

KENTUCKY EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS ASSOCIATION



CULTURAL ARTS and HerITage

• BOOK LIST •

2025 – 2026

Preface

The KEHA Cultural Arts and Heritage Program area annually sponsors a reading program. Extension Homemakers may participate by reading one book from six of these nine categories (listed below). Keep a record of the books read and submit the record to the club Cultural Arts and Heritage chair. The club chair should forward that information to the county chair or to the extension agent. Qualified readers may receive the Cultural Arts Reading Award Bookmark recognition at the county level. Counties are responsible for printing their own bookmark. The bookmark is available for download on the KEHA Cultural Arts and Heritage web page.

This is only a suggested list. You may choose your own titles. Your local public librarian may have other suggestions. Local libraries usually belong to the Kentucky Library Network, which allows individuals to borrow books from other libraries through interlibrary loan. If you cannot find the book you wish to read at your local library, ask about this service.

Kelly May (KEHA State Advisor)



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ARTS

The 12-hour art expert: Everything you need to know about art in a dozen masterpieces by Noah Charney (2022)

Interested in art but feel under-informed? This book uses a simple approach to guide its readers through a brief series of masterpieces of Western art—from cave paintings to sharks in formaldehyde. Each chapter is linked to one notable masterpiece, with references to others, giving readers a fixed, digestible number of objects that they will get to know in depth. This book uses entertaining stories and invites readers of all ages for a one-stop immersion into art.

The Art of Oz: Witches, Wizards, and Wonders Beyond the Yellow Brick Road

by Gabriel Gale, Michael Patrick, et al. (2025)

Artist and Oz archeologist Gabriel Gale brings to life all the creatures and inhabitants from L. Frank Baum's beloved series on Oz, many illustrated here for the first time: wicked witches and their armies, mythical beasts, elemental fairies, robots, insects, one-legged and two-sided people, and many more creatures. Includes a first-ever "Google Map" of the Land of Oz!

The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession by Michael Finkel (2023)

The Art Thief tells of the many heists committed by Stéphane Breitwieser, until his inevitable downfall. Proving both his craft and obsession, he successfully stole over three hundred pieces of art to admire in his own personal collection. However, disregarding the increasing risk and his partners warnings, Breitwieser's uncontrollable desire leads to his capture during one final score.

Between Two Sounds by Joonas Sildre; English translation by Adam Cullen 2024 (English translation)

A graphic novel follows the celebrated Estonian composer through the cultural, political, personal, and spiritual upheavals that led to the distinctive style that made him the most performed living composer in the world. Based on years of research and close collaboration with Arvo Pärt himself, Joonas Sildre paints an atmospheric portrait of a restless artist who does not shy away from confronting state control or his own internal contradictions.

The Come Up: An Oral History of the Rise of Hip-Hop by Jonathan Abrams (2022)

A culmination of hundreds of interviews, personal accounts, and over three years of work to record the history and art of hip-hop. Originating in 1973 from a party in the Bronx, and it now is the most popular music genre in America, influencing fashion, art, and language. The Come Up provides a voice to the pioneers that made hip-hop what it is today.

Crafting leather totes, backpacks & bags : detailed patterns & step-by-step instructions for 18 projects by Yoko Ganaha (2025)

Learn to create beautiful hand-stitched leather bags with step-by-step instructions and easy-to-follow patterns.

Crochet Journey by Mark Roseboom (2022)

In Crochet Journey, there are 12 patterns that are based on the remarkable journeys Roseboom has made. His goal was to visit some of the most interesting places in the world and soak in all the culture, lessons, experiences, and feelings they delivered. Each design in the book is inspired by a cherished memory and takes you on an adventure through the wonderful world of crochet. The patterns feature full written instructions in US crochet terms, charts, and Mark's tips for success.

The Harlem Renaissance History for Kids: The Flourishing of African American Art, Music, and Literature (Book for Curious Kids) *by Victoria Barrington* (2024)

The Harlem Renaissance was pivotal time for African American art, music, and literature! Taking place in Harlem, New York during the 1920's and 1930's, jazz was "poppin' off, poets were spittin' fire, and artists were painting the vibes of their lives." Black culture blossomed!

Music and Mind: Harnessing the Arts for Health and Wellness *by Renee Fleming* (2024)

A compelling and growing body of research has shown music and arts therapies to be effective tools for addressing a widening array of conditions. In addition to describing therapeutic benefits, the book explores evolution, brain function, childhood development, and technology as applied to arts and health.

My First Sewing Machine: 30 Fun Projects Kids Will Love to Make *by Coralie Bijasson*. (2024)

If you love to sew and want to share your joy of the craft with a young person, this book is for you! This practical sewing guide is jam-packed with great sewing ideas, clear diagrams, and simple text to follow.

Pretend the Ball Is Named Jim Crow: The Story of Josh Gibson Dorian Hairston *by Dorian Hairston* (2004)

A collection of poetry about Baseball Hall of Famer Josh Gibson's career, told from the perspectives of Gibson (1911–1947), his family members, and contemporary Black baseball players. Baseball legend Gibson was one of the greatest power hitters in the Negro Leagues, and in all of baseball history. At the height of his career, this trailblazing athlete suffered grueling physical ailments, experienced grief, and endured years of Jim Crow–era segregation and discrimination, all the while breaking records on the ball field.

Radiant Raffia: 20 Inspiring Crochet Projects Made With Natural Yarn *by Olga Panagopoulou* (2024)

Get your hooks ready for a crochet book which brings the warmth of summer all year round. Patterns, charts and stunning photography are intertwined to inspire. Through step-by-step instructions discover 20 beautiful projects which show you techniques to make stylish items which are 100% plant-based and eco-friendly.

Restoring Notre-Dame de Paris: Rebirth of the Legendary Gothic Cathedral *by Patrick Zachmann, Olivier de Chalus, et al.* (2023)

Magnum photographer Patrick Zachmann was on the scene when the disastrous fire erupted in Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral in 2019. At the time he did not yet know that he would continue to document the events at the cathedral over the months that followed. He would clamber along scaffolding and up and down steep stairs, and, from atop an aerial work platform, discover hitherto unknown aspects of Notre-Dame, its new silhouette, and the artistic gems that survived.

