Johnson—a woman as fabulous, unbowed, and irresistible as the city she lives in—tells all in *Tanqueray*, a book filled with never-before-told stories, personal photos from her own collection, and glimpses of New York City back in the day when the name "Tanqueray" was on everyone's lips.



The Art of Waging Peace
by Paul K. Chappell

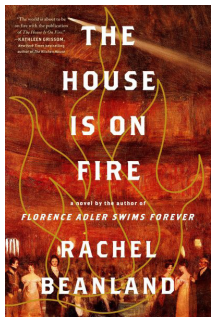
Over two thousand years ago, Sun Tzu wrote *The Art of War*. In today's struggle to stop war, terrorism, and other global problems, West Point graduate Paul K. Chappell offers new and practical solutions in his pioneering book, *The Art of Waging Peace*. By sharing his own personal struggles with childhood trauma, racism, and berserker rage, Chappell explores the anatomy of war and peace, giving strategies, tactics, and leadership principles to resolve inner and outer conflict. Chappell explains from a military perspective how Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. were strategic geniuses, more brilliant and innovative than any general in military history, courageous warriors who advanced a more effective method than waging war for providing national and global security. This pragmatic and instructive book shows how we can become active citizens with the skills and strength to defeat injustice and end all war.

The Gifts of Imperfection by Brene Brown

In a world where insults, criticisms, and fears are spread too generously alongside messages of unrealistic beauty, attainment, and expectation, she provides ten 'guideposts' that can help anyone establish a practice for a life of honest beauty--a perfectly imperfect life.

The House in the Cerulean Sea by T J Klune

A magical island. A dangerous task. A burning secret. Linus Baker leads a quiet, solitary life. At forty, he lives in a tiny house with a devious cat and his old records. As a Case Worker at the Department in Charge Of Magical Youth, he spends his days overseeing the well-being of children in government-sanctioned orphanages. When Linus is unexpectedly summoned by Extremely Upper Management he's given a curious and highly classified assignment: travel to Marsyas Island Orphanage, where six dangerous children reside: a gnome, a sprite, a wyvern, an unidentifiable green blob, a were-Pomeranian, and the Antichrist. Linus must set aside his fears and determine whether or not they're likely to bring about the end of days. But the children aren't the only secret the island keeps. Their caretaker is the charming and enigmatic Arthur Parnassus, who will do anything to keep his wards safe. As Arthur and Linus grow closer, long-held secrets are exposed, and Linus must make a choice: destroy a home or watch the world burn. An enchanting story, masterfully told, *The House in the Cerulean Sea* is about the profound experience of discovering an unlikely family in an unexpected place--and realizing that family is yours.



The House is on Fire by Rachel Beanland

Richmond, Virginia 1811. It's the height of the winter social season, the General Assembly is in session, and many of Virginia's gentleman planters, along with their wives and children, have made the long and arduous journey to the capital in hopes of whiling away the darkest days of the year. At the city's only theater, the Charleston-based Placide & Green Company puts on two plays

a night to meet the demand of a populace that's done looking for enlightenment at the front of a church. Based on the true story of Richmond's theater fire, *The House Is on Fire* offers proof that sometimes, in the midst of great tragedy, we are offered our most precious—and fleeting—chances at redemption.

The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet by Becky Chambers

When Rosemary Harper joins the crew of the *Wayfarer*, she isn't expecting much. The patched-up ship has seen better days, but it offers her everything she could possibly want: a spot to call home, a chance to explore the far-off corners of the galaxy and some distance from her past. And nothing could be further from what she's known than the crew of the *Wayfarer*.



The Performance by Claire Thomas

A novel about three women at turning points in their lives, and the one night that changes everything. One night, three women go to the theater to see a play. Wildfires are burning in the hills outside, but inside the theater it is time for the performance to take over. Margot is a successful, flinty professor on the cusp of retirement, distracted by her fraught

relationship with her adult son and her ailing husband. After a traumatic past, Ivy is now a philanthropist with a seemingly perfect life. Summer is a young drama student, an usher at the theater, and frantically worried for her girlfriend whose parents live in the fire zone. While the performance unfolds on stage, so does the compelling trajectory that will bring these three women together, changing them all. Deliciously intimate and yet emotionally wide-ranging, *The Performance* is a novel that both explores the inner lives of women as it underscores the power of art and memory to transform us.

The Red Book of Farewells by Pirkko Saisio

Pirkko Saisio's autofictional novel, in Mia Spangenberg's tender translation, is a mesmerizing account of radical politics and sexual awakening in a series of farewells—to her mother, to the idealism of youth, to friends and lovers, and finally to her grown daughter. The novel embeds readers in a delirious Finland, where art and communist politics are hopelessly intertwined, and where queer love, still a crime, thrives in underground bars. But then one morning in 2002, on a remote island off the coast of Finland, the narrator Pirkko Saisio informs her publisher that she's accidentally deleted her latest manuscript, *The Red Book of Farewells*. Playful and mysterious, *The Red Book of Farewells* is a work that stoically embraces the small revolutions of moving on.

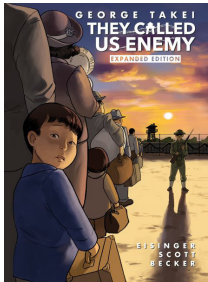
The Whalebone Theatre by Joanna Quinn

An utterly enchanting, immersive novel about an irrepressible young heroine who becomes an undercover agent during World War II—a sparkling debut, by turns heartwarming and heartbreaking. One blustery night in 1928, a whale washes up on the shores of the English Channel. By law, all whales belong to the King, but twelve-year-old Cristabel Seagrave has other plans. She and the rest of the household and their guests—her sister, Flossie (known affectionately as "The Veg"); her brother Digby, the long-awaited heir to Chilcombe manor; Maudie Kitkat, maidservant; Taras, a hot-tempered visiting artist—build a theatre within the whale's skeleton. Cristabel is an orphan, mostly ignored by her feckless step-parents and brisk governesses. But within the Whalebone Theatre, she is fully at home and in charge, and her imagination comes to life. As Cristabel grows into a headstrong young woman, chafing against expectations, World War II rears its head. She and Digby become British secret agents working undercover in Nazi-Occupied France on separate missions—a more dangerous kind of play-acting, it turns out, and one that threatens to tear the family apart. *The Whalebone Theatre* is a sweeping, transporting, completely irresistible novel, full of warmth and charm, humor and poignancy, passion and adventure—a story of love, bravery, lost innocence, and self-transformation.

The Wife of Willesten by Zadie Smith

In her stage-writing debut, celebrated novelist and essayist Zadie Smith brings to life a comedic and cutting twenty-first century translation of Geoffrey Chaucer's classic *The Wife of Bath*. *The Wife of Willesten* follows Alvita, a Jamaican-born

British woman in her mid-50s, as she tells her life story to a band of strangers in a small pub on the Kilburn High Road. Wearing fake gold chains, dressed in knock-off designer clothes, and speaking in a mixture of London slang and patois, Alvita recalls her five marriages in outrageous, bawdy detail, rewrites her mistakes as triumphs, and shares her beliefs on femininity, sexuality, and misogyny with anyone willing to listen. A thoughtful reimagining of an unforgettable narrative of female sexual power, written with singular verve and wit, *The Wife of Willesden* shows why Zadie Smith is one of the sharpest and most versatile writers working today.



***They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei**

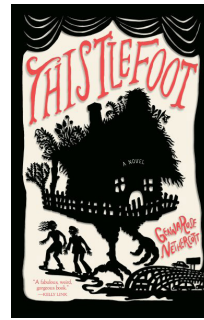
Takei had not yet started school when he, his parents, and his younger siblings were forced to leave their home and report to the Santa Anita Racetrack for "processing and removal" due to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066. The creators smoothly and cleverly embed the historical context within which Takei's

family's story takes place, allowing readers to simultaneously experience the daily humiliations that they suffered in the camps while providing readers with a broader understanding of the federal legislation, lawsuits, and actions which led to and maintained this injustice. The heroes who fought against this and provided support to and within the Japanese American community, such as Fred Korematsu, the 442nd Regiment, Herbert Nicholson, and the ACLU's Wayne Collins, are also highlighted, but the focus always remains on the many sacrifices that Takei's parents made to ensure the safety and survival of their family while shielding their children from knowing the depths of the hatred they faced and danger they were in.

***This Land is Our Land: An Immigrant's Manifesto* by Suketu Mehta**

There are few subjects in American life that prompt more discussion and controversy than immigration. But do we really understand it? In *This Land Is Our Land*, the renowned author Suketu Mehta attacks the issue head-on. Drawing on his own experience as an Indian-born teenager growing up in New York City and on years of reporting around the world, Mehta subjects the worldwide anti-immigrant backlash to withering scrutiny. As he explains, the West is being destroyed not by immigrants but by the fear of immigrants. Mehta juxtaposes the phony narratives of populist ideologues with the ordinary heroism of laborers, nannies, and others, from Dubai to Queens, and explains why more people are on the move today than ever before. As civil strife and climate change reshape large parts of the planet, it is little surprise that borders have become so porous. But Mehta also stresses the destructive legacies of colonialism and global inequality on large swaths of the world: When today's immigrants are asked, "Why are you here?" they can justly respond, "We are here because you were there." And now that they are here, as Mehta demonstrates, immigrants bring great benefits, enabling countries and communities

to flourish. Impassioned, rigorous, and richly stocked with memorable stories and characters, *This Land Is Our Land* is a timely and necessary intervention, and a literary polemic of the highest order.



***Thistlefoot* by GennaRose Nethercott**

The Yaga siblings--Bellatine, a young woodworker, and Isaac, a wayfaring street performer and con artist--have been estranged since childhood, separated both by resentment and by wide miles of American highway. But when they learn that they are to receive a mysterious inheritance, the siblings are reunited--only to discover that their bequest isn't land or

money, but something far stranger: a sentient house on chicken legs. Thistlefoot, as the house is called, has arrived from the Yagas' ancestral home in Russia--but not alone. A sinister figure known only as the Longshadow Man has tracked it to American shores, bearing with him violent secrets from the past: fiery memories that have hidden in Isaac and Bellatine's blood for generations. As the Yaga siblings embark with Thistlefoot on a final cross-country tour of their family's traveling theater show, the Longshadow Man follows in relentless pursuit, seeding destruction in his wake. Ultimately, time, magic, and legacy must collide--erupting in a powerful conflagration to determine who gets to remember the past and craft a new future.

***We Are Not Like Them* by Christine Pride**

Riley and Jen have been best friends since they were children. It never mattered to them that Riley is black and Jen is white, and as adults, they remain as close as sisters. Jen is married and pregnant, while Riley is a television journalist poised to become one of the first Black female anchors in Philadelphia. But when Jen's city police officer husband is involved in the shooting of an unarmed Black teenager, Jen's friendship with Riley is thrown into uncertainty. Covering this career-making story, Riley wrestles with the implications of this tragic incident for her Black community, her ambitions, and her relationship with her lifelong friend.



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