

## INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES COMMITTEE BOOK DISCUSSION POSSIBILITIES

Compiled by Krista Hartman, updated 12/2015

All titles in this list are available at the MVCC Utica Campus Library.

### Books already discussed:

Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*. (Nigeria ; Fiction)  
Badkken, Anna. *Peace Meals: Candy-Wrapped Kalashnikovs and Other War Stories*.  
Cohen, Michelle Corasanti. *The Almond Tree*. (Palestine/Israel/US ; Fiction)  
Hosseini, Khaled. *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. (Afghanistan ; Fiction)  
Lahiri, Jhumpa. *The Namesake*. (East Indian immigrants in US ; Fiction)  
Maathai, Wangari. *Unbowed: a Memoir*. (Kenya)  
Menzel, Peter & D'Alusio, Faith. *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*.  
Barolini, Helen. *Umbertina*. (Italian American)  
Spring 2016 selection: *Running for My Life* by Lopez Lomong (Sudan) (see below)

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### Abdi, Hawa. [\*Keeping Hope Alive: One Woman—90,000 Lives Changed\*](#). (Somalia)

The moving memoir of one brave woman who, along with her daughters, has kept 90,000 of her fellow citizens safe, healthy, and educated for over 20 years in Somalia. Dr. Hawa Abdi, "the Mother Teresa of Somalia" and Nobel Peace Prize nominee, is the founder of a massive camp for internally displaced people located a few miles from war-torn Mogadishu, Somalia. Since 1991, when the Somali government collapsed, famine struck, and aid groups fled, she has dedicated herself to providing help for people whose lives have been shattered by violence and poverty. She turned her 1300 acres of farmland into a camp that has numbered up to 90,000 displaced people, ignoring the clan lines that have often served to divide the country. She inspired her daughters, Deqo and Amina, to become doctors. Together, they have saved tens of thousands of lives in her hospital, while providing an education to hundreds of displaced children. In 2010, Dr. Abdi was kidnapped by radical insurgents, who also destroyed much of her hospital, simply because she was a woman. She, along with media pressure, convinced the rebels to let her go, and she demanded and received a written apology.

### Abi-Ezzi, Nathalie. [\*A Girl Made of Dust\*](#). (Lebanon) (Fiction)

In her peaceful town outside Beirut, Ruba is slowly awakening to the shifting contours within her household: hardly speaking and refusing to work, her father has inexplicably withdrawn from his family; her once-youthful mother looks so sad that Ruba imagines her heart must have withered like a fig in the heat; and Ruba's older brother has begun to secretly meet with older boys who carry guns. When Ruba decides that to salvage her family she must first save her father, she uncovers a long-buried secret that will send her on a journey away from the safety of childhood and into a brutal reality where men kill in the name of faith and race, past wrongs remain unforgiven, and where nothing less than courageous acts of sacrifice and unity can offer survival. *A Girl Made of Dust* is a coming-of-age story sparked, but not consumed, by violence and loss. This strikingly assured debut captures both a country and a childhood plagued by a conflict that even at its darkest and most threatening, carries the promise of healing and retribution.

### Abirached, Zeina. [\*A Game For Swallows: to Die, to Leave, to Return\*](#). (Lebanon) (Fiction—Graphic novel)

Living in the midst of civil war in Beirut, Lebanon, Zeina and her brother face an evening of apprehension when their parents do not return from a visit to the other side of the city.

### Abuelaish, Izzeldin. [\*I Shall Not Hate: a Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity\*](#).

(Palestine/Israel) By turns inspiring and heart-breaking, hopeful and horrifying, *I Shall Not Hate* is Izzeldin Abuelaish's account of an extraordinary life. A Harvard-trained Palestinian doctor who was born and

raised in the Jabalia refugee camp in the Gaza Strip and "who has devoted his life to medicine and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians" (New York Times), Abuelaish has been crossing the lines in the sand that divide Israelis and Palestinians for most of his life - as a physician who treats patients on both sides of the line, as a humanitarian who sees the need for improved health and education for women as the way forward in the Middle East. And, most recently, as the father whose daughters were killed by Israeli soldiers on January 16, 2009, during Israel's incursion into the Gaza Strip. His response to this tragedy made news and won him humanitarian awards around the world. Instead of seeking revenge or sinking into hatred, Abuelaish called for the people in the region to start talking to each other. His deepest hope is that his daughters will be "the last sacrifice on the road to peace between Palestinians and Israelis."

**Abulhawa, Susan. [Mornings in Jenin: a Novel](#). (Palestine/Israel) (Fiction)**

"Palestine, 1941. In the small village of Ein Hod a father leads a procession of his family and workers through the olive groves. As they move through the trees the green fruits drop onto the orchard floor; the ancient cycle of the seasons providing another bountiful harvest." "1948. The Abulheja family are forcibly removed from their ancestral home in Ein Hod and sent to live in a refugee camp in Jenin. Through Amal, the bright granddaughter of the patriarch, we witness the stories of her brothers: one, a stolen boy who becomes an Israeli soldier; the other who in sacrificing everything for the Palestinian cause will become his enemy. Amal's own dramatic story threads its way through six decades of Palestinian-Israeli tension, eventually taking her into exile in Pennsylvania in America. Amal's is a story of love and loss, of childhood, marriage and parenthood, and finally the need to share her history with her daughter, to preserve the greatest love she has.

**Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. [Half of a Yellow Sun](#). (Biafra) (Fiction)**

With effortless grace, celebrated author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie illuminates a seminal moment in modern African history: Biafra's impassioned struggle to establish an independent republic in southeastern Nigeria during the late 1960s. We experience this tumultuous decade alongside five unforgettable characters: Ugwu, a thirteen-year-old houseboy who works for Odenigbo, a university professor full of revolutionary zeal; Olanna, the professor's beautiful young mistress who has abandoned her life in Lagos for a dusty town and her lover's charm; and Richard, a shy young Englishman infatuated with Olanna's willful twin sister Kainene. *Half of a Yellow Sun* is a tremendously evocative novel of the promise, hope, and disappointment of the Biafran war. See also her novel [Purple Hibiscus](#) (Nigeria) (Fiction) and Chinua Achebe's [There Was a Country: a Personal History of Biafra](#) (Biafra).

**Akpan, Uwem. [Say You're One of Them](#). (Africa) (Fiction)**

This collection of five stories set in various African countries reveals the harsh consequences for children of life in Africa.

**Al-Baz, Rania. [Disfigured: a Saudi Woman's Story of Triumph Over Violence](#). (Saudi Arabia)**

"For over six years, Rania Al-Baz was the smiling face of a family program on Saudi television. She was a young, beautiful Saudi TV news anchor--the first woman to have such a job--when her abusive husband beat her into a coma and left her for dead. She later underwent thirteen operations to reconstruct her face. When she agreed to make horrifying pictures of her ravaged face public, her story sparked general criticism of Saudi culture. A month later, the first Saudi research into domestic violence began at King Saud University in Riyadh. But Rania's memoir is not simply the story of the violence she suffered; nor is it a tale of revenge. She denounces neither Islam nor the traditions of her country, nor even her former husband--only his violence. It is this generosity of spirit that carries her story--about her Saudi Arabian girlhood and adolescence, her disastrous first marriage, her public life as a TV journalist, her life as a mother, and her evolution into an activist on behalf of women." -- cover.

**Ali, Ayaan Hirsi. [Infidel](#). (Somalia/Saudi Arabia/Kenya)**

In this profoundly affecting memoir from the internationally renowned author of "The Caged Virgin," Ayaan Hirsi Ali tells her astonishing life story, from her traditional Muslim childhood in Somalia, Saudi Arabia, and

Kenya, to her intellectual awakening and activism in the Netherlands, and her current life under armed guard in the West. One of today's most admired and controversial political figures, Ayaan Hirsi Ali burst into international headlines following an Islamist's murder of her colleague, Theo van Gogh, with whom she made the movie "Submission." *Infidel* is the eagerly awaited story of the coming of age of this elegant, distinguished -- and sometimes reviled -- political superstar and champion of free speech. With a gimlet eye and measured, often ironic, voice, Hirsi Ali recounts the evolution of her beliefs, her ironclad will, and her extraordinary resolve to fight injustice done in the name of religion. Raised in a strict Muslim family and extended clan, Hirsi Ali survived civil war, female mutilation, brutal beatings, adolescence as a devout believer during the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood, and life in four troubled, unstable countries largely ruled by despots. In her early twenties, she escaped from a forced marriage and sought asylum in the Netherlands, where she earned a college degree in political science, tried to help her tragically depressed sister adjust to the West, and fought for the rights of Muslim immigrant women and the reform of Islam as a member of Parliament. Even though she is under constant threat -- demonized by reactionary Islamists and politicians, disowned by her father, and expelled from her family and clan -- she refuses to be silenced. Sequel: [Nomad](#).

**Ali, Nujood. [I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced](#). (Yemen)**

The true story of the remarkable 10-year-old Yemeni girl who dared to defy her country's most archaic traditions by fighting for a divorce.

**Alsanea, Rajaa. [Girls of Riyadh](#). (Saudi Arabia) (Fiction)**

When Rajaa Alsanea boldly chose to open up the hidden world of Saudi women—their private lives and their conflicts with the traditions of their culture—she caused a sensation across the Arab world. Now in English, Alsanea's tale of the personal struggles of four young upper-class women offers Westerners an unprecedented glimpse into a society often veiled from view. Living in restrictive Riyadh but traveling all over the globe, these modern Saudi women literally and figuratively shed traditional garb as they search for love, fulfillment, and their place somewhere in between Western society and their Islamic home.