Wildflower Watercolor: the Beginner's Guide to Painting Beautiful Florals *by Sushma Hegde* (2022)

This is the essential guide for beginner painters to learn how to create perfect floral masterpieces. With easy-to-follow instructions and step-by-step illustrations, it has never been easier to master the art of watercolor painting. Inside, you will find everything you need to get started, including how to mix colors and create striking new shades, how to make various types of brushstrokes and more.

The World Atlas of Public Art by *Andrew Wasserman* (2024)

From Dakar to Newcastle, this wide-ranging book focuses on 125 public artworks around the world, delving into the conversations that they inspire just by being there.

A year of quilting: a block for every week by *Debbie Shore* (2024)

Create a harmonious quilt using all the block designs or mix and match for a unique creation. Features quilting techniques like machine piecing, appliqué, and paper piecing; Clear instructions, photos and full-size templates, perfect for beginners; Guides from piecing to binding your quilt.

BIOGRAPHY

Bad Vibes Only: And Other Things I Bring to the Table by *Nora McInerny* (2022)

A series of essays that explores our aggressively over optimistic culture, obsession with self improvement, and how to live authentically. The book is a reminder that a life worth living is about more than just good vibes.

Be Ready When the Luck Happens by *Ina Garten* (2024)

From a difficult childhood to meeting the love of her life and marrying him while still in college, from a boring bureaucratic job in Washington, D.C., to working at a specialty food store in the Hamptons, from the owner of one Barefoot Contessa shop to bestselling cookbook author and television host, Ina has blazed her own trail and taught millions how to cook and entertain.

Between Two Trailers by *J. Dana Trent* (2024)

A powerful, unforgettable memoir about a girl who escapes her childhood as a preschool drug dealer in rural Indiana—only to find that no one can really “make it out” until they make peace with where their story began: home. ‘Home (...) is where the war is [and] where the healing begins.’

Beyond the wand: The magic and mayhem of growing up a wizard by *Tom Felton* (2022)

Actor Tom Felton's parents were skeptical of his childhood passion for performance, and it wasn't until he landed the role of supervillain Draco Malfoy in the wizarding work of Harry Potter, that he was catapulted into the limelight at just twelve years old. In this book, Tom shares his experience of growing up on screen, and the lasting friendships he made over the ten-year period of filming Harry Potter, as well as the highs and lows of worldwide fame while navigating adult life.

Breaking Through: My Life in Science by *Katalin Karikó* (2023)

Breaking through is a memoir of Karikó's commitment to the world of science and understanding the medical capabilities of mRNA. Her research in mRNA's lead to the development of vaccines for COVID-19, protecting millions. Breaking through is a journey of trials and determination, in the pursuit to further science and save lives.

Brooke Shields Is Not Allowed to Get Old: Thoughts on Aging as a Woman by *Brooke Shields & Rachel Bertsche* (2025)

Brooke Shields has spent a lifetime in the public eye. Growing up as a child actor and model, her every feature was scrutinized, her every decision judged. Today Brooke faces a different kind of scrutiny: that of being a “woman of a certain age.”

I Heard Her Call My Name: A Memoir of Transition by *Lucy Sante* (2024)

A memoir of internal discord and self-realization. Born in Belgium to a working-class Catholic family, before moving to New York, Sante witnessed an array of fates in her community. This is a recollection of her life and her transition after sixty years living a façade of an identity.

In Love: A Memoir of Love and Loss by *Amy Bloom* (2022)

In this heartbreaking and surprising memoir of her husband's diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, Amy Bloom sheds light on a part of life we so often shy away from discussing--its ending. *In Love* is an unforgettable portrait of a beautiful marriage, and a boundary-defying love.

In Order to Live by *Yeonimi Park* (2015)

At age 13, Yeonmi Park made a harrowing escape from the brutal conditions of North Korea. Yet, in China [she was] betrayed and sold into sexual slavery and forced to endure terrible psychological and physical hardship. After two years, [she] finally reached South Korea freedom. Now a human rights activist, she is working to bring attention to the oppression taking place in her home country.

Races, Games and Olympic Dreams: a Sportscaster's Life by *Tom Hammond and Mark Story* (2024)

Hammond reveals how a Kentucky native who started out reading horse racing results on Lexington radio went on to broadcast from thirteen Olympic Games. Learn details of his thirty-four-year career with NBC Sports and his rise to the top levels of American television sportscasting. And understand why Hammond's roots have always remained firmly planted in the Bluegrass State.

Songbird: An Intimate Biography of Christine McVie by *Lesley-Ann Jones* (2024)

Christine McVie—born Christine Perfect—was the quintessential English rock star. She wrote and performed many of Fleetwood Mac's greatest hits and was dubbed 'the mother' of the band. And yet, as the "engine" of the band during an era which charted the romantic disintegration within the band—Christine's personal life was every bit as tempestuous as those of her bandmates.

This Dog Will Change Your Life by *Elias Weiss Friedman* (2025)

Dogs are man's best friend for a reason, and Elias Weiss Friedman is here to make the case for their importance in our lives. Enjoy this personal reflection on dogs he grew up with to stories about those who belong to his loved ones and the thousands he's met throughout his life.

They Call Me Goose: My Life in Kentucky Basketball and Beyond by *Jack Givens*. (2024)

This all-encompassing biography of basketball legend, Jack Givens, presents fans with an intimate look at his role as a husband, father, mentor, businessman, and ambassador for Kentucky--who also just happens to be an iconic sports legend. Written in collaboration with journalist Doug Brunk.

Life: My Story Through History by *Francis* (2024)

An extraordinary personal and historical journey, this book is the story of Pope Francis, as a man in a world of dramatic change. Pope Francis recalls his life through memories and observations of the most significant occurrences of the past eight decades.

Lovely One: A Memoir by *Ketanji Brown Jackson* (2024)

Autobiography of the first female, African American Supreme Court justice. Also includes Jackson's experiences as a wife and mother.

