

Best Books of 2023

Based on a selection of lists from 50 newspapers, magazines, book review journals, websites, and award lists, as well as favorites from Pollard Library staff. Books are available at PML unless otherwise noted. Alternate formats are included in parentheses.

Appearing on 20 or more lists

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride (CD, LP, PA, OE, OA)—**Kirkus Prize Winner**

Appearing on 15-19 Lists

Chain-Gang All-Stars by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah (OE, OA)

How to Say Babylon: A Memoir by Safiya Sinclair (OE, OA)

Let Us Descend by Jesmyn Ward (LP, OE, OA)

*The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder** by David Grann (LP, OE, OA)

Appearing on 10-14 Lists

Absolution by Alice McDermott (LP coming soon, CD, OE, OA)

The Bee Sting by Paul Murray (OE)

Biography of X by Catherine Lacey (OE)

Birnam Wood by Eleanor Catton (MVLC, OE)

The Fraud by Zadie Smith (LP, PA, OE, OA)

The Guest by Emma Cline (OE, OA)

I Have Some Questions for You by Rebecca Makkai (LP, OE, OA)

King: A Life by Jonathan Eig

Land of Milk and Honey by C Pam Zhang

North Woods by Daniel Mason (OE, OA)

Poverty, By America by Matthew Desmond (OE, OA)

Tom Lake by Ann Patchett (CD, LP, PA, OE, OA)

The Vaster Wilds by Lauren Groff (OE, OA)

*Yellowface** by RF Kuang (OE, OA, HE, HA)

Appearing on 6-9 Lists

Age of Vice by Deepti Kapoor (OE, OA)

All the Sinners Bleed by SA Cosby (OE, OA)

The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters (OE, OA)

The Best Minds by Jonathan Rosen (OE, OA)

Big Swiss by Jen Beagin (OE, OA)

Blackouts by Justin Torres (MVLC)—**National Book Award Winner**

Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese (LP, OE, OA)

Crook Manifesto by Colson Whitehead (LP, PA, OE, OA)

Doppelganger by Naomi Klein

*A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them** by Timothy Egan (OE, OA)

Fire Weather: A True Story from a Hotter World by John Lee Vaillant (OE)

Happiness Falls by Angie Kim (OE, OA)

Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano (CD, LP, OE, OA)

I Am Homeless if This Is Not My Home by Lorrie Moore (OE, OA)

A Living Remedy by Nicole Chung (OE, HE, HA)

Lone Women by Victor LaValle (OE, OA)

Loot by Tania James (OE, OA)

The Maniac by Benjamin Labatut

Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom by Ilyon Woo (OE, OA)

Monsters: A Fan's Dilemma by Claire Dederer (OE, OA)

Our Migrant Souls: A Meditation on Race and the Meanings and Myths of "Latino" by Hector Tobar (MVLC)—**Kirkus Prize Winner**

The Talk by Darrin Bell

Terrace Story by Hilary Leichter

This Other Eden by Paul Harding (OE, OA)

Wellness by Nathan Hill (LP coming soon, OE, OA)

White Cat, Black Dog by Kelly Link (MVLC, OE, OA)

Witness by Jamal Brinkley (MVLC)

You Could Make This Place Beautiful by Maggie Smith (OE, OA)

MVLC=not at Pollard—request from other libraries, LP=Large Print, OE=Overdrive (Libby) EBook, OA=Overdrive (Libby) Audiobook, CD=Audiobook on CD, PA=Playaway, HE=Hoopla EBook, HA=Hoopla Audiobook
*=staff pick