**Al-Shaykh, Hanan. [The Story of Zahra: a Novel](#). (Lebanon/West Africa) (Fiction)**

Zahra, a young Lebanese woman haunted by memories of abuse by her parents, enters into a loveless marriage in West Africa and then returns to war-torn Beirut. Banned in several Middle Eastern countries since its original publication in 1986, *The Story of Zahra* is an intoxicating, provocative story of a young woman's coming of age in a city torn apart by war. See also her novel: [Women of Sand and Myrrh](#) (Middle East) (Fiction).

**Alvarez, Julia. [How the García Girls Lost Their Accents](#). (NYC/Dominican Republic) (Fiction)**

"When their father's part in a plot against a cruel dictator forces them to flee the Dominican Republic, the García sisters--Carla, Sandra, Yolanda, and Sofía--come to America. But 1960s New York City is vastly different from the genteel, if troubling, existence they left behind, a world marked by maids, manicures, a loving family, and disappearances, secret police raids, growing political unrest. In America, the García girls try to assimilate into the mainstream by ironing their hair, forgetting their Spanish, and meeting boys unchaperoned. Through it all, they remain caught between the old world and the new."

**Alvarez, Julia. [In the Time of the Butterflies](#). (Dominican Republic) (Fiction)**

Set during the waning days of the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic in 1960, this extraordinary novel tells the story the Mirabal sisters, three young wives and mothers who are assassinated after visiting their jailed husbands. On a deserted mountain road in the Dominican Republic in 1960, three young women from a pious Catholic family were assassinated after visiting their husbands who had been jailed as suspected rebel leaders. The Mirabal sisters, thus martyred, became mythical figures in their country, where they are known as *Las Mariposas* (the butterflies). Each of the sisters speaks in her own voice; beginning as young girls in the 1940s, their stories vary from hair ribbons to gun-running to prison torture. Their story is framed by their surviving sister who tells her own tale of suffering and dedication to the memory of *Las Mariposas*.

**Anthony, Lawrence.** [\*The Last Rhinos: My Battle to Save One of the World's Greatest Creatures\*](#). (Uganda)

A conservationist traces his efforts to save the endangered White Rhino, describing the brutal region where the last fifteen were struggling to survive, the bureaucratic forces the author navigated to establish protections, and his work as a chief negotiator between the violent Lord's Resistance Army and the Ugandan government. See also his book: [\*Babylon's Ark: the Incredible Wartime Rescue of the Baghdad Zoo\*](#) (Iraq)

**Asgedom, Mawi.** [\*Of Beetles and Angels: a Boy's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard\*](#).

(Sudan) Tells the unforgettable story of a young boy's journey from a refugee camp in Sudan to Chicago, where his family survived on welfare. Mawi followed his father's advice to "treat people . . . as though they were angels sent from heaven," and realized his dream of a full-tuition scholarship to Harvard University. His blog: <http://mawiasgedom.com/> His student motivation site: <http://mawilearning.com/>

**Ayub, Awista.** [\*Kabul Girls Soccer Club: a Dream, Eight Girls, and a Journey Home\*](#). (Afghanistan)

In 1981, Awista Ayub fled her birthplace of Kabul, Afghanistan with her family and escaped to the United States. Since then, Awista has been determined to make a difference for girls still living in Afghanistan. She honed in on her love of soccer, and set the wheels for life-changing events in motion by forming the Afghan Youth Sports Exchange (AYSE). What started with bringing a group of eight Afghan girls to the US for a soccer clinic exploded into nothing short of a phenomenon.

**Bâ, Mariama.** [\*So Long a Letter\*](#). (Senegal) (Fiction)

Written by award-winning African novelist Mariama Ba and translated from the original French, *So Long a Letter* has been recognized as one of Africa's 100 Best Books of the 20th Century. The brief narrative, written as an extended letter, is a sequence of reminiscences—some wistful, some bitter—recounted by recently widowed Senegalese schoolteacher Ramatoulaye Fall. Addressed to a lifelong friend, Aissatou, it is a record of Ramatoulaye's emotional struggle for survival after her husband betrayed their marriage by taking a second wife. This semi-autobiographical account is a perceptive testimony to the plight of educated and articulate Muslim women. Angered by the traditions that allow polygyny, they inhabit a social milieu dominated by attitudes and values that deny them status equal to men. Ramatoulaye hopes for a world where the best of old customs and new freedom can be combined. Considered a classic of contemporary African women's literature, *So Long a Letter* is a must-read for anyone interested in African literature and the passage from colonialism to modernism in a Muslim country. Winner of the prestigious Noma Award for Publishing in Africa.

**Badkhen, Anna.** [\*The World is a Carpet: Four Seasons in an Afghan Village\*](#). (Afghanistan)

In the middle of the salt-frosted Afghan desert, in a village so remote that Google can't find it, a woman squats on top of a loom, making flowers bloom in the thousand threads she knots by hand. Here, where heroin is cheaper than rice, every day is a fast day. B-52s pass overhead—a sign of America's omnipotence or its vulnerability, the villagers are unsure. They know, though, that the earth is flat—like a carpet. Anna Badkhen first traveled to this country in 2001, as a war correspondent. She has returned many times since, drawn by a land that geography has made a perpetual battleground, and by a people who sustain an exquisite tradition there. Through the four seasons in which a new carpet is woven by the women and children of Oqa, she immortalizes their way of life much as the carpet does—from the petal half-finished where a hungry infant needs care to the interruptions when the women trade sex jokes or go fill in for wedding musicians scared away by the Taliban. As Badkhen follows the carpet out into the world beyond, she leaves the reader with an indelible portrait of fates woven by centuries of art, war, and an ancient trade that ultimately binds the invaded to the invader. See also her books: [\*Peace Meals: Candy-Wrapped Kalashnikovs and Other War Stories\*](#), [\*Walking with Abel: Journeys with the Nomads of the African Savannahs\*](#) (Mali), and [\*The World is a Carpet: Four Seasons in an Afghan Village\*](#) (Afghanistan).

**Balakian, Peter. [\*Black Dog of Fate: an American Son Uncovers His Armenian Past\*](#). (Turkey)**

The first-born son of his generation, Peter Balakian grew up in a close, extended family, sheltered by 1950s and '60s New Jersey suburbia and immersed in an all-American boyhood defined by rock 'n' roll, adolescent pranks, and a passion for the New York Yankees that he shared with his beloved grandmother. But beneath this sunny world lay the dark specter of the trauma his family and ancestors had experienced--the Turkish government's extermination of more than a million Armenians in 1915, including many of Balakian's relatives, in the century's first genocide. In elegant, moving prose, *Black Dog of Fate* charts Balakian's growth and personal awakening to the facts of his family's history and the horrifying aftermath of the Turkish government's continued campaign to cover up one of the worst crimes ever committed against humanity.

**Peter teaches at Colgate University:** <http://www.colgate.edu/facultysearch/FacultyDirectory/peter-balakian>

**Barcott, Rye. [\*It Happened on the Way to the War: a Marine's Path to Peace\*](#). (Kenya)**

"In 2000 Rye Barcott spent a summer in the Kibera slum of Nairobi, Kenya. A college student heading into the Marines, he sought to better understand ethnic violence--something he would likely face later in uniform. He learned Swahili, asked questions, and listened to young people talk about surviving in poverty he had never imagined. Anxious to help but unsure what to do, he stumbled into friendship with a widowed nurse, Tabitha Atieno Festo, and a hardscrabble community organizer, Salim Mohamed. Together, this unlikely trio built a non-governmental organization that would develop a new generation of leaders from within one of Africa's largest slums. Their organization, Carolina for Kibera (CFK), is now a global pioneer of the movement called Participatory Development. As Barcott continued his leadership in CFK while serving as a human intelligence officer in Iraq, Bosnia, and the Horn of Africa, the tools he learned building a community in Kenya helped him become a more effective counterinsurgent and peacekeeper."

**Barolini, Helen. [\*Umbertina: a Novel\*](#). (Italian American)**

One of the first novels to explore Italian American women's experience and an acknowledged contemporary classic of Italian American literature, *Umbertina* tells the richly detailed story of four generations of women. The novel follows Umbertina and her descendants from her roots in a Calabrian village through a period of American assimilation, to Umbertina's great-granddaughters' efforts to resolve the dilemma of their Italian American identity. When first published in 1979, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* called it "an important novel for these times. . . . Through a dazzling interplay of American and Italian characters in both countries, Helen Barolini delineates the major concerns of all thinking American ethnics." This is no less true today, as this republication restores *Umbertina* to a reading public newly attuned to the complexities of cultural inheritance and identity. **The author was born in Syracuse and lived in Clinton!** See: <http://www.helenbarolini.com/>  
See also [\*Mount Allegro: a Memoir of Italian American Life\*](#) by Jerre Mangione (a Rochester native).

**Bartels, Peggilene. [\*King Peggy: an American Secretary, Her Royal Destiny, and the Inspiring Story of How She Changed an African Village\*](#). (Ghana)** "King Peggy" is the charming real-life fairy tale of an American secretary who discovers she has been chosen king of an impoverished fishing village on the west coast of Africa.

**Bashir, Halima. [\*Tears of the Desert: a Memoir of Survival in Darfur\*](#). (Sudan)**

Born into the Zaghawa tribe in the Sudanese desert, Halima Bashir received a good education away from her rural surroundings (thanks to her doting, politically astute father) and at twenty-four became her village's first formal doctor. Yet not even Bashir's degree could protect her from the encroaching conflict that would consume her homeland. Janjaweed Arab militias savagely assaulted the Zaghawa, often with the backing of the Sudanese military. Then, in early 2004, the Janjaweed attacked Bashir's village and surrounding areas, raping forty-two schoolgirls and their teachers. Bashir, who treated the traumatized victims, some as young as eight years old, could no longer remain quiet. But breaking her silence ignited a horrifying turn of events. Raw and riveting, *Tears of the Desert* is the first memoir ever written by a woman caught up in the war in Darfur. It is a survivor's tale of a conflicted country, a resilient people, and an uncompromising spirit.