What Have We Here? Portraits of a Life by *Billy Dee Williams* (2024)

From Brian's Song to Lando in the Star Wars saga, follow the life and career of legendary actor Billy Dee Williams. He sought to avoid being type cast and lived a career of being anyone he wished. Read as he recalls his debut and receipt of life-changing advice.

You Never Know: A Memoir by *Tom Selleck (Author), Ellis Henican* (2024)

An intimate memoir from one of the most beloved actors of our time, this highly personal story recounts a remarkable life and thoroughly accidental career. In his own voice and unpretentious style, Selleck brings readers on his uncharted but serendipitous journey to the top in Hollywood, his temptations and distractions, his misfires and mistakes and, over time, his well-earned success.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness by *Jonathan Haidt* (2024)

Social psychologist Jonathan Haidt lays out the facts about the epidemic of teen mental illness that hit many countries at the same time. He then investigates the nature of childhood, including why children need play and independent exploration to mature into competent, thriving adults.

Baking Yesteryear: The Best Recipes from the 1900s to the 1980s by *B. Dylan Hollis* (2023)

A true cookbook of the ages to challenge the mundane. Take a curated trip remarking on the many surprisingly delicious recipes of the past century. Including the unusual gems of Chocolate Sauerkraut Cake and Potato Chip Cookies, experience a culinary journey with humor mixed in.

The Book of Boundaries: Set the Limits That Will Set You Free by *Melissa Urban* (2022)

Setting Boundaries is important in protecting your energy, time, and the health of your relationships. Provides 130+ scripts to support yourself when setting boundaries in your personal and professional relationships and everyday encounters.

Do This, Not That: Career-- What to Do (and not do) in 75+ Difficult Workplace Situations by *Jenny Foss*. (2023)

This book gives you the tools you need to move forward productively so you can learn when to let go and move on. Features common workplace issues and covers everything from your first day on the job to your last. For each situation, discover what to do and what to avoid.

Good Housekeeping Home Skills: Master Your Domain with Practical Solutions to Everyday Challenges by *Good Housekeeping (Editor), Jane Francisco* (2022)

The editors and scientists at the Good Housekeeping Institute share genius life hacks that will help you save time and money, get things done around the house, and have fun while doing it! In step-by-step instructions and inspiring photos, they show you 850+ DIY skills.

Heirloom Skills: A Complete Guide to Modern Homesteading by *Alva Herdevall (Author), Anders Rydell* (2023)

100 ways to embrace the simple life, with step-by-step instructions for keeping chickens, growing vegetables, making beer and wine, arranging flowers, soap making, and more! This is a home-management book for the twenty-first century. Herdevall and Rydell combine traditional methods with modern ideas to show that a higher degree of self-sufficiency is possible for everyone.

How the World Eats by *Julian Baggini* (2024)

There are many ways to see the world. Doing so through the prism of the many different approaches to growing, preparing and eating food is one of the more fascinating. In doing so, author Baggini shines a light on some remarkable cultures along the way, from the hunter-gatherer Hadza in Tanzania, whose sustainable lifestyle is under threat, to the worst excesses of Western fast-food society. And by casting a global eye on our past and present relationship with food, he also sets out an agenda for how we should be eating.

Never Enough: When Achievement Culture Becomes Toxic-and What We Can Do About It by *Jennifer Breheny Wallace* (2023)

Explores the ways in which the rising achievement culture is toxic for children's upbringing. There is constant pressure on children convincing them to take advanced courses, do resume-padding activities, and giving up time to build relationships in order to commit their time to getting into a successful college or career. A message of value is not innate and only can be obtained through achievements is reinforced in today's culture.

Poverty, by America by *Matthew Desmond* (2023)

Taking a close look at how the richest country in the world, The United States, faces the largest poverty population of any other advanced democratic society. Understand how America is built on a system that benefits the rich and keeps those in poverty poor. It is evident change is needed from excessive costs in obtaining housing and credit, to areas of unequally concentrated wealth. \

Praisesong for the Kitchen Ghosts by *Crystal Wilkinson* (2024)

Stories and recipes from five generations of Black country cooks.

The Secret History of Home Economics: How Trailblazing Women Harnessed the Power of Home and Changed the Way We Live by *Danielle Dreilinger* (2021)

The term "home economics" may conjure bad memories of lopsided hand-sewn pillows or sunken muffins. But common conception obscures the story of the revolutionary science of better living. The field gave women opportunities by reducing domestic work and providing jobs as professors, engineers, chemists, and businesspeople. And it has something to teach us today.

FICTION

Ballers (published in Still: The Journal) by *Savannah Sipple* – eastern KY author (2022)

A coming-of-age short story about identity, sports, and girls on a Kentucky softball team.

The Beacon Street Bookshop by *Carla Laureano* (2024)

Ever since Olivia Quinn lost her husband to a plane crash, she's been focused on one thing -- making a stable life for her teen stepdaughter. But when she loses her job as a children's book editor because she refuses to relocate from Colorado to New York, all her hard-won stability is shattered.

The Bee Sting by *Paul Murray* (2023)

A family on the brink of collapse from internal anxieties and external pressures. An apocalyptic-prepper husband with a failing car dealership. A wife half-heartedly avoiding the advances of the local farmer. A daughter that is content drinking her way through classes she once excelled in. A son who plans on running away from this dysfunctional family. The Bee Sting questions: how far back would you have to go to change this bleak reality?

The Book Club Hotel by Sarah Morgan (2023)

With its historic charm and picture-perfect library, the Maple Sugar Inn is considered the ultimate vacation destination. But widowed far too young, and exhausted from juggling the hotel with being a dedicated single mom, Hattie Coleman dreams only of making it through each day.

By Any Other Name by Jodi Picoult (2024)

A story about a student playwright having trouble getting her work on stage just like her ancestor did in Elizabethan England.

The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese (2023)

Three generations of a family living on the Kerala Coast of southwest India seek an answer to a strange secrete—in every generation least one person dies by drowning; and in Kerala water is everywhere. A twelve-year-old girl from a St. Thomas Christian community is sent to be married to a 40-year-old widower of the same religion. From there a story of love, faith and medicine unfolds.

The Echo of Old Books by Barbara Davis (2023)

Rare-book dealer Ashlyn Greer's affinity for books extends beyond the intoxicating scent of old paper, ink, and leather. She can feel the echoes of the books' previous owners as an emotional fingerprint only she can read. When Ashlyn discovers a pair of beautifully bound volumes that appear to have never been published, her gift quickly becomes an obsession.

The First Ladies by Marie & Victoria Christopher Benedict & Murray (2023)

The daughter of formerly enslaved parents, Mary McLeod Bethune refuses to back down as white supremacists attempt to thwart her work. She marches on as an activist and an educator, and as her reputation grows, she becomes a celebrity, revered by titans of business and recognized by U.S. Presidents.

The Forever House by Lisa Stone (2025)

When Jasmine moves into the “perfect new home” with her husband and two daughters, she’s excited to be finally settling. But very soon, it becomes clear that something is wrong with the house. Sudden drops in temperature, unexplained swarms of insects, plants that keep dying for no reason. It’s almost like someone, or something, doesn’t want them there.

The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon (A GMA Book Club Pick) (2024)

Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. But when a local physician undermines her conclusion, declaring the death to be an accident, Martha is forced to investigate the shocking murder on her own.

The Funeral Ladies of Ellerie County by Claire Swinarski

Armed with a slow cooker and a pile of recipes, Esther Larson works to bring a community together in this uplifting novel. It doesn't seem like a community cookbook could possibly solve their problems, but when you mix the can-do spirit of Midwestern grandmothers with a dash of long-awaited forgiveness--things might just turn out okay. (Includes recipes)

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride (2023)

As the novel unfolds it becomes clear how much the people of Chicken Hill, PA, have struggled to survive at the margins of white Christian America and how damaging bigotry, hypocrisy and deceit can be to a community. The quirky characters and a delightful mix of Blacks and European Jewish immigrants who live in Chicken Hill.

Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano (2023)

This is historical fiction and tells the story of four sisters in an Italian Catholic family contending with life and loss, love, death and forgiveness, and finding different ways to cope with hardship. The characters go through mental and physical rehabilitation and therapy and make a string of rash decisions as they try to find a way to deal with the ups and downs of life.

James by Percival Everett (2024)

When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he decides to hide on nearby Jackson Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father, recently returned to town.

Just For the Summer by Melody Carlson (2024)

If you lived in a different place and had a different job, couldn't you have a different life? Two career-focused women swap hospitality jobs and chaos ensues. They soon find that there's more to finding happiness than just switching up the scenery.

Just Once by Karen Kingsbury (2023)

A World War II story about a young woman torn between 2 brothers.

The Kitchen Front by Jennifer Ryan (2022)

Two years into World War II, Britain is feeling her losses: The Nazis have won battles, the Blitz has destroyed cities, and U-boats have cut off the supply of food. To help housewives with food rationing, a BBC radio program called The Kitchen Front is holding a cooking contest and the grand prize is a job as the program's first-ever female co-host. For four very different women, winning the competition would present a crucial chance to change their lives.

Lark Ascending by Silas House (2022)

Set in a future America, fires are destroying the land and persecuting religious nationalists are in power. Lark and his family look for safety as they head to Ireland on an overcrowded boat. Upon arrival, Lark must seek a safe harbor elsewhere with his companions.

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus (2025)

Meet Elizabeth Zott: A gifted research chemist, absurdly self-assured and immune to social convention” (The Washington Post) in 1960s California whose career takes a detour when she becomes the unlikely star of a beloved TV cooking show.

The Lion Women of Tehran by Marjan Kamali (2024)

In 1950s Tehran, seven-year-old Ellie lives in grand comfort until the untimely death of her father, forcing Ellie and her mother to move to a tiny home downtown. Luckily, on the first day of school, she meets Homa, a kind girl with a brave and irrepressible spirit. Together, the two young women come of age and pursue their own goals for meaningful futures. But as the political turmoil in Iran builds to a breaking point, one earth-shattering betrayal will have enormous consequences.

The Music of Bees by Eileen Garvin (2021)

The emotionally powerful story of three lonely strangers who meet by happenstance and find themselves together on a small local bee farm. Beautifully moving, warm, and uplifting book about the power of friendship, compassion in the face of loss, and finding the courage to start over at any age when life hasn't turned out the way you expected.

The Nightingale by *Kristin Hannah* (2017)

France, 1939 - In the quiet village of Carriveau, Vianne Mauriac says goodbye to her husband, Antoine, as he heads for the Front. She doesn't believe that the Nazis will invade France; but invade they do and she is forced to make one impossible choice after another to keep her family alive.

Ours: A Novel by *Phillip B. Williams* (2024)

A powerful woman named Saint rescues people enslaved across Arkansas and establishes her own secluded utopia, named Ours. Once her power and memories begin to fail her, the veil protecting this flourishing community begins to fade. Newcomers with abilities of their own intrude on the community, and the safety provided by Ours begins to be questioned as another form of bondage.

The Paradise Problem by *Christina Lauren* (2024)

Anna thought she was marrying Liam for housing at UCLA and divorcing after graduation. Three years later, Anna is a struggling artist while Liam is a professor with a \$100 million inheritance contingent on five years of marriage. He turns to Anna to play the role of his wife, fearing his wealthy family's influence. Is his cover story worth sacrificing the love that developed from this lie?

The Prince Warriors Series by *Priscilla Shirer* (2021)

As brothers, Xavier and Evan are used to battling each other. But now they discover that there is a much bigger battle going on all around them when they enter a mysterious land called Ahoratos. There they meet their guide, Ruwach, who offers wisdom and direction as the kids' initial adventure begins an adventure filled with armor and danger and a very real enemy.

The Stranger in the Lifeboat by *Mitch Albom* (2021) A fast-paced, compelling novel that makes you ponder your deepest beliefs, *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* suggests that answers to our prayers may be found where we least expect them.

The Violinist's Secret by *M.J. Hollows* (2025)

Charlotte Weber is against the Nazi regime and what it stands for, but as she attends Hamburg University, she struggles to make sense of the war she finds herself a part of. Dealing with the suspicious death of her friend, and recruited by Nazi spies as a result of mistaken identity, Charlotte begins to discover hidden truths of her closest circle of friends, all of whom have something to hide that would make them targets for the Nazis.

We All Live Here by *Jojo Moyes* (2024)

Lila Kennedy has a lot on her plate. A broken marriage, two wayward daughters, and a house that is falling apart. Her career is in freefall and her love life is complicated. So when her estranged father suddenly returns, it feels like the final straw. However she learns the family you thought you could never forgive might be able to teach you about love, and what it actually means to be family.

Wellness: A Novel by *Nathan Hill* (2023)

College love in the 90's to married life 20 years later, Jack and Elizabeth struggle to recognize one another amidst challenges in parenting, failed dreams and childhood trauma. To salvage their relationship both must undertake separate journeys of realizations and acceptances.

The Women by *Kristin Hannah* (2024)

Women can be heroes. When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances 'Frankie' McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path.

HISTORY

The American Homefront During WWII: Blackouts, Ration-books and Rosie the Riveter by *C D Peterson* (2024)

A striking story starting with little-known events well before Pearl Harbor – the clashes between isolationists and those favoring intervention and America's first peacetime draft. Americans describe in their own words the rigors of everyday life: rationing, air raid drills, rigging up black curtains and scrap drives. It truly was a time when there were no strangers.

The Dictionary People: The Unsung Heroes Who Created the Oxford English Dictionary by *Sarah Ogilvie* (2023)

Most people know the Oxford English Dictionary, or OED, but few know anything about its authors. Learn the shocking truth that the OED's authorship includes three murderers, the daughter of Karl Marx, activists, inventors, and other surprising characters. A fascinating look into the history of defining the English language.

Explorers: a New History by *Matthew H. Lockwood* (2024)

Unfurling a tapestry of surprising and historically overlooked figures spanning forty centuries and six continents, historian Matthew Lockwood narrates lives filled with imagination, curiosity and connection. From the glittering Bronze Age to the world of Caesar's Rome, through the era of the Vikings, to the exploration of the Arctic, Gibbins uses shipwrecks to tell all.

The Hammer: Power, Inequality, and the Struggle for the Soul of Labor by *Hamilton Nolan* (2024)

Nolan's examination of the American labor movement's history and current status finds us at a tipping point with public opinion on unions. He discussed the intersection of labor and politics and how organized labor can be a positive force. Presents a compelling assessment of the past, present, and future of organized labor in America.

The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post: A Novel by *Allison Pataki* (2022)

This book chronicles the life of Marjorie Merriweather Post, the heiress to the Post Cereal Company fortune. The story follows Marjorie from her youth in Battle Creek, Michigan to her rise as one of the wealthiest women in the world. This book takes the reader through Post's somewhat difficult but dazzling adventures as a daughter, wife, mother, businesswoman, philanthropist and hostess.

Mavericks: Life stories and lessons of history's most extraordinary misfits by *Jenny Draper* (2025)

Witty and engaging TikTok historian J.D. Draper digs out unusual stories of individuals that have shaped the world and discovers the lessons their unique experiences can teach us. Breaking away from history as told through the lens of kings, queens and nobles, this book instead lifts the lid on 24 fascinating stories of little-known underdogs, mavericks, trailblazers and oddballs.

The Most Maligned Women in History by *Samantha Morris* (2024)

Throughout history, women from the lowliest of the working classes to the highest echelons of society, have been accused of crimes ranging from witchcraft and vampirism to treason and mass murder. But just how true were these accusations?

Night Flyer: Harriet Tubman and the Faith Dreams of a Free People by *Tiya Miles* (2024)

Despite being barely five feet tall, unable to read, and suffering from a brain injury, Harriet Tubman managed to escape from her own enslavement, return again and again to lead others north to freedom without loss of life, speak out powerfully against slavery, and then become the first American woman in history to lead a military raid, freeing some seven hundred people.

On Air: The Triumph and Tumult of NPR by *Steve Oney* (2025)

Explores legendary on-air talents (Bob Edwards, Susan Stamberg, Ira Glass, Cokie Roberts, and many others) and the rise and fall and occasional rise again of brilliant and sometimes venal executives. Depicts NPR's creation of a medium for extraordinary journalism—where microphones are paintbrushes and the voices of people create the soundtrack of the world.

Pathogenesis: A History of the World in Eight Plagues by *Jonathan Kennedy* (2024)

A narrative in opposition to the widely-held belief in the supremacy of human exceptionalism as our path to modernity. The author argues that plagues are the basis for many social structures, and questions our understanding of how we as societies have become what we are today.

The Sisterhood: The Secret History of Women at the CIA by *Liza Mundy* (2023)

Created in the aftermath of World War II, the Central Intelligence Agency relied on women even as it attempted to channel their talents and keep them down. Women sent cables, made dead drops, and maintained the agency's secrets. Despite discrimination—even because of it—women who started as clerks, secretaries, or unpaid spouses rose to become some of the CIA's shrewdest operatives.

Sleeping with the Ancestors by *Joseph McGill and Herb Frazier* (2023)

A book written to deepen and broaden our understanding of what African- American slaves endured.

KENTUCKY

The Act of Disappearing by *Nathan Gower* (2024)

Julia White is struggling: her bartending job isn't cutting it and her first book has sold hardly any copies. She's broke, barely able to make ends meet while drowning in her late mother's medical bills. Enter Johnathan Aster, world-renowned photographer, who wants Julia to research a photograph's history. Each detail is more propulsive than the last as Julia unravels the mystery surrounding the Fairchilds of Gray Station and discovers a story more staggering than anything she could have imagined.

Between the Rivers by *David Johnson* (2023)

Based on the true events, the write takes readers to the area now known as "Land Between the Lakes" How the government forceful acquisition of the land effects people who had been there for generations, had their own "laws" and rarely crossed the river so they didn't know what went on the outside world. not a pretty picture of the government, the TVA and eminent domain.

The Book Woman's Daughter by *Kim Michele Richardson* (2022)

A companion novel to, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*. Honey, daughter of the bookwoman of Troublesome Creek, fights for her freedom after her parents are imprisoned. She takes over her mother's packhorse library route and begins delivering books in treacherous and remote areas of rural Appalachia, facing many challenging circumstances.

Driftwood: The Life of Harlan Hubbard by *Jessica K. Whitehead* (2025)

Writer, artist, and sustainability pioneer Harlan Hubbard (1900–1988) lived a quiet, unassuming life, and yet he is thoroughly embedded in Kentucky's historical memory. Learn the full story of Hubbard and discover Payne Hollow, his hand-built homestead.

Gatewood: Kentucky's Uncommon Man by *Matthew Strandmark* (2023)

When Louis Gatewood Galbraith passed away in 2012, the many tributes honoring him merely scratched the surface of his colorful and controversial life. This overview of an eccentric and fascinating figure comes from personal stories, public records, and oral history interviews.

Kentucky at Heart: The autobiography of Mary Lee Click Ramey: The Roads She Traveled by *Vickie Rose* (2024)

Mary Lee Click Ramey, in her seventies and eighties, wrote down and then typed up an amazing account of her life from rural Kentucky to West Virginia to Ohio. She had trials and tribulations, but also accomplishments. Read about her family and friends.

Kentucky, Y'All : a Celebration of the People and Culture of the Bluegrass State by *Blair Thomas Hess and Cameron M. Ludwick* (2024)

This is an entertaining and informative compilation of the state's favorite oddities, cultural quirks, traditions, and rites of passage. The authors share the best stories from their experiences as writers, travelers, and residents in this ode to the Commonwealth.

Moving to Kentucky: Your guide to relocating to the Bluegrass State (USA Moving Guides) by *Dr Alex Bugeja* (2024)

Thinking of moving to Kentucky? This comprehensive guide dives deep into what makes Kentucky unique, offering practical advice and cultural insights for a smooth transition. Perfect for experienced movers within the United States, this book focuses on the nuances of Kentucky life.

My Old Kentucky Home: The Astonishing Life and Reckoning of an Iconic American Song by *Emily Bingham* (2022)

In the book, Emily Bingham, explores the long, strange journey of what has come to be seen by some as an American anthem, an integral part of our folklore, culture, customs, foundation, a living symbol of a happy past. But, My Old Kentucky Home was never just a song.

Shaker Made: Inside Pleasant Hill's Shaker Village by *Carol Peachee* (2024)

This photographic collection presents cultural artifacts of the Shakers of Pleasant Hill, Kentucky. Depicts traditional furniture and crafts to the more mundane everyday items such as eyeglasses and medicine bottles. This collection presents an educational and respectful glimpse into the world of a unique historical Kentucky community.

Simplicity and Excellence: Elizabeth Kremer from Beaten Biscuits to Shaker Lemon Pie by *Deirdre A. Scaggs*. (2024).

Born long ago in Cynthiana, Kentucky, Elizabeth Cromwell Kremer was a woman who strove for excellence in all things. From the home economics classrooms of the University of Kentucky to the fine dining restaurants of Louisville and New York City, Kremer's dedication helped her build a legacy that celebrated the simplicity of good, traditional Kentucky cooking. In 1967, after taking a long break to raise her family, then sixty-five-year-old Kremer reentered the business world to open a restaurant for Kentucky's newly restored Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill.

Spirit of the Bluegrass: Strange, Surprising, and Sentimental Stories from Kentucky

by Marvin Bartlett (2025)

Journalist Marvin Bartlett has traveled the state, collecting stories that define The Spirit of the Bluegrass. If a story is odd, inspirational, educational, or nearly unbelievable, it is a perfect fit for the feature segments prepared for broadcast in Kentucky from border to border. Travel with Marvin to soak up that spirit found in people, places and things that are unique to the Bluegrass State.

The Original Louisville Slugger: The Life and Times of Forgotten Baseball Legend Pete Browning *by Tim Newby (2024)*

Louis "Pete" Rogers Browning was one of the greatest baseball players of the nineteenth century. Few were aware that, behind the comedic persona, Browning suffered from mastoiditis, a devastating physical ailment that robbed him of his hearing, deprived him of an education, eroded his professional skills, and led to his heavy dependence on alcohol.

Under the Greenwood Tree: A Celebration of Kentucky Shakespeare *by Tracy E. K'Meyer (2024)*

Tells the story of C. Douglas Ramey's Carriage House Players theater company in Louisville and how they built the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival upon a single crowd-pleasing Central Park production of *Much Ado About Nothing* in 1960. The history and impact of this Kentucky arts program is highlighted through interviews of previous performers.

RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY

Aflame: Learning from Silence *by Pico Iyer (2025)*

Iyer connects with inner stillness and joy in his many seasons at a monastery, even as his life is going through constant change. He shares the revelations he experiences, alongside wisdom from other non monastics who have learned from adversity and inwardness. And most profoundly, he shows how solitude can be a training in community and companionship.

Do It Anyway: Don't Give Up Before It Gets Good *by Tasha Cobbs-Leonard (2024)*

Pastor, entrepreneur, and gospel music icon tells of journeying through moments of unforeseen challenges while holding to an unshakable God and discovering that our greatest breakthroughs come when we make the courageous choice to show up and do hard things anyway. Whether you're feeling stuck, stressed, or simply weary-there's a more hopeful way to live and to believe.

Eleanor Roosevelt's Nightly Prayer: The Religious Life of the First Lady of the World *by Donn Mitchell (2025)*

A great woman who was heavily involved in politics, Eleanor Roosevelt is considered one of the most important and beloved First Ladies and female leaders. Her faith and beliefs are commonly dismissed as confines of her upbringing that she broke free from; however, her dedication to the Episcopal Church and her reliance on Jesus's teachings imply otherwise. Her nightly prayer, famously recorded in her writing, demonstrates her approach to serving her community and nation, and her inspiration and strength in the politics she was involved in become apparent when understanding the context of her religion and considering the fulfillment of her beliefs through her actions. Examines the impact of Eleanor's faith on her work, and by extension, its impact on the world.

The Empty Bowl: Pursuing Truth in a Messy World by *Rikki West* (2025)

At seven, Rikki West begs a mysterious God for help, praying that her drunk father won't harm their family and that he won't be sent to hell. But when nothing seems to happen, she worries: Is anyone up there really listening? This question triggers a lifelong search for the great, loving being she imagines her prayers might reach. Delving into Catholicism, psychedelics, transcendental meditation, yoga, AA and Buddhist chanting, she explores every available path.

Forged by Fire: How to Develop an Unstoppable Personal Brand by *Mila Grigg* (2022)

Brand consultant Mila Grigg takes you step by step through crafting a personal brand based on core values, discovered purpose, and the incomparable experience that separates you from everyone else. Mila's own story is one of fortitude and redemption, of building an unshakable foundation amid adversity and rising above it to be stronger than ever.

The Half-Known Life: In Search of Paradise by *Pico Iyer* (2023)

What is paradise? Explore a multitude of interpretations of Utopia across numerous religions and cultures. Iyer presents what many expect from the afterlife and discusses how we might find some bits of paradise in our lives right now. Iyer invites readers to open their eyes to the possibilities.

Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God by *Dallas*

Willard (Author), James Bryan Smith (Foreword) (2024)

Being close to God means communicating with him—telling him what is on our hearts in prayer, *and* hearing and understanding what he is saying to us. But how do we hear God's voice? What role does the Bible play? What if what God says to us is not clear?

The Hidden Powers of Ritual: The Journey of a Lifetime by *Bradd Shore* (2023)

Highlights how humans ritualize behavior, from the sacred and religious to the more everyday or common. Presents detailed case studies on lives filled with ritual and how these rituals benefit and define humanity. An anthropological examination that will interest a wide variety of audiences.

Immaculate forms: a history of the female body in four parts by *Helen King* (2025)

Explores the relationship between religion and medicine and their twinned history of gatekeeping over the key organs that have been used to define "woman." Illustrates how conceptions of women's bodies have owed more to imagination and myth than to observation and science.

Life Worth Living: a Guide to What Matters Most by *Miroslav Volf* (2023)

Based on the popular class at Yale University, "What makes a good life?" this is a guide to defining and then creating a flourishing life.

Raised to Stay by *Natalie Runion* (2023)

An honest exploration of disappointment with the Church, this book is for anyone weary of God's people but longing to keep their faith in God. Embark on a journey for all who are wandering, wondering, and wrestling. Together, move toward trusting God again, knowing that even though Christian community may fail us, the love of God never fails.

The Spirit of Harriet Tubman: Awakening from the Underground by *Spring Washam* (2024)

Addressing the current movement of civil rights and how readers can engage in change with Tubman's guidance, this title is an inspirational read for those seeking to build or heal a compassionate heart.

Whatever Happens: How to Stand Firm in Your Faith When the World is Falling Apart by Robert J. Morgan (2024)

Tackle each day with an undaunted attitude in an age of mindless doomscrolling and consumption of negative news. Learn how to: use prayer to energize their life and embrace uncertainty, make today about serving others and lifting them up, and let others lean on their strength.

Winning Your Spiritual Battles by Tony Evans (2019)

If fear or anxiety has its grip on you, and you're imagining the devil preparing to make yet another move in your personal life, marriage, home, health, career, finances, or any number of other arenas, know there is hope. Dr. Evans offer compelling, down to earth, guidance to help you stand firm in God's Word and authority to experience victory in all your spiritual battles.

TRAVEL

An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us by Ed Yong (2022)

Around the globe there is an array of senses that can only be experienced by specific species. From the sparkling of whales in the eyes of the giant squid, the allure of flowers to bees, to humans that use sonar like bats. Discover the many worlds hidden within our own in this book of travels.

Appalachian Trail thru-hikers' companion by John LaManna and Robert Palermo (2025)

A thoroughly researched guide by long-distance hikers for long-distance hiker.

The Catch Me If You Can: One Woman's Journey to Every Country in the World by Jessica Nabongo (2022)

It was a daunting task, but Jessica Nabongo, the beloved voice behind the popular website 'The Catch Me if You Can,' made it happen, completing her journey to all 195 UN-recognized countries in the world in October 2019. Now, in this one-of-a-kind memoir, she reveals her top 100 destinations from her global adventure.

Instructions for Traveling West: Poems by Joy Sullivan (2024)

A collection of poems in reinvention and finding a hidden sense of adventure. Through Sullivan's own story of reinvention, from leaving her fiancé, selling her house, quitting her corporate job, and taking to the road for travel, there is a message of realizing the life you desire. This book is a reminder to live freely, make mistakes, and seek what really brings you joy in life.

Never Leave the Dogs Behind by Brianna Madia. (2024)

A deeply honest, moving account of a woman walking the line between independence and isolation. Traveling through the Southwest desert alone with her four dogs, Brianna wonders where the road less traveled has led her in this powerful and poignant portrait of rebuilding and surviving.

ROUTE 66 TRAVEL GUIDE: Everything You Need to Know for the Ultimate American Road Trip by Johnathan Stenger (2025)

Ready to hit the road and experience the beauty of America's most famous highway? From the skyscrapers of Chicago to the sunny shores of Santa Monica, this guide takes you through every must-see stop, hidden gem, and roadside diner along the way.

The Six: The Extraordinary Story of the Grit and Daring of America's First Women

Astronauts by Loren Grush (2024)

Travel to the moon with the first women astronauts. When NASA sent astronauts to the moon in the 1960s and 1970s the agency excluded women from the corps, arguing that only military test pilots—a group then made up exclusively of men—had the right stuff. Eventually, though, NASA recognized its blunder and opened the application process to a wider array of hopefuls, regardless of race or gender. From a candidate pool of 8,000 six elite women were selected in 1978—Sally Ride, Judy Resnik, Anna Fisher, Kathy Sullivan, Shannon Lucid, and Rhea Seddon.

South to America: A Journey Below the Mason-Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation *by Imani Perry (2022)*

The South is often reduced to familiar signifiers like the Civil War, plantations, and slavery. Yet author Imani Perry argues that understanding the South is key to knowing the entire nation. The book follows a Black woman from Alabama returning home, seeing it anew through detours and deep dives. Southerners are portrayed with sensitivity, reflecting on the region's history and rituals.

Walk Ride Paddle: A Life Outside *by Tim Kaine (2024)*

Former vice president candidate and Virginia senator, Tim Kaine, travelled over 1,200 miles across the state in a three-part journey over several years amidst working in office. Kaine provides an optimistic perspective on history garnered while hiking the Appalachian Trail from Harpers Ferry to the Tennessee border, cycling along the Virginia Blue Ridge, and canoeing the entire James River.

We're On Our Way USA (The Tailspin Travelogues) *by Andy C Wareing (2023)*

Andy chronicles his family's move from grey, rainy England to hot and steamy Atlanta. He transports his wife, two kids, two dubious dogs and one very unhappy cat 4,000 miles across the pond. Through laugh-out loud anecdotes and hard-won wisdom, Andy shares the thrilling highs, frustrating lows, and daunting challenges of uprooting your entire life to start over in a strange land.

CLASSICS AND OLD FAVORITES

The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency *by Alexander McCall Smith (2003)*

This first in this series tells the story of the cunning and engaging Precious Ramotswe, who is drawn to her profession to “help people with problems in their lives.” She is hired to track down a missing husband, uncover a con man, and follow a wayward daughter. But the case that lands her in danger, is a missing eleven-year-old boy, who may have been snatched by witchdoctors.

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl *by Anne Frank (1952)*

Anne Frank's extraordinary diary, written in the Amsterdam attic where she and her family hid from the Nazis for two years, has become a world classic and a timeless testament to the human spirit. Facing hunger, fear of discovery and death, and the petty frustrations of such confined quarters, her story is that of every teenager, lived out in conditions few teenagers have ever known.

Brave New World *by Aldous Huxley (1932)*

A searching vision of an unequal, technologically-advanced future where humans are genetically bred, socially indoctrinated, and pharmaceutically anesthetized to passively uphold an authoritarian ruling order—all at the cost of our freedom, full humanity, and perhaps also our souls.

Catch-22 by *Joseph Heller* (1961)

Follow the protagonist bombardier Yossarian and his experience with the rule Catch-22, which frustratingly states that a man is considered insane if he willingly continues to fly dangerous combat missions. But if he formally requests to be removed, he is proven sane and therefore ineligible to be relieved. Set during World War II, this is an insightful examination of human nature and conflict.

The Chosen by *Chaim Potok* (1967)

A now-classic story of two fathers and two sons and the pressures on them to pursue the religion they share in the way that is best suited to each. As the boys grow into young men, they discover in the other a lost spiritual brother, and a link to an unexplored world that neither had ever considered before. In effect, they exchange places, and find the peace that neither will ever retreat from again.

The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America by *Erik Larson* (2003)

Larson tells the intertwined stories of two men: Daniel H. Burnham, the architect responsible for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair's construction, and H.H. Holmes, a serial killer masquerading during this time as a charming doctor.

Heidi by *Johanna Spyri* (1881)

Five-year-old orphan Heidi is sent to live with her grandfather in the Alps. Everyone in the village is afraid of him, but Heidi is fascinated by him and loves her life with him in the mountains. One terrible day, Heidi's aunt takes her to live with a new family in town. Heidi can't bear to be away from her grandfather; can she find a way back up the mountain, where she belongs?

In the Face of Evil by *David Baldacci* (2019)

MURDER and evil people doing things they should not do.

Our Town : a Play in Three Acts by *Thornton Wilder* (1938)

Considered one of the greatest American plays of all time, this Pulitzer Prize-winning drama set in a mythical New Hampshire village is an allegorical representation of all life. It is the simple story of a love affair that asks timeless questions about the meaning of love, life, and death.

On the Move: A Life by *Oliver Sacks* (2015)

In this tender and joyous memoir, Oliver Sacks (most known for his books *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* and *Awakenings*) shows us that the same energy that drives his physical passions—weightlifting and swimming—also drives his cerebral passions.

Peter Pan by *J. M. Barrie* (1928)

In pursuit of his lost shadow, a young boy named Peter Pan enters the bedroom of three children named Wendy, Michael, and John. They venture with Peter to Neverland and meet his ageless band of Lost Boys, but soon realize not all is perfect when they meet the evil Captain Hook.

Pride and Prejudice by *Jane Austen* (1813)

Though her sisters are keen on finding men to marry, Elizabeth Bennet would rather wait for someone she loves - certainly not someone like Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy, whom she finds to be smug and judgmental, in contrast to the charming George Wickham. But she soon learns that her first impressions may be incorrect, and the quiet, genteel Mr. Darcy might be her true love after all.

The Secret Garden by *Frances Hodgson Burnett* (1911)

This classic tale of discovery and friendship tells the story of recently orphaned Mary Lennox, who is sent to live on her uncle's estate. While exploring the grounds, she discovers a long-neglected garden that has been walled off. She begins to care for the garden along with a gardener, a young friend, and her invalid cousin. Together these characters nurture it into a thing of beauty while building friendship and discovering their capacity for confidence and empathy.

The Story of My Life by *Helen Keller*

An American classic rediscovered by each generation and popularized by the stage play and movie *The Miracle Worker*, Helen Keller's story has become a symbol of hope for people all over the world. From the moment Keller recognizes the word "water" when her teacher, Anne Sullivan, finger-spells the letters, we share her triumph as "that living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free!"

The Wind in the Willows by *Kenneth Grahame* (1908)

Originally a series of tales for the author's young son, follow the many adventures of Rat, Mole, Badger, Toad, and other animal friends in the English countryside. These delightful stories invite both adults and children alike into a natural, rustic, but never-boring world.

The Wizard of Oz by *L. Frank Baum* (1900)

Dorothy feels lost forever when a tornado crashes through Kansas and whisks her far away to the magical land of Oz. To get home, Dorothy and her dog Toto must follow the yellow brick road to Emerald City and find the mysterious Wizard of Oz. Together with her new companions – the Tinman, the Scarecrow and the Cowardly Lion – she embarks on an enchanting adventure.