Appearing on 5 Lists

After the Funeral by Tessa Hadley (OA)
The Country of the Blind: A Memoir at the End of Sight by Andrew Leland (OE, OA)
The End of Drum-Time by Hanna Pylvainen
The Great Reclamation by Rachel Heng (MVLC, OE, OA)
The Late Americans by Brandon Taylor (LP, OE, OA)
Maame by Jessica George (LP, OE, OA)
A Man of Two Faces: A Memoir, a History, a Memorial by Viet Thanh Nguyen—Coming Soon (HE)
My Name Is Barbra by Barbra Streisand (OE, OA)
*Pineapple Street** by Jenny Jackson (LP, OE, OA)
The Rediscovery of America: Native peoples and the Unmaking of US History by Ned Blackhawk (OE)—
National Book Award Winner
Roman Stories by Jhumpa Lahiri (OE)
Some People Need Killing by Patricia Evangelista
Spare by Prince Harry (LP, OE, OA)
Wednesday's Child by Yiyun Li
*What Happened to Ruthy Ramirez** by Claire Jiminez (OE, OA)
the wren, the wren by Anne Enright (OE)

Staff Picks—Young Adult

(Not appearing on previous lists)
The Beautiful Something Else by Ash Van Otterloo (HA)
Blood Debts (OE, OA) and *Alex Wise vs. the End of the World* by Terry J. Benton Walker
Godly Heathens by HE Edgmon (OE)
Saint Juniper's Folly by Alex Crespo (OE)
Something More by Jackie Khalileh
Witch Hat Atelier, Vol. 11 by Kamome Shirahama
Your Lonely Nights Are Over by Adam Sass (OE)

Do you need help using Overdrive, Libby, or Hoopla or requesting a book? Call the Reference Desk at **978-674-4121**. The librarians will be happy to assist you. Please note that due to their popularity, some of the books will have waiting lists.

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*=staff pick

^=Appears on 1-4 Best Books list

Staff Picks

(Not appearing on previous lists)

The Baby Market: The Case for Adoption Reform by Ann Moody
Beyond That, the Sea by Laura Spence-Ash (OE, OA)
The Block Party by Jamie Day (OE, OA)
The Celebrants^ by Stephen Rowley (OE, OA)
Chef's Choice^ by TJ Alexander (OA)
Code Name Blue Wren: The True Story of America's Most Dangerous Female Spy—and the Sister She Betrayed by Jim Popkin (OE, OA, HE, HA)
*Confessions of a Forty-Something F**k Up* by Alexandra Potter (OE, OA)
Dead and Gone by Joanna Schaffhausen
Fourth Wing^ by Rebecca Yarros (OE, OA, HA)
Homecoming^ by Kate Morton (LP, OE, HE)
If We're Being Honest^ by Cat Shook (MVLC, OA)
Kala by Colin Walsh (OE, OA)
The Last Love Note by Emma Grey (OE, OA)
The Lioness of Boston by Emily Franklyn (OE, HE, HA)
The London Séance Society^ by Sarah Penner (LP, OE, OA, HE, HA)
Love, Pamela^ by Pamela Anderson (OE, OA, HE, HA)
Murder in the Family by Cara Hunter (OE)
The Mysterious Case of Rudolf Diesel: Genius, Power, and Deception on the Eve of World War I by Douglas Brunt
Ozark Dogs by Eli Cranor (MVLC, OE, OA)
Parasocial by Alex de Campi (HE)
Really Good, Actually by Monica Heisy (OE)
The Remarkable Retirement of Edna Fisher by EM Anderson (OE)
The Running Grave by Robert Galbraith (LP, OE, OA)
The Senator's Wife by Liv Constantine (OE, OA)
Soldiers Don't Go Mad: A Story of Brotherhood, Poetry, and Mental Illness During the First World War by Charles Glass
Soloist in a Cage, Vol. 1 by Shiro Moriya
Spirit Beasts: Echoes of the Moon by Cody Rose
Starling House^ by Alix E. Harrow (LP, OE, OA)
Stash: My Life in Hiding^ by Laura Cathcart Robbins (OE, OA)
Swamp Story by Dave Barry (LP, OE, OA)
Those Empty Eyes by Charlie Donlea (MVLC, OE, OA)
Untold Power: The Fascinating Rise and Complex Legacy of First Lady Edith Wilson by Rebecca Boggs Roberts
Women We Buried, Women We Burned by Rachel Louise Snyder (OE, OA, HA)