

The Jubilee Reader

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

Issue 2 – November/December 2022

Fiction

Absolute Power

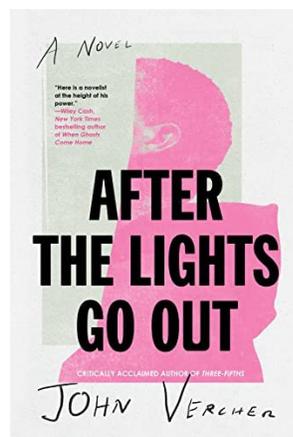
by Zari

A brother and sister fight for control of their family's weapons- and drug-trafficking business, a battle complicated by the reappearance of their father's heir apparent.

The Accidental Pinup

by Danielle Jackson

In this enemies-to-lovers romance, a boudoir photographer looking for her big break is forced to work with her rival on a body-positive lingerie campaign.



After the Lights Go Out

by John Vercher

A biracial MMA fighter with a debilitating brain injury struggles as he waits for a comeback fight after a year-long suspension.

Along the Shore

by Rochelle Alers

This final installment in Alers' *Book Club* series follows the lives of the members of the vacation book club as they contemplate where they've been and where they're going.

American Royalty

by Tracey Livesay

Sparks fly when philosophy professor and reluctant royal Prince Jameson falls for American rap sensation Danielle "Duchess" Nelson.

The Ballad of Perilous Graves

by Alex Jennings

In a New Orleans-based urban fantasy that's equal parts song and sorcery, a young man and his friends fight to save the soul of the city they love.

Bet On It

by Jodie Slaughter

In a light-hearted romance set against the backdrop of a local bingo night, two young people who aren't looking for love find it stamped across their cards.

Big Girl

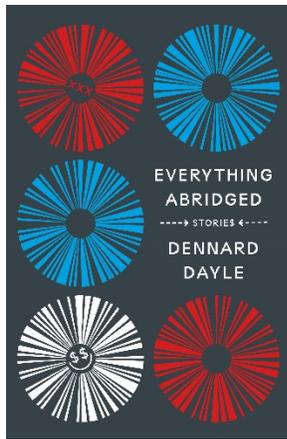
by Mecca Jamilah Sullivan

A coming-of-age story about a young girl in Harlem whose body is constantly being scrutinized and judged.

The Binding Room

by Nadine Matheson

A detective investigates the murder of a pastor in his own church, and a second victim is found tortured and barely alive upstairs.



Everything Abridged

by Dennard Dayle

Contemporary issues are explored in these satiric, science fiction-tinged short stories that are set in the not-too-distant future.

Flying the Coop

by Lucinda Roy

In this sequel to *The Freedom Race*, a young woman and her friends struggle to survive in a U.S. divided by a second civil war.

Good Morning, Love

by Ashley M. Coleman

Aspiring songwriter Carli Henton's efforts to keep business and her personal life separate crumble when she meets rising hip-hop star Tau Anderson.

Happy is on Hiatus

by A.C. Arthur

A woman experiences the fallout from her husband's affair, aided by the support of her cousins, who are going through their own challenges.

Harlem Sunset

by Nekesa Afia

In 1920s Harlem, a young woman who shot and killed a serial murderer plays sleuth again when her lover is accused of murder.

Harry Sylvester Bird

by Chinelo Okparanta

A white teenager from rural Pennsylvania grappling with his family's bigotry must contend with his own ingrained racism when he falls in love with a Nigerian woman.

Honey and Spice

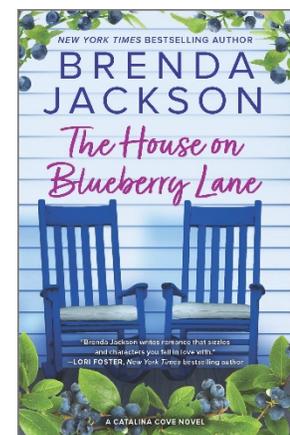
by Bolu Babalola

Relationship guru and radio show host Kiki Banjo must scramble to keep up appearances after an indiscretion threatens her listenership numbers.

The House on Blueberry Lane

by Brenda Jackson

A woman leaves the love of her life because he can't commit – only to find him on her doorstep two years later, ready to make it work.



Carl Weber's Kingpins: Brooklyn

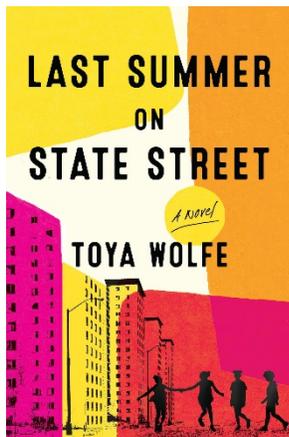
by Brandie Davis

A Brooklyn kingpin who swapped the streets for a legit life returns home when an upstart crime lord turns the city upside down in his quest for power and wealth.

Knot Again

by K. M. Jackson

In this second-chance romance, a Harlem firefighter's involvement in a sexy calendar for charity unexpectedly reunites him with his high-school crush.



Last Summer on State Street

by Toya Wolfe

A 12-year-old and her friends experience a final summer together before their homes are razed – and their lives changed forever – by the Chicago Housing Authority.

The Liminal People

by Ayize Jama-Everett

An expatriate American with extrasensory powers attempts to rescue his ex-girlfriend's daughter in this action-packed fantasy thriller.

Lovin' a Virginia Bad Girl

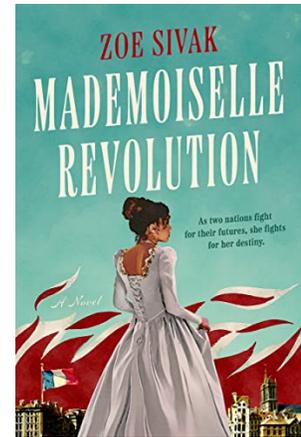
by Racquel Williams

She's a bad girl. He's one of Richmond's hottest dope boys. Her ex wants her back, and his enemies want him dead. Will their love survive the streets?

Mademoiselle Revolution

by Zoe Sivak

The biracial daughter of a rich white planter flees her privileged life in Haiti during the revolution, and ends up in Paris amid another revolution.



Miss Aldridge Regrets

by Louise Hare

A London nightclub singer with nothing to lose boards a ship to the United States and a whole new life. While crossing the Atlantic, she finds herself entangled in the lives – and mysterious deaths – of a troubled American family.

My Heart Beats for You

by Tina Marie

Romance blossoms when a hard-hearted he-man with trust issues finds he has feelings for his new neighbor and her child.

Never Again, No More 6: Karma's Payback

by Untamed

In this final chapter of the *Never Again, No More* series, the lives of all of the characters are changed as they are confronted with the consequences of their past actions.

An Olive Grove in Ends

by Moses McKenzie

On the streets of Bristol, a young man is torn between the life of crime he was born into and the one he wishes to build with his conservative, religious girlfriend.

On Rotation

by Shirlene Obuobi

A young Ghanaian-American navigates medical school, parental expectations and romantic possibilities in present-day Chicago.

Our Gen

by Diane McKinney-Whetstone

Young-at-heart seniors living at "the Gen" enjoy their time together, but will past secrets come back to haunt them?

Playing Their Games

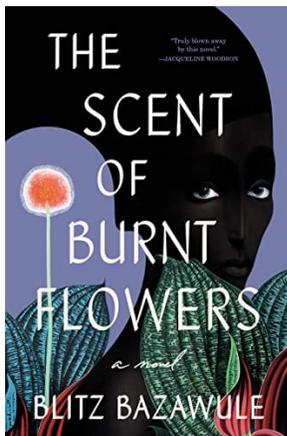
by Kiki Swinson

An intern at an elite law firm discovers that her employers aren't above resorting to kidnapping, scandal and murder to get their clients off.

Rural Route 8

by E. Raye Turonek

An ex-Marine moves to a small town and becomes the new rural mail carrier. As he gets to know the neighbors, the lines between right and wrong become blurred.



The Scent of Burnt Flowers

by Blitz Bazawule

This debut novel tells the story of an African American couple seeking asylum in Ghana from the persecution they face in 1960s America.

Sweeter Than Honey

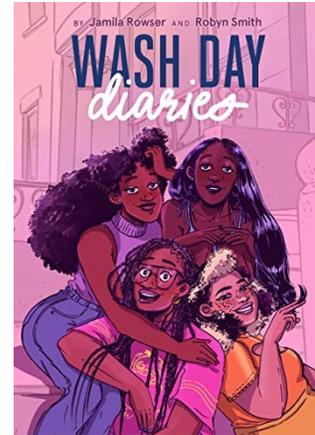
by Joy Avery

Widow Rylee Harris tells her mother a small lie about her love life – and suddenly is caught up in a fake romance with the town sheriff. Could these feelings become something real?

Wash Day Diaries

by Jamila Rowser

This graphic novel follows the lives of four young women through the ups and downs of their daily lives in the Bronx.



We Lie Here

by Rachel Howzell Hall

A TV writer's trip home to host her parents' anniversary party reveals frightening truths in this twisty tale of murder and family secrets.

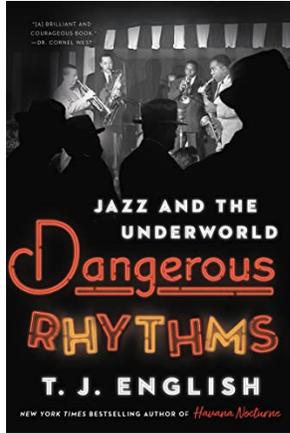
The Wife Before

by Shanora Williams

A woman begins to suspect that her loving, handsome and wealthy husband may have had a hand in the death of his first wife.

Non-Fiction

Arts and Literature



Dangerous Rhythms: Jazz and the Underworld
by T.J. English

An exploration of the intertwined themes of jazz, the underworld and racial inequalities of the early half of the 20th century.

Faith Ringgold

by Faith Ringgold

Collection exploring the work of internationally acclaimed artist Faith Ringgold, known for her narrative quilts, vibrant paintings and explorations of themes of equality and identity.

Isn't Her Grace Amazing!: The Women Who Changed Gospel Music

by Cheryl Wills

Chronicles the careers of 25 women who have made a positive impact on the gospel music community.

Lorna Simpson

by Thelma Golden

An up-to-date monograph documenting the work of Lorna Simpson, the first African American woman to show in the Venice Biennale and to have a solo exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art.

Reading Black Books: How African American Literature Can Make Our Faith More Whole and Just

by Claude Atcho

Pastor Claude Atcho explores the theological implications and religious themes of classic African American literature.

Romare Bearden in the Homeland of His Imagination: An Artist's Reckoning With the South

by Glenda Elizabeth Gilmore

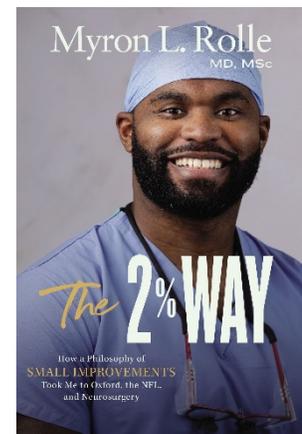
In this appraisal of the life and work of North Carolinian artist Bearden, Gilmore explores the connections between Bearden's family and his formal art training.

Biography and Memoir

The 2% way: How a Philosophy of Small Improvements Took Me to Oxford, the NFL, and Neurosurgery

by Myron L. Rolle

Rhodes Scholar, former Tennessee Titan and neurosurgery resident Rolle recounts how faith, his work ethic and a commitment to incremental improvements have changed his life.



Be My Baby: A Memoir

by Ronnie Spector

The story of how rock and roll's original bad girl escaped her abusive marriage to regain control of her life, her music and her legacy.

Hometown Victory: A Coach's Story of Football, Fate, and Coming Home

by Keanon Lowe

The story of Keanon Lowe, who left the NFL after the death of a high school friend to coach at the high school where they once played together.

I Can Take It From Here: A Memoir of Trauma, Prison, and Self-Empowerment

by Lisa Forbes

Forbes, who was sentenced to 25 years in prison for the murder of her abusive husband, recounts a life steeped in early trauma and her current work with recently incarcerated people.

I Cried to Dream Again: Trafficking, Murder, and Deliverance: A Memoir

by Sara Kruzan

A harrowing personal account of a life shaped by, consumed, and ultimately reclaimed from the sex trafficking trade which lurks under the veneer of society.

My Greatest Save: The Brave, Barrier-Breaking Journey of a World-Champion Goalkeeper

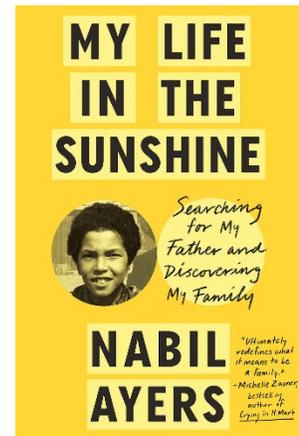
by Briana Scurry

A memoir from Brianna Scurry, the only African American player on the 1996 gold medal-winning U.S. Women's Soccer Team and the first openly gay player on the U.S. Women's National Team.

My Life in the Sunshine

by Nabil Ayers

Despite only meeting him a few times, Ayers' father – jazz musician Roy Ayers – has influenced everything he's done. This memoir of music and family explores the complexities of race, identity, belonging and self-acceptance.



Paul Laurence Dunbar: The Life and Times of a Caged Bird

by Gene Andrew Jarrett

A definitive biography of Paul Lawrence Dunbar, one of the first African American poets to receive international recognition during the Reconstruction era.

Split Decision: Life Stories

by Ice-T

This thought-provoking memoir narrates the diverging paths of rapper Ice-T and his former partner in crime, Spike.

Surviving: Why We Stay and How We Leave Abusive Relationships

by Beverly Gooden

Beverly Gooden recounts her struggle as a victim of domestic violence and offers insight and advice to others on how to leave their abusers.

Tanqueray

by Stephanie Johnson

The hard-knock story of Stephanie Johnson – better known as Tanqueray, from *Humans of New York* - once one of the best-known burlesque dancers in New York City.

The Other Side of Yet: Finding Light in the Midst of Darkness

by Michelle D. Hord

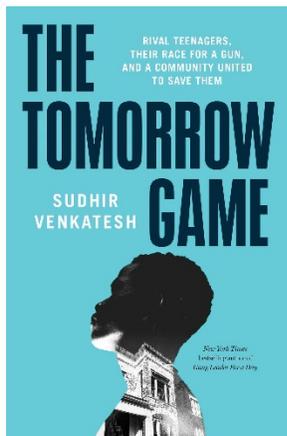
Media Executive Michelle Hord lays bare the multifaceted pain and sorrows of her life and the purpose, passion and possibilities that have helped to see her through.

Current Affairs

They Want to Kill Americans: The Militias, Terrorists, and Deranged Ideology of the Trump Insurgency

by Malcolm W. Nance

Terrorism and extremism expert Nance explores the possibility of homegrown domestic terrorist attacks carried out with the aim of installing a Trump-led dictatorship.



The Tomorrow Game:

by Sudhir Venkatesh

Focused on two teen boys, this is a gripping account of a Chicago community coming together to save a group of teenagers from gun violence.

Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation

by Linda Villarosa

An in-depth report about the toll racism in healthcare takes on the African American community and the United States as a whole.

Diversity

How to Raise an Antiracist

by Ibram X. Kendi

A parent's developmental model for raising children to be resilient and thrive through the practical application of antiracist education and affirmation.

Love & Justice: A Journey of Empowerment, Activism, and Embracing Black Beauty

by Laetitia Ky

Artist and influencer Laetitia Ky offers a memoir and an activist manifesto alongside photos of her stunning hair sculptures.

Seen and Unseen: Technology, Social Media, and the Fight for Racial Justice

by Marc Lamont Hill

An intellectual exploration of the power of visual media and the effect it has had on activism and the fight for racial justice.

The White Allies Handbook: 4 Weeks to Join the Racial Justice Fight for Black Women

by Lecia Michelle

Being anti-racist in philosophy is rarely enough – action is required. In this handbook, you'll

find ways to leverage your privilege in the fight for racial justice.

Essays

Patriarchy Blues: Reflections on Manhood
by Frederick Joseph

Poems, essays and reflections about toxic masculinity and its consequences on men and their mental health, relationships and lives.

Shelter: A Black Tale of Homeland, Baltimore

by Lawrence Patrick Jackson

In these essays, Jackson – a son of Baltimore, recently returned – explores his conflicted feelings about the changing city of his birth and his place in it.

History

Agent Josephine: American Beauty, French Hero, British Spy

by Damien Lewis

The story of world-renowned singer and dancer Josephine Baker, who refused to leave her adopted home of Paris when the Nazis banned her from the stage – choosing instead to stay and serve as an Allied spy.

The Black Fives: The Epic Story of Basketball's Forgotten Era

by Claude Johnson

History of the “Black Fives” era of basketball, detailing the contributions of all-Black teams to the development of the sport prior to the 1950 integration of the NBA.

Deer Creek Drive: A Reckoning of Memory and Murder in the Mississippi Delta

by Beverly Lowry

A blend of memoir and true crime that recounts how the murder of a white socialite in 1948 affected a small Mississippi town.

Formidable: American Women and the Fight for Equality, 1920-2020

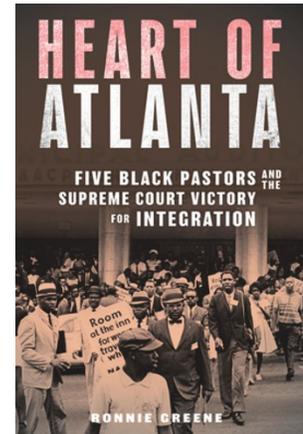
by Elisabeth Griffith

An integrated look into the fight of black and white women for social justice and equality.

Heart of Atlanta

by Ronnie Greene

Examines the confrontations between a group of African American ministers and two white segregationists that became the first legal challenges to the Civil Rights Act of 1964.



Immortal Valor: The Black Medal of Honor Winners of World War II

by Robert Child

Presents the stories of the seven African American soldiers who were awarded the U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor by Bill Clinton in 1997 for their service during the Second World War.

The Inheritors: An Intimate Portrait of South Africa's Racial Reckoning

by Eve Fairbanks

An exploration of fifty years of South African history through the eyes of three ordinary South Africans.

Riding Jane Crow: African American Women on the American Railroad

by Miriam Thaggert

Four stories about the experiences of African American women workers and passengers on nineteenth and early twentieth century railroads.

Unreasonable: Black Lives, Police Power, and the Fourth Amendment

by Devon W. Carbado

An investigation of how the Constitution and U.S. legal system protect law enforcement officers who target African Americans for unreasonable searches and seizures.

We Carry Their Bones: The Search for Justice at the Dozier School for Boys

by Erin H. Kimmerle

Forensic anthropologist Kimmerle details her attempts to uncover the identities of the young men who died while in the custody of Florida's Arthur G. Dozier Boys School.

A Worthy Piece of Work: The Untold Story of Madeline Morgan and the Fight for Black History in Schools

by Michael Hines

The story of the teacher and activist whose curricula became a model for teachers around the country to challenge the racism found in school textbooks.

Religion

Red Lip Theology

by Candice Marie Benbow

Theologian Benbow explores heartache, loss, body positivity, LGBTQ+ rights, and other topics in this collection of church-centered essays.



Science

30 Animals That Made Us Smarter: Stories of the Natural World That Inspired Human Ingenuity

by Patrick Aryee

Stories of how understanding the animal kingdom has led to brilliant new ideas that enrich our lives – and in some cases, help save them.

Self-Help

The Self-Healing Mind: An Essential Five-Step Practice for Overcoming Anxiety and Depression, and Revitalizing Your Life

by Gregory Scott Brown

A how-to guide for implementing meaningful lifestyle changes and self-care practices for those suffering from anxiety and depression.