**Bauer, Shane. [A Sliver of Light: Three Americans Imprisoned in Iran](#). (Kurdistan/Iran)**

"Three young Americans captured by Iranian forces and held in captivity for two years tell their story. In summer 2009, Shane Bauer, Joshua Fattal, and Sarah Shourd were hiking in Iraqi Kurdistan when they unknowingly crossed into Iran and were captured by a border patrol. Accused of espionage, the three Americans ultimately found themselves in Tehran's infamous Evin Prison, where they discovered that pooling their strength of will and relying on each other were the only ways they could survive. In this poignant memoir, 'the hikers' finally tell their side of the story. They recount the deception that lured them into Iran in the first place and describe the psychological torment of interrogation and solitary confinement. We follow them as they make surprising alliances with their fellow prisoners and even some of their captors, while their own bonds with each other are tested and deepened. Told through a bold and innovative interweaving of the authors' three voices, here is a rare glimpse inside Iran and a timeless portrayal of hardship and hope." – Provided by publisher.

**Beah, Ishmael. [A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier](#). (Sierra Leone)**

What is war like through the eyes of a child soldier? How does one become a killer? How does one stop? Child soldiers have been profiled by journalists, and novelists have struggled to imagine their lives. But until now, there has not been a first-person account from someone who came through this hell and survived. In *A Long Way Gone*, Beah, now twenty-five years old, tells a riveting story: how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts. This is a rare and mesmerizing account, told with real literary force and heartbreaking honesty. See also his novel: [Radiance of Tomorrow](#) (Fiction).

**Bell-Fialkoff, Andrew. [Ethnic Cleansing](#).**

In the former territory of Yugoslavia, along the fringes of the old Soviet Empire, and in Africa, whole populations are being murdered or forced from lands they have lived on for centuries. Andrew Bell-Fialkoff explains the history of this obscene practice, tracing it from antiquity to the present and showing how, in different times and places, the most varied criteria have been used to isolate and destroy previously accepted or even completely unnoticed groups. "Cleansing" has been based on race, gender, class, sexual preference, and religion and has been a constant evil in world history. The need to understand its reemergence in the wake of communism's collapse is at the center of this important book.

**Betancourt, Ingrid. [Even Silence Has an End: My Six Years of Captivity in the Colombian Jungle](#). (Colombia)**

Ingrid Betancourt tells the story of her captivity in the Colombian jungle, sharing teachings of resilience, resistance, and faith. Born in Bogotá, raised in France, Betancourt at age 32 gave up a life of comfort and safety to return to Colombia to become a political leader in a country that was being slowly destroyed by terrorism, violence, fear, and hopelessness. In 2002, while a candidate in the Colombian presidential elections, she was abducted by the FARC. She spent the next six and a half years in the depths of the jungle as their prisoner. Chained day and night for much of her captivity, she succeeded in getting away several times, always to be recaptured. The facts of her story are astounding, but it is Betancourt's indomitable spirit that drives this very special account, bringing life, nuance, and profundity to the narrative. See her autobiography: [Until Death Do Us Part: My Struggle to Reclaim Colombia](#).

**Bhutto, Fatima. [Songs of Blood and Sword: a Daughter's Memoir](#). (Pakistan)**

In September 1996, fourteen-year-old Fatima Bhutto hid in a windowless dressing room, shielding her baby brother, while shots rang out in the dark outside the family home in Karachi. This was the night her father Murtaza was murdered. It was the latest in a long line of tragedies for one of the world's best-known political dynasties. *Songs of Blood and Sword* tells the story of a family of feudal landlords who became powerbrokers. It is an epic tale of intrigue, the making of modern Pakistan, and ultimately, tragedy.

**Birmingham, Lucy.** [\*Strong in the Rain: Surviving Japan's Earthquake, Tsunami, and Fukushima Nuclear Disaster.\*](#) (Japan) In March of 2011, a 9.0 earthquake struck off the northeastern coast of Japan, unleashing a tsunami onto the densely populated coast. Over 19,000 people would be left dead, or missing, and the disaster triggered the world's worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl: a triple meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear plant. As the world offered support, people everywhere wondered how the Japanese, facing such horrific destruction, were able to exhibit such calm, selflessness, and fortitude in picking up the pieces. Blending history, science, and gripping storytelling, *Strong in the Rain* vividly explores the country beyond the headlines, as well as the personal and national stories behind the earthquake. Following the narratives of six individuals, including a worker in the Fukushima nuclear plant who returned to work during the meltdown and the mayor of a coastal town who stayed round the clock on the job without knowing the fate of his family, it offers a glimpse of the surprising ways the Japanese people stood strong in the face of disaster.

**Bok, Francis.** [\*Escape From Slavery: the True Story of My Ten Years Captivity and My Journey to Freedom in America.\*](#) (Sudan) May 1986: Seven-year-old Francis Bok was selling his mother's eggs and peanuts near his village in southern Sudan when Arab raiders on horseback burst into the quiet marketplace, murdering men and gathering the women and young children into a group. Strapped to horses and donkeys, Francis and others were taken north into lives of slavery under wealthy Muslim farmers. For ten years, Francis lived in a shed near the goats and cattle that were his responsibility. After two failed attempts to flee--each bringing severe beatings and death threats--Francis finally escaped at age seventeen. He persevered through prison and refugee camps for three more years, winning the attention of United Nations officials who granted passage to America. Now a student and an antislavery activist, Francis Bok has made it his life mission to combat world slavery. His is the first voice to speak to an estimated 27 million people held against their will in nearly every nation, including our own. *Escape from Slavery* is at once a riveting adventure, a story of desperation and triumph, and a window revealing a world that few have survived to tell.

**Boo, Katherine.** [\*Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity.\*](#) (India) This work of narrative nonfiction tells the dramatic and sometimes heartbreaking story of families striving toward a better life in one of the twenty-first century's great, unequal cities. In it, based on three years of reporting, a bewildering age of global change and inequality is made human. The events recounted are real, as are all the names. Annawadi is a makeshift settlement in the shadow of luxury hotels near the Mumbai airport, and as India starts to prosper, Annawadians are electric with hope. Abdul, a reflective and enterprising Muslim teenager, sees fortune in the recyclable garbage of richer people. Asha, a woman of formidable wit and deep scars from a rural childhood, has identified an alternate route to the middle class: political corruption. With a little luck, her sensitive, beautiful daughter, Annawadi's "most-everything girl," will soon become its first female college graduate. And even the poorest Annawadians, like Kalu, a fifteen-year-old scrap metal thief, believe themselves inching closer to good times they call "the full enjoy." But then Abdul the garbage sorter is falsely accused in a shocking tragedy; terror and a global recession rock the city; and suppressed tensions over religion, caste, sex, power and economic envy turn brutal. As the tenderest individual hopes intersect with the greatest global truths, the true contours of a competitive age are revealed. And so, too, are the imaginations and courage of the people of Annawadi.

**Bratt, Kay.** [\*Silent Tears: a Journey of Hope in a Chinese Orphanage.\*](#) (China) In 2003, Kay Bratt's life changed dramatically. A wife and mother of two girls in South Carolina, Bratt relocated her family to rural China to support her husband as he took on a new management position for his American employer. Seeking a way to fill her days and overcome the isolation she experienced upon arriving in a foreign country, Bratt began volunteering at the local orphanage. Within months, her simple desire to make use of her time transformed into a heroic crusade to improve the living conditions and minimize the unnecessary deaths of Chinese orphans. *Silent Tears* traces the emotional hurdles and daily frustrations faced by Ms. Bratt as she tried to change the social conditions for these marginalized children. The memoir vividly illustrates how she was able to pull from reservoirs of inner strength to pursue her mission day after day, leaving the reader with the resounding message that everyone really can make a difference.

**Brauen, Yangzom.** [\*Across Many Mountains: a Tibetan Family's Epic Journey From Oppression to Freedom.\*](#)

**(Tibet)** A memoir and portrait of three generations of Tibetan women whose lives are forever changed when Chairman Mao's Red Army crushes Tibetan independence, sending a young mother and her six-year-old daughter on a treacherous journey across the snowy Himalayas toward freedom. Kunsang thought she would never leave Tibet. One of the country's youngest Buddhist nuns, she grew up in a remote mountain village where, as a teenager, she entered the local nunnery. Though simple, Kunsang's life gave her all she needed: a oneness with nature and a sense of the spiritual in all things. She married a monk, had two children, and lived in peace and prayer. But not for long. There was a saying in Tibet: "When the iron bird flies and horses run on wheels, the Tibetan people will be scattered like ants across the face of the earth." The Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1950 changed everything. When soldiers arrived at her mountain monastery, destroying everything in their path, Kunsang and her family fled across the Himalayas only to spend years in Indian refugee camps. She lost both her husband and her youngest child on that journey, but the future held an extraordinary turn of events that would forever change her life, the arrival in the refugee camps of a cultured young Swiss man long fascinated with Tibet. Martin Brauen will fall instantly in love with Kunsang's young daughter, Sonam, eventually winning her heart and hand, and taking mother and daughter with him to Switzerland, where Yangzom will be born. Many stories lie hidden until the right person arrives to tell them. In rescuing the story of her now 90-year-old inspirational grandmother and her mother, Yangzom Brauen has given us a book full of love, courage, and triumph, as well as allowing us a rare and vivid glimpse of life in rural Tibet before the arrival of the Chinese. Most importantly, though, this story is a testament to three strong, determined women who are linked by an unbreakable family bond.

**Breidenbach, Joana.** [\*Seeing Culture Everywhere: From Genocide to Consumer Habits.\*](#)

Today's world is shaped by an obsession with cultural difference that penetrates everyday life and matters of state in unprecedented ways. Culture and cultural difference are commonly used to explain everything that's in the news, from wars to economic development and consumer behavior. This fuels the belief that our world is shaped by clashing cultures, a view that is counterproductive when it assumes falsely that culture is a timeless container that traps nations and ethnic groups. This work challenges the misguided and dangerous global obsession with cultural difference and directly critiques the popular notion that world affairs are determined by essential civilizations with immutable and conflicting cultures. The book offers an alternative view of a world in which cultural mixing, not isolation, is the norm, but where several historical trends have come together at the beginning of the twenty first century to produce the current wave of "culture think." Brimming with concrete examples that move from genocide in Rwanda to schools in Berlin, from the Chrysler boardroom to the war in Iraq, it contemplates how ethnic identity can be mobilized in the service of all kinds of goals, violent or nonviolent, laudable or despicable, and the unintended effects such mobilization invariably produces. The authors suggest ways to remain sensitive to the cultural impacts of policies and decisions without falling into the traps of determinism, essentialism, and misrepresentation.

**Brink, André.** [\*The Other Side of Silence.\*](#) **(Namibia) (Fiction)**

Acclaimed South African novelist Brink (*The Rights of Desire*; *Devil's Valley*; etc.) paints a harrowing picture of German South-West Africa (modern-day Namibia) in his latest novel, focusing on a German initiative to import hundreds of women to Africa for the colonists at the turn of the last century. Hanna X is an orphan who spends her early years in Germany trying to catch on as a domestic with a number of families, only to have the sexual advances of various libidinous husbands ruin her efforts to find a stable situation. Hanna thinks she has escaped the world of male domination when she receives permission to emigrate to South Africa, but her escape backfires. Raped and mutilated by brutal German officer Hauptmann Buhlke, she is taken to a horrific outpost known as the Frauenstein, where the abuse continues. The book's surreal, fragmentary first half, in which the events of Hanna's childhood are interspersed with the harrowing details of her arrival in Africa, is followed by a riveting second half, in which Hanna escapes the Frauenstein and tracks down Buhlke with the help of another abused woman, Katja, and a Herero tribesman, Kahapa, whom the two women rescue from a savage German farmer. The trio quickly become a small vigilante posse as they



journey to Windhoek to find Buhlke, and their efforts to turn the tables on the Germans succeed when they murder a small troop of soldiers and then wipe out a larger group at a garrison. The relentless violence occasionally turns Hanna into a one-dimensional character, but the imagery from this haunting novel will stay with readers, as will the frightening allure of all-consuming hatred: "So beautiful. So singular. So utterly pure. So abundantly full of life."

**Buffett, Howard G. [\*40 Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World\*](#).**

If someone granted you \$3 billion to accomplish something great in the world, what would you do? In 2006, legendary investor Warren Buffett posed this challenge to his son Howard G. Buffett. Howard set out to help the most vulnerable people on earth: nearly a billion individuals who lack basic food security. And Howard gave himself a deadline: forty years to put the resources to work on this challenge. *40 Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World* captures Howard's journey. Beginning with his love for farming, we join him around the world as he seeks out new approaches to ease the suffering of so many. Each of the forty stories here provides a compelling look at the lessons Howard learned, ranging from his own backyard to some of the most difficult and dangerous places on Earth. But this message goes beyond the pages of this book, it's also a mindset: a way of thinking that speaks to every person wanting to make a difference. It's about reasons to hope and actions we can take. *40 Chances* recounts Howard's personal and professional experiences in surprisingly candid and colorful fashion, successfully blending personal stories with a tough look at the struggle to fight domestic food scarcity and world hunger. A satisfying read (*Publishers Weekly*) that provides inspiration to transform each of our limited chances into opportunities to change the world.

**Bulawayo, NoViolet. [\*We Need New Names: a Novel\*](#). (Zimbabwe/U.S.) (Fiction)**

In Bulawayo's engaging and often disturbing semiautobiographical first novel, 10-year-old Darling describes, with childlike candor and a penetrating grasp of language, first, her life in Zimbabwe during its so-called Lost Decade and then her life as a teenager in present-day America. What is at once delightful and disturbing is the fact that young Darling and her friends are so resilient amidst chaos. Darling must cope with absentee parents gone to who-knows-where, seeking jobs and a better life; abusive adults; and murdering bands of self-appointed police in a country gone horribly wrong. Yet she evinces a sense of chauvinism regarding her corrupt homeland when she joins her aunt in America. There she discovers a country that has fallen into a different kind of chaos, primarily economic. She and her new family struggle while America fails to live up to her hopes. Ultimately what lingers is Bulawayo's poignant insights into how a person decides what to embrace and what to surrender when adapting to a new culture in a new land.

**Burnham, Gracia. [\*In the Presence of My Enemies\*](#). Updated ed. (Philippines)**

In this remarkably honest and unaffected memoir, Burnham tells the story of her captivity at the hands of Abu Sayyaf, a Muslim extremist group in the Philippines. For just over a year, she and her husband Martin, a missionary pilot, lived with their captors and a variety of other hostages in the Philippine jungle. In a botched rescue attempt, the Philippine army shot and killed Martin Burnham and Ediborah Yap, a nurse who was the other remaining hostage. Gracia Burnham was also shot, but rescued and treated for a leg wound. Burnham hauntingly depicts the alchemical reaction of deep Christian faith, Stockholm Syndrome and the unremitting terror of hostage life. The odd intimacy among the hostages and captors comes across in surprisingly frank conversations. At one point, Martin boldly refers to all the bad things the captors have done to the hostages, only to have one of them look at him quizzically and claim he has never done any harm to the hostages. The captors, in fact, do unspeakable things, such as beheading hostages or taking them as unwilling "wives." Impressively, Burnham makes no attempt to dramatize these events for shock value, nor does she use this book as an occasion for Christian triumphalism. Instead, she chronicles both her high and low moments as a Christian during that year, and shows tremendous respect and love for members of other faiths with whom she lived. While some of the book is written for a Christian audience, a much wider audience will appreciate Burnham's brave, artless account of these horrific events.

**Chapman, Marina.** [\*The Girl With No Name: the Incredible Story of a Child Raised by Monkeys.\*](#) (Colombia)

In 1954, in a remote mountain village in South America, a four-year-old girl was abducted, and then abandoned deep in the jungle. That she survived is a miracle. Two days later, half-drugged, terrified, and starving, she came upon a troop of capuchin monkeys. Acting entirely on instinct, she tried to do what they did: she ate what they ate and copied their actions, and little by little, learned to fend for herself. So begins the story of her five years among the monkeys, during which time she gradually became feral; she lost the ability to speak, lost all inhibition, lost any real sense of being human, replacing the structure of human society with the social mores of her new simian family. But society was eventually to reclaim her. At age ten she was discovered by a pair of hunters who took her to the lawless Colombian city of Cúcuta where, in exchange for a parrot, they sold her to a brothel. When she learned that she was to be groomed for prostitution, she made her plans to escape. But her adventure wasn't over yet... -

**Chavis, Melody Emachild.** [\*Meena, Heroine of Afghanistan: the Martyr Who Founded RAWA, the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan.\*](#) (Afghanistan) Meena founded RAWA in 1977 as a twenty-year-old Kabul University student. She was assassinated in 1987 at age thirty but lives on in the hearts of all progressive Muslim women. Her voice, speaking for freedom, has never been silenced. The compelling story of Meena's struggle for democracy and women's rights in Afghanistan will inspire young women the world over."

**Cheng, Nien.** [\*Life and Death in Shanghai.\*](#) (Shanghai, China)

A first-hand account of China's cultural revolution. Nien Cheng, an anglophile and fluent English-speaker who worked for Shell in Shanghai under Mao, was put under house arrest by Red Guards in 1966 and subsequently jailed. All attempts to make her confess to the charges of being a British spy failed; all efforts to indoctrinate her were met by a steadfast and fearless refusal to accept the terms offered by her interrogators. When she was released from prison she was told that her daughter had committed suicide. In fact Meiping had been beaten to death by Maoist revolutionaries.

**Cojean, Annick.** [\*Gaddafi's Harem: the Story of a Young Woman and the Abuses of Power in Libya.\*](#) (Libya)

Soraya was just fifteen, a schoolgirl in the coastal town of Sirte, when she was given the honor of presenting a bouquet of flowers to Colonel Gaddafi, "the Guide," on a visit he was making to her school the following week. This one meeting—a presentation of flowers, a pat on the head from Gaddafi—changed Soraya's life forever. Soon afterwards, she was summoned to Bab al-Azizia, Gaddafi's palatial compound near Tripoli, where she joined a number of young women who were violently abused, raped and degraded by Gaddafi. Heartwrenchingly tragic but ultimately redemptive, Soraya's story is the first one of many that are just now beginning to be heard. But sex and rape remain the highest taboo in Libya, and women like Soraya (whose identity is protected by a pseudonym here) risk being disowned or even killed by their dishonored family members. In *Gaddafi's Harem*, an instant bestseller on publication in France, where it has already sold more than 100,000 copies in hardcover, *Le Monde* special correspondent Annick Cojean gives a voice to Soraya's story, and supplements her investigation into Gaddafi's abuses of power through interviews with people who knew Soraya, as well as with other women who were abused by Gaddafi, and those who were involved with his regime, including a driver who ferried women to the compound, and Gaddafi's former Chief of Security. *Gaddafi's Harem* is an astonishing portrait of the essence of dictatorship: how power gone unchecked can wreak havoc on the most intensely personal level, as well as a document of great significance to the new Libya.

**Coleman, Isobel.** [\*Paradise Beneath Her Feet: How Women Are Transforming the Middle East.\*](#)

In this timely book, Coleman journeys through the strategic crescent of the greater Middle East--Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan--to reveal how activists are working within the tenets of Islam to create economic, political, and educational opportunities for women. Coleman argues that these efforts are critical to bridging the conflict between those championing reform and those seeking to oppress women in the name of religious tradition.

**Colvin, Ruth J.** [\*Off the Beaten Path: Stories of People Around the World.\*](#)

"From the Sunshine Coast of South Africa to a remote ashram in India, Colvin and her husband have traveled around the world, visiting sixty-two countries and providing literacy training in twenty-six developing countries. The founder of Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc., which later became ProLiteracy, Colvin was invited by universities, religious organizations, and the International Executive Service Corporation to share her skills in native language literacy and English as a second language training. Along the way, Colvin met people from all walks of life--a holy man in India, a banned leader and a revolutionary in the apartheid system of South Africa, lepers in India and Madagascar, Chinese Communists who truly "serve the people," and survivors of Pol Pot's Cambodia. In a richly varied and exciting career, Colvin's most rewarding adventures were connecting with individuals from vastly different backgrounds and experiences, learning about their cultures and traditions, and discovering the many similarities all people share."--From book jacket.

**Condé, Maryse.** [\*Tales From the Heart: True Stories From My Childhood.\*](#) (Guadelupe)

With the clarity of Caribbean sunshine and no trace of nostalgia, novelist Maryse Condé recalls her youth in Guadeloupe and in Paris. As a retired civil servant and a schoolteacher, Condé's father and his much younger wife were entitled to regular paid vacations in the City of Light; as a child making her first trip in 1946, young Maryse was upset to see white waiters condescending to her well-educated parents, "as much French as they are." It was her first taste of the colonial contradictions that would increasingly trouble this intelligent, rebellious girl, born on a Mardi Gras afternoon to the rowdy beat of *gwoka* drums, an audible manifestation of the low-class island culture her parents disdained. Condé's 17 impressionistic autobiographical sketches cast a pointed glance over the racial hierarchy of Guadeloupe, but it's not a bitter book. Her parents were proud to be French but also proud to be examples of black achievement; they raised their daughter to excel, and she did, though perhaps not as they would have preferred.

**Dai, Sijie.** [\*Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress.\*](#) (China) (Fiction)

"In this enchanting tale about the magic of reading and the wonder of romantic awakening, two hapless city boys are exiled to a remote mountain village for re-education during China's infamous Cultural Revolution. There they meet the daughter of the local tailor and discover a hidden stash of Western classics in Chinese translation. As they flirt with the seamstress and secretly devour these banned works, they find transit from their grim surroundings to worlds they never imagined." See also the feature film [\*Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress.\*](#)

**Dalai Lama XIV.** [\*Toward a True Kinship of Faiths.\*](#)

No country, no culture, no person today is untouched by what happens in the rest of the world. Technological innovation, environmental degradation, economic gain & loss, nuclear weapons, instant communication have all created unprecedented familiarity among the world's many cultures. While previous conflicts over religious differences may have been significant and regrettable, they did not threaten the very survival of humanity--now, a single spark could ignite a powder keg of frightening proportions. The Dalai Lama maintains that the essential task of humanity in the 21st century is to cultivate peaceful coexistence. All faith traditions turn to compassion as a guiding principle for living a good life. It is the task of all people with an aspiration to spiritual perfection to affirm the fundamental value of compassion. In this way we can truly develop a deep recognition of the value of other faiths, and on that basis, we can cultivate genuine respect.

**Dallal, Shaw J.** [\*Scattered Like Seeds: a Novel.\*](#) (Palestinian American) (Fiction)

In a historical novel that tells the story of one Palestinian-American uprooted by the Arab-Israeli conflict, Shaw J. Dallal describes the tensions and cultural bonds that shaped the lives of Palestinians in exile. Thafer Allam is the son of a celebrated Arab resistance fighter against the British occupation of Palestine before World War II. With such strong Arab roots, his exile in the United States means that Thafer belongs to two different worlds, and returning to his homeland is difficult after years immersed in the culture of the West. His career in nuclear technology and law places him in a position of advising Arab governments on U.S.-

related nuclear issues. Allam moves easily from the living rooms of the Palestinian ghettos to the offices of Arab ministers. With the 1973 oil embargo against the west underway, Allam tries to reconcile the pull of his Palestinian heritage with his ties to America. *The author lives in Utica.* See:

<http://www.colgate.edu/facultysearch/FacultyDirectory/shaw-dallal>

**Danner, Mark. [Massacre at El Mozote](#). (El Salvador)**

In December 1981 soldiers of the Salvadoran Army's select, American-trained Atlacatl Battalion entered the village of El Mozote, where they murdered hundreds of men, women, and children, often by decapitation. Although reports of the massacre -- and photographs of its victims -- appeared in the United States, the Reagan administration quickly dismissed them as propaganda. In the end, El Mozote was forgotten. The war in El Salvador continued, with American funding. When Mark Danner's reconstruction of these events first appeared in *The New Yorker*, it sent shock waves through the news media and the American foreign-policy establishment. Now Danner has expanded his report into a brilliant book, adding new material as well as the actual sources. He has produced a masterpiece of scrupulous investigative journalism that is also a testament to the forgotten victims of a neglected theater of the cold war. **The author is from Utica!**

See: <http://www.markdanner.com/>

**Danticat, Edwidge. [Brother, I'm Dying](#). (Haiti/U.S.)**

Danticat came to think of her uncle Joseph, a charismatic pastor, as her "second father" when she was placed in his care at age four when her parents left Haiti for America. So she experiences a jumble of emotions when, at twelve, she joins her parents, whom she struggles to remember, in New York City--she has left behind Joseph and the only home she's ever known. The story of a new life in a new country while fearing for those still in Haiti soon becomes a terrifying tale of good people caught up in events beyond their control. In 2004, his life threatened by a gang, the frail, 81-year-old Joseph makes his way to Miami, where he thinks he will be safe. Instead, he is detained by the Department of Homeland Security, brutally imprisoned, and dead within days. It was a story that made headlines around the world.

**Darabi, Parvin. [Rage Against the Veil: the Courageous Life and Death of an Islamic Dissident](#). (Iran)**

On February 21, 1994, a gesticulating and screaming woman entered a crowded public square in Tehran, removed her government-mandated veil and full coat, poured gasoline on her body and lit herself on fire. The crowd watched in horror as this woman, who had shouted, "Death to tyranny! Long live freedom!", committed a slow, painful suicide in a last, desperate attempt to make the world aware of the slavlike conditions of women living in Iran. A shockwave was felt in the American medical and feminist communities as well as in the Iranian political regime when the media reported that the self-appointed martyr was well-respected Dr. Homa Darabi, a lifelong advocate of civil rights and the first Iranian ever to be accepted into the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Darabi had risen from a student activist to a civil rights leader and moved on to a brilliant career in medicine as a premier psychiatrist, teaching at the University of Tehran, and establishing the first clinic in Iran to treat children's mental disorders. Darabi's sister Parvin, an activist and writer since her immigration to California in 1964, was left with only questions the day her sister took her own life. And those questions led to a careful examination of Homa's life in the shadow of an oppressive Muslim regime, where the intelligent and outspoken Dr. Darabi courageously tried to make a difference. Masterful storytellers, Parvin, and her son, Romin P. Thomson, vividly recreate Homa's childhood in Iran in the politically tempestuous '50s and '60s--a time of limited resources, tensions, and religiously sanctioned child abuse. They remember Homa's early yearnings for justice; the battle for democracy during the Shah's regime; and her marriage, which began as a loving partnership and ended under Khomeini in disaster. They unflinchingly recount the stonings, beatings, rapes, and executions of women, all performed in the name of God--outrageous abuses that Dr. Homa Darabi tried to expose to the world through her own final act of desperation.

**Davidson, Robyn. [Tracks](#). (Australia)**

"I arrived in the Alice at five a.m. with a dog, six dollars and a small suitcase full of inappropriate clothes. . .

There are some moments in life that are like pivots around which your existence turns.” For Robyn Davidson, one of these moments comes at age twenty-seven in Alice Springs, a dodgy town at the frontier of the vast Australian desert. Davidson is intent on walking the 1,700 miles of desolate landscape between Alice Springs and the Indian Ocean, a personal pilgrimage with her dog—and four camels. *Tracks* is the beautifully written, compelling true story of the author’s journey and the love/hate relationships she develops along the way: with the Red Centre of Australia; with aboriginal culture; with a handsome photographer; and especially with her lovable and cranky camels, Bub, Dookie, Goliath, and Zeleika.

**Davis, Wade. [The Serpent and the Rainbow](#). (Haiti)**

A scientific investigation and personal adventure story about zombis and the voodoo culture of Haiti by a Harvard scientist. In April 1982, ethnobotanist Wade Davis arrived in Haiti to investigate two documented cases of zombis—people who had reappeared in Haitian society years after they had been officially declared dead and had been buried. Drawn into a netherworld of rituals and celebrations, Davis penetrated the voodoo mystique deeply enough to place zombification in its proper context within voodoo culture. In the course of his investigation, Davis came to realize that the story of voodoo is the history of Haiti—from the African origins of its people to the successful Haitian independence movement, down to the present day, where voodoo culture is, in effect, the government of Haiti’s countryside.

**Deng, Alephonsion. [They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky: the True Story of Three Lost Boys From Sudan](#).**

**(Sudan)** As gunshots, flames, and screams engulfed their village, three cousins fled into the cover of the forest. Every step led the boys away from their peaceful, agrarian world--a traditional world where spear-toting fathers protected their huts from the lions that roamed by night. With each footstep they were drawn deeper into the horrific violence of Sudan’s civil war: a world of bombed-out villages, mine-sown roads, and relentless desert, a world where starving adults would snatch the grain from a weak child’s fingers. Across Sudan, between 1987 and 1989, tens of thousands of young boys took flight from these massacres. Their journey led them first to Ethiopia and then, driven back into Sudan, toward Kenya. They walked nearly one thousand miles, sustained only by the sheer will to live. This book is the three boys’ account of that unimaginable journey. See also the children’s book: [Brothers in Hope: the Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan](#) by Mary Williams.

**Deraniyagala, Sonali. [Wave](#). (Sri Lanka)**

"In 2004, at a beach resort on the coast of Sri Lanka, Sonali Deraniyagala and her family-- parents, husband, sons--were swept away by a tsunami. Only Sonali survived to tell her tale. This is her account of the nearly incomprehensible event and its aftermath."--From back cover.

**Dirie, Waris. [Desert Flower](#). (Somalia/UK/US)**

Waris Dirie ran away from her oppressive life in the African desert when she was barely in her teens, illiterate and impoverished, with nothing to her name but a tattered shawl. She traveled alone across the dangerous Somali desert to Mogadishu—the first leg of a remarkable journey that would take her to London, where she worked as a house servant; then to nearly every corner of the globe as an internationally renowned fashion model; and ultimately to New York City, where she became a human rights ambassador for the U.N. *Desert Flower* is her extraordinary story. See also the sequels [Desert Dawn \(Somalia/US\)](#) and [Desert Children \(Europe\)](#) and the feature film DVD [Desert Flower](#).

**Dow, Unity & Essex, Max. [Saturday is for Funerals](#). (Botswana)**

Dow and Essex tell the true story of lives in Botswana ravaged by AIDS. Witness the actions of community leaders, medical professionals, research scientists, and educators of all types to see how an unprecedented epidemic of death and destruction is being stopped in its tracks. See also her novel [Far and Beyond](#). **(Botswana) (Fiction)**



**Dresser, Norine.** [\*Multicultural Manners: Essential Rules of Etiquette for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century\*](#). Rev. ed.

Both highly informative and entertaining, *Multicultural Manners* gives readers the understanding they need, the perfect words to say, and the correct behavior to use in a wide range of cross-cultural situations. This incisive and award-winning guide to etiquette features completely updated etiquette guidelines with special emphasis on post September 11 culture clashes as well as a brand-new section that demystifies unfamiliar cultures in the news. Norine Dresser identifies key cross-cultural hot spots and suggests methods that foster respect for diversity. Readers will discover the dos and don'ts of successful business and social interaction, detailed tips on avoiding embarrassment in a variety of social settings, amusing firsthand accounts of cultural gaffes, a breakdown of customs, religions, languages, and ethnicities for seventy different countries, and appropriate etiquette for innumerable settings.

**Drollette, Dan.** [\*Gold Rush in the Jungle: the Race to Discover and Defend the Rarest Animals of Vietnam's "Lost World."\*](#) (Vietnam) Details the zoological discoveries found in the jungles of Vietnam, using research gathered from biologists, conservations, and indigenous peoples to describe such animal species discoveries as a half-goat, half-ox, and a barking deer.

**Durrell, Lawrence.** [\*Bitter Lemons\*](#). (Cyprus)

In *Bitter Lemons*, Durrell tells the perceptive, often humorous, story of his experiences on Cyprus between 1953 and 1956—first as a visitor, then as a householder and teacher, and finally as Press Advisor to a government coping with armed rebellion. Here are unforgettable pictures of the sunlit villages and people, the ancient buildings, mountains and sea—and the somber political tragedy that finally engulfed the island.

**Egeland, Jan.** [\*A Billion Lives: an Eyewitness Report From the Frontlines of Humanity\*](#).

Called "the world's conscience" and one of the 100 most influential people of our time by *Time* magazine, Jan Egeland has been the public face of the United Nations. As Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, he was in charge of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) for three and a half years. One of the bravest and most adventuresome figures on the international scene, Egeland takes us to the frontlines of war and chaos in Iraq, to scenes of ethnic cleansing in Darfur, to the ground zeroes of famine, earthquakes, and tsunamis. He challenges the first world to act. *A Billion Lives* is his on-the-ground account of his work in the most dangerous places in the world, where he has led relief efforts, negotiated truces with warlords, and intervened in what many had thought to be hopeless situations.

**Ehrlich, Gretel.** [\*Facing the Wave: a Journey in the Wake of the Tsunami\*](#). (Japan)

A passionate student of Japanese poetry, theater, and art for much of her life, Gretel Ehrlich felt compelled to return to the earthquake-and-tsunami-devastated Tohoku coast to bear witness, listen to survivors, and experience their terror and exhilaration in villages and towns where all shelter and hope seemed lost. In an eloquent narrative that blends strong reportage, poetic observation, and deeply felt reflection, she takes us into the upside-down world of northeastern Japan, where nothing is certain and where the boundaries between living and dying have been erased by water. The stories of rice farmers, monks, and wanderers; of fishermen who drove their boats up the steep wall of the wave; and of an eighty-four-year-old geisha who survived the tsunami to hand down a song that only she still remembered are both harrowing and inspirational. Facing death, facing life, and coming to terms with impermanence are equally compelling in a landscape of surreal desolation, as the ghostly specter of Fukushima Daiichi, the nuclear power complex, spews radiation into the ocean and air. *Facing the Wave* is a testament to the buoyancy, spirit, humor, and strong-mindedness of those who must find their way in a suddenly shattered world.

**Eire, Carlos M.N.** [\*Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy\*](#). (Cuba)

In 1962, Carlos Eire was one of 14,000 children airlifted out of Havana—exiled from his family, his country, and his own childhood by Fidel Castro's revolution. This stunning memoir is a vibrant and evocative look at Latin America from a child's unforgettable experience... The Cuba of Carlos's youth—with its lizards and turquoise seas and sun-drenched siestas—becomes an island of condemnation once a cigar-smoking guerrilla

named Fidel Castro ousts President Batista on January 1, 1959. Suddenly the music in the streets sounds like gunfire. Christmas is made illegal, political dissent leads to imprisonment, and too many of Carlos's friends are leaving Cuba for a place as far away and unthinkable as the United States. Carlos will end up there, too, and fulfill his mother's dreams by becoming a modern American man—even if his soul remains in the country he left behind.

**Emecheta, Buchi. [The Rape of Shavi](#). (Africa/England) (Fiction)**

"Set partly in an imaginary country by the edge of the African Sahara and partly in England, *The Rape of Shavi* creates a humorous, ultimately poignant portrait of a people confronted for the first time with the ways of the civilized world. King Patayon, ruler of Shavi, has more than his share of troubles already, when from out of the sky a group of "albino aliens" comes crashing down in an enormous "bird of fire." From then on Patayon is faced with the sort of problems that even the powerful goddesses of the lakes cannot solve. As the albinos and the Shavis are introduced to entirely new forms of language, custom, and exploitation, both are left to wonder just what exactly is "civilization"? See also her novels: [The Slave Girl](#) (Nigeria) (Fiction) and [Double Yoke](#) (Nigeria) (Fiction)

**Enslin, Elizabeth. [While the Gods Were Sleeping: a Journey Through Love and Rebellion in Nepal](#). (Nepal)**

Love and marriage brought American anthropologist Elizabeth Enslin to a world she never planned to make her own: a life among Brahman in-laws in a remote village in the plains of Nepal. As she faced the challenges of married life, birth, and childrearing in a foreign culture, she discovered as much about human resilience, and the capacity for courage, as she did about herself. *While the Gods Were Sleeping: A Journey Through Love and Rebellion in Nepal* tells a compelling story of a woman transformed in intimate and unexpected ways. Set against the backdrop of increasing political turmoil in Nepal, Enslin's story takes us deep into the lives of local women as they claim their rightful place in society—and make their voices heard.

**Fadiman, Anne. [The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: a Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures](#). (Cambodians in US)** When three-month-old Lia Lee arrived at the county hospital emergency room in Merced, California, a chain of events was set in motion from which neither she nor her parents nor her doctors would ever recover. Lia's parents were part of a large Hmong community in Merced. The Hmong, traditionally a close-knit and fiercely people, have been less amenable to assimilation than most immigrants, adhering steadfastly to the rituals and beliefs of their ancestors. Lia's pediatricians cleaved just as strongly to another tradition: that of Western medicine. When Lia Lee entered the American medical system, diagnosed as an epileptic, her story became a tragic case history of cultural miscommunication. Parents and doctors both wanted the best for Lia, but their ideas about the causes of her illness and its treatment could hardly have been more different. The Hmong see illness and healing as spiritual matters linked to virtually everything in the universe, while medical community marks a division between body and soul, and concerns itself almost exclusively with the former. Lia's doctors ascribed her seizures to the misfiring of her cerebral neurons; her parents called her illness, qaug dab peg--the spirit catches you and you fall down--and ascribed it to the wandering of her soul. The doctors prescribed anticonvulsants; her parents preferred animal sacrifices.

**Farah, Nuruddin. [Knots](#). (Somalia) (Fiction)**

"A strong, modern woman who was born in Somalia but brought up in North America, Cambara returns to Mogadiscio to escape a failed marriage and an overweening mother. Her journey back to her roots is a desperate attempt to find herself on her own terms, however ironically, in a country where women must veil their faces. But Mogadiscio is no longer a city that Cambara understands or even recognizes. And as she struggles as an outsider through a blasted and brutal landscape, she will find obstacles much greater than she had imagined--and new strengths within herself to overcome them." See also her novel: [From a Crooked Rib](#). (Somalia) (Fiction)

**Farmer, Paul.** [\*Haiti After the Earthquake.\*](#) (Haiti)

"On January 12, 2010 a massive earthquake laid waste to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, killing hundreds of thousands of people. Within three days, Dr. Paul Farmer arrived in the Haitian capital, along with a team of volunteers, to lend his services to the injured. In this vivid narrative, Farmer describes the incredible suffering—and resilience—that he encountered in Haiti. Having worked in the country for nearly thirty years, he skillfully explores the social issues that made Haiti so vulnerable to the earthquake—the very issues that make it an "unnatural disaster." Complementing his account are stories from other doctors, volunteers, and earthquake survivors. Haiti after the earthquake will both inform and inspire readers to stand with the Haitian people against the profound economic and social injustices that formed the fault line for this disaster.

**Fassihi, Farnaz.** [\*Waiting for an Ordinary Day: the Unraveling of Life in Iraq.\*](#) (Iraq)

Since 2003, Iraq's bloody legacy has been well-documented by journalists, historians, politicians, and others confounded by how Americans were seduced into the war. Yet almost no one has spoken at length to the constituency that represents Iraq's last best hope for a stable country: its ordinary working and middle class. Farnaz Fassihi, *The Wall Street Journal's* intrepid senior Middle East correspondent, bridges this gap by unveiling an Iraq that has remained largely hidden since the United States declared their "Mission Accomplished." Fassihi chronicles the experience of the disenfranchised as they come to terms with the realities of the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. In an unforgettable portrait of Iraqis whose voices have remained eerily silent—from art gallery owners to clairvoyants, taxi drivers to radicalized teenagers—Fassihi brings to life the very people whose goodwill the U.S. depended upon for a successful occupation. Haunting and lyrical, *Waiting for An Ordinary Day* tells the long-awaited story of post-occupation Iraq through native eyes.

**Fathi, Nazila.** [\*The Lonely War: One Woman's Account of the Struggle for Modern Iran.\*](#) (Iran)

As a nine-year-old Tehrani schoolgirl during the Iranian Revolution, Nazila Fathi watched her country change before her eyes. The revolutionaries—most of them poor, uneducated, and radicalized—seized jobs, housing, and positions of power, transforming Iranian society practically overnight. But this socioeconomic revolution had an unintended effect. As Fathi shows, the forces unleashed in 1979 inadvertently created a robust Iranian middle class, one that today hungers for more personal freedoms and a renewed relationship with the outside world. And unless an international confrontation allows Iranian leaders to justify an internal crackdown, this internal pressure for reform will soon set the country on a more stable track. In *The Lonely War*, Fathi describes Iran's awakening alongside her own, revealing how moderates are retaking the country—and how foreign powers can aid their progress.

**Ferne, Elizabeth Warnock.** [\*Guests of the Sheik: an Ethnography of an Iraqi Village.\*](#) (Iraq)

There are 800 million Muslims in the world today, yet Islam is one of the world's least understood and appreciated religions. The culture of Islamic women and the mystery of a veiled society have endured any number of uninformed or hostile interpretations. Elizabeth Warnock Ferne spent the first two years of her marriage in the 1950s living in El Nahra, a small village in Southern Iraq, and her book is a personal narrative about life behind a veil in a community unaccustomed to Western women. She arrived speaking only a few words of Arabic and feeling dubious about her husband's expectation that she adapt completely to the segregated society in order to accommodate his anthropological study. When she left two years later she was an accepted and loved member of the village, inspired for a lifetime of work in Middle Eastern studies. The story of her life among the Iraqis is eye-opening, written with intellectual honesty as well as love and respect for a seemingly impenetrable society. Although the book was originally published in 1965, it surfaced again during the Gulf War in 1991 when many small villages were destroyed in Southern Iraq. See also her book: [\*A Street in Marrakech: a Personal View of Urban Women in Morocco\*](#) (Morocco).

**Ferriss, Lucy.** [\*A Sister to Honor: a Novel.\*](#) (Pakistan/U.S.) (Fiction)

"Afia Satar is studious, modest, and devout. The young daughter of a landholding family in northern Pakistan, Afia has enrolled in an American college with the dream of returning to her country as a doctor. But when a

photo surfaces online of Afia holding hands with an American boy, she is suddenly no longer safe—even from the family that cherishes her. Rising sports star Shahid Satar has been entrusted by his family to watch over Afia in this strange New England landscape. He has sworn to protect his beloved sister from the dangerous customs of America, from its loose morals and easy virtue. Shahid was the one who convinced their parents to allow her to come to the United States. He never imagined he'd be ordered to cleanse the stain of her shame... READERS GUIDE INCLUDED." -- Provided by publisher. **Author taught at Hamilton College.** See: <http://lucyferriss.com/>

**Filipović, Zlata.** [\*Stolen Voices: Young People's War Diaries, from World War I to Iraq.\*](#)

Zlata Filipovic's diary of her harrowing war experiences in the Balkans, published in 1993, made her a globally recognized spokesperson for children affected by military conflict. In *Stolen Voices*, she and co-editor Melanie Challenger have gathered fifteen diaries of young people coping with war, from World War I to the struggle in Iraq that continues today. Profoundly affecting testimonies of shattered youth and the gritty particulars of war in the tradition of Anne Frank, this extraordinary collection—the first of its kind—is sure to leave a lasting impression on young and old readers alike. See also her book: [\*Zlata's Diary: a Child's Life in Sarajevo.\*](#)

**Fontanella-Khan, Amana.** [\*Pink Sari Revolution: a Tale of Women and Power in India.\*](#) (India)

In Uttar Pradesh—known as the "badlands" of India—a woman's life is not entirely her own. This is one explanation for how Sheelu, a seventeen-year-old girl, ended up in jail after fleeing her service in the home of a powerful local legislator. In a region plagued by corruption, an incident like this might have gone unnoticed—except that it captured the attention of Sampat Pal, leader of India's infamous Gulabi (Pink) Gang. Poor and illiterate, married off around the age of twelve, pregnant with her first child at fifteen, and prohibited from attending school, Sampat Pal has risen to become the courageous commander and chief of a women's brigade numbering in the tens of thousands. Uniformed in pink saris and carrying pink batons, they aim to intervene wherever other women are victims of abuse or injustice. Joined in her struggle by Babuji, a sensitive man whose intellectualism complements her innate sense of justice, and by a host of passionate field commanders, Sampat Pal has confronted policemen and gangsters, officiated love marriages, and empowered women to become financially independent. In a country where women's rights struggle to keep up with rapid modernization, the story of Sampat Pal and her Pink Gang illuminates the thrilling possibilities of female grassroots activism.

**Forna, Aminatta.** [\*Ancestor Stones.\*](#) (Sierra Leone) (Fiction)

A young West African woman, who has been living in England for years and is married to a British man, returns to visit her family after years of civil war and receives an extraordinary look into the lives of the women in her family over the past century.

**Fraser, Caroline.** [\*Rewilding the World: Dispatches from the Conservation Revolution.\*](#)

Fraser offers the first definitive account about rewilding—a visionary campaign to confront the looming extinction of thousands of species by restoring habitats, reviving migration corridors, and brokering peace between people and predators. Traveling with wildlife biologists and conservationists, Fraser reports on the vast projects that are turning Europe's former Iron Curtain into a greenbelt, creating trans-frontier Peace Parks to renew elephant routes throughout Africa, and linking protected areas from the Yukon to Mexico and beyond.

**García Márquez, Gabriel.** [\*Clandestine in Chile: the Adventures of Miguel Littín.\*](#) (Chile)

In 1973, the film director Miguel Littín fled Chile after a U.S.-supported military coup toppled the democratically elected socialist government of Salvador Allende. The new dictator, General Augusto Pinochet, instituted a reign of terror and turned Chile into a laboratory to test the poisonous prescriptions of the American economist Milton Friedman. In 1985, Littín returned to Chile disguised as a Uruguayan businessman. He was desperate to see the homeland he'd been exiled from for so many years; he also meant to pull off a very tricky stunt: with the help of three film crews from three different countries, each

supposedly busy making a movie to promote tourism, he would secretly put together a film that would tell the truth about Pinochet's benighted Chile—a film that would capture the world's attention while landing the general and his secret police with a very visible black eye.

**Geda, Fabio.** [\*In the Sea There Are Crocodiles: a Novel.\*](#) (Afghanistan/Pakistan) (Fiction)

An unflinching, inspirational, and incredibly moving novel based on the true story of Enaiatollah Akbari, a young boy whose agonizing struggle begins after his native Afghanistan becomes a dangerous place to live. His mother shepherds him across the border into Pakistan but has to leave him there to fend for himself.

**Goodall, Jane.** [\*Hope for Animals and the World: How Endangered Species are Being Rescued From the Brink.\*](#)

At a time when we are confronted with bad news about the environment nearly every day, renowned scientist Jane Goodall brings us inspiring news about the future of the animal kingdom. With the insatiable curiosity and conversational prose that have made her a bestselling author, Goodall—along with Cincinnati Zoo Director Thane Maynard—shares fascinating survival stories about the American crocodile, the California condor, the black-footed ferret and more—all formerly endangered species and species once on the verge of extinction whose populations are now being regenerated. Interweaving her own first-hand experiences with the research of premier scientists, Goodall illuminates the heroic efforts of dedicated environmentalists and the truly critical need to protect the habitats of these beloved species. At once a celebration of the animal kingdom and a passionate call to arms, this book presents an uplifting, hopeful message for the future of animal-human coexistence.

**Goodman, Jordan.** [\*The Devil and Mr. Casement: One Man's Battle for Human Rights in South America's Heart of Darkness.\*](#) (Peru)

"In September 1910, the activist Roger Casement arrived in the Amazon jungle on a mission for the British government: to investigate reports of widespread human rights abuses in the forests along the Putumayo River. Accusations against the Peruvian rubber baron Julio César Arana had been making their way back to London, and the rumors were on everybody's lips: Arana was enslaving, torturing, and murdering the local Indians. Arana's Peruvian Amazon Company, with its headquarters in London's financial heart, was responsible. Casement was outraged by what he uncovered: nearly thirty thousand Indians had died to produce four thousand tons of rubber. When Casement's seven-hundred-page report of the Putumayo violence was published in London in 1912, it set off reverberations throughout the world. People were appalled that murderous acts were being carried out in the name of profit, all under the cloak of British respectability and fairness. The Peruvian Amazon Company was forced into liquidation, and its board of directors, including an aristocrat with ties to the royal family, was publicly shamed." -- dust jacket.

**Greene, Melissa Fay.** [\*There is No Me Without You: One Woman's Odyssey to Rescue Her Country's Children.\*](#)

(Ethiopia) Two-time National Book Award nominee Melissa Fay Greene puts a human face on the African AIDS crisis with this powerful story of one woman working to save her country's children. After losing her husband and daughter, Haregewoin Teferra, an Ethiopian woman of modest means, opened her home to some of the thousands of children in Addis Ababa who have been left as orphans. *There Is No Me Without You* is the story of how Haregewoin transformed her home into an orphanage and day-care center and began facilitating adoptions to homes all over the world, written by a star of literary nonfiction who is herself an adoptive parent. At heart, it is a book about children and parents, wherever they may be, however they may find each other.

**Grennan, Conor.** [\*Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal.\*](#) (Nepal)

Describes how the author's three-month service as a volunteer at the Little Princes Orphanage in war-torn Nepal became a commitment for advocacy and reform when he discovered that many of his young charges were victims rescued from human traffickers.

**Gutmann, Ethan.** [\*The Slaughter: Mass Killings, Organ Harvesting, and China's Secret Solution to Its Dissident Problem.\*](#) (China)

Mass murder is alive and well. That is the stark conclusion of this comprehensive



investigation into the Chinese state's secret program to get rid of political dissidents while profiting from the sale of their organs--in many cases to Western recipients. Based on interviews with top-ranking police officials and Chinese doctors who have killed prisoners on the operating table, veteran China analyst Ethan Gutmann has produced a riveting insider's account--culminating in a death toll that will shock the world. Why would the Chinese leadership encourage such a dangerous perversion of their medical system? To solve the puzzle, Gutmann journeyed deep into the dissident archipelago of Falun Gong, Tibetans, Uighurs and House Christians, uncovering an ageless drama of resistance, eliciting confessions of deep betrayal and moments of ecstatic redemption.

**Gutradt, Gail. [\*In a Rocket Made of Ice: Among the Children of Wat Opot\*](#). (Cambodia)**

A beautifully told, inspiring true story of one woman's volunteer experiences at an orphanage in rural Cambodia—a book that embodies the belief that love, compassion, and generosity of spirit can overcome even the most fearsome of obstacles. Gail Gutradt was at a crossroads in her life when she learned of the Wat Opot Children's Community. Begun with just fifty dollars in the pocket of Wayne Dale Matthyse, a former Marine Corps medic in Vietnam, Wat Opot, a temple complex nestled among Cambodia's verdant rice paddies, was once a haunted scrubland that became a place of healing and respite where children with or orphaned by HIV/AIDS could live outside of fear or judgment, and find a new family—a place that Gutradt calls “a workshop for souls.” Disarming, funny, deeply moving, *In a Rocket Made of Ice* gathers the stories of children saved and changed by this very special place, and of one woman's transformation in trying to help them. With wry perceptiveness and stunning humanity and humor, this courageous, surprising, and evocative memoir etches the people of Wat Opot forever on your heart.

**Hamilton, Masha. [\*The Camel Bookmobile: a Novel\*](#). (Kenya) (Fiction)**

"Fiona Sweeney wants to do something that matters, and she chooses to make her mark in the arid bush of northeastern Kenya. By helping to start a traveling library, she hopes to bring the words of Homer, Hemingway, and Dr. Seuss to far-flung tiny communities where people live daily with drought, hunger, and disease. Her intentions are honorable, and her rules are firm; due to the limited number of donated books, if any one of them is not returned, the bookmobile will not return. But, encumbered by her Western values, Fi does not understand the people she seeks to help. And in the impoverished small community of Mididima, she finds herself caught up in a volatile local struggle when the bookmobile's presence sparks a dangerous feud between the proponents of modernization and those who fear the loss of traditional ways." See also the children's books: [\*My Librarian Is a Camel: How Books Are Brought to Children Around the World\*](#) by Margriet Ruurs and [\*Biblioburro: a True Story From Colombia\*](#) by Jeanette Winter.

**Harden, Blaine. [\*Escape From Camp 14: One Man's Remarkable Odyssey from North Korea to Freedom in the West\*](#). (North Korea)** Twenty-six years ago, Shin Dong-hyuk was born inside Camp 14, one of five sprawling political prisons in the mountains of North Korea. This is the gripping, terrifying story of his escape from this no-exit prison-- to freedom in South Korea. See also: [\*A Thousand Miles to Freedom: My Escape From North Korea\*](#) by Eunsun Kim, [\*Under the Same Sky: From Starvation in North Korea to Salvation in America\*](#) by Joseph Kim, and [\*In Order to Live: a North Korean Girl's Journey to Freedom\*](#) by Yeonmi Park.

**Hari, Daoud. [\*The Translator: a Tribesman's Memoir of Darfur\*](#). (Sudan)**

This is a harrowing memoir of how one person has made a difference: Daoud Hari helped inform the world about the genocide in Darfur. Hari, a Zaghawa tribesman, grew up in a village in the Darfur region of Sudan. In 2003, traditional life was shattered when government-backed militias attacked Darfur's villages with helicopters and on horseback, raping and murdering citizens and burning villages. His family dispersed, Hari escaped. He and friends helped survivors find food, water, and safety. When international aid groups and reporters arrived, Hari offered his services as a translator and guide, using his high school knowledge of languages. In doing so, time and again he risked his life, for the government of Sudan had outlawed journalists in the region. Then, inevitably, his luck ran out and he was captured. Now freed, he is a living witness to genocide.--From publisher description.

**Harrer, Heinrich. [Seven Years in Tibet](#). (Tibet)**

Originally published in 1953, this adventure classic recounts Austrian mountaineer Heinrich Harrer's 1943 escape from a British internment camp in India, his daring trek across the Himalayas, and his happy sojourn in Tibet, then, as now, a remote land little visited by foreigners. Warmly welcomed, he eventually became tutor to the Dalai Lama, teenaged god-king of the theocratic nation. The author's vivid descriptions of Tibetan rites and customs capture its unique traditions before the Chinese invasion in 1950, which prompted Harrer's departure. A 1996 epilogue details the genocidal havoc wrought over the past half-century. See also the Feature Film DVD [Seven Years in Tibet](#).

**Harrison, K. David. [The Last Speakers: the Quest to Save the World's Most Endangered Languages](#).**

Part travelogue and part scientist's notebook, *The Last Speakers* is the poignant chronicle of author K. David Harrison's expeditions around the world to meet with last speakers of vanishing languages. The speakers' eloquent reflections and candid photographs reveal little-known lifeways as well as revitalization efforts to teach disappearing languages to younger generations. Thought-provoking and engaging, this unique book illuminates the global language-extinction crisis through photos, graphics, interviews, traditional wisdom never before translated into English, and first-person essays that thrillingly convey the adventure of science and exploration.

**Hashimi, Nadia. [The Pearl That Broke Its Shell: a Novel](#). (Afghanistan) (Fiction)**

In Kabul, 2007, with a drug-addicted father and no brothers, Rahima and her sisters can only sporadically attend school, and can rarely leave the house. Their only hope lies in the ancient custom of *bacha posh*, which allows young Rahima to dress and be treated as a boy until she is of marriageable age. As a son, she can attend school, go to the market, and chaperone her older sisters. But Rahima is not the first in her family to adopt this unusual custom. A century earlier, her great-great grandmother, Shekiba, left orphaned by an epidemic, saved herself and built a new life the same way. Crisscrossing in time, *The Pearl the Broke Its Shell* interweaves the tales of these two women separated by a century who share similar destinies. But what will happen once Rahima is of marriageable age? Will Shekiba always live as a man? And if Rahima cannot adapt to life as a bride, how will she survive?

**Hendley, Doc. [Wine to Water: a Bartender's Quest to Bring Clean Water to the World](#). (Sudan)**

Doc Hendley never set out to be a hero. A small-town bartender, Doc loved his Harley, music, and booze. Then he learned about the world's water crisis, and decided to help by hosting fundraisers. But he wanted to do more and soon found himself traveling to one of the world's most dangerous hot spots: Darfur, Sudan. Doc was immediately cast into a crisis zone. The Sudanese government was wiping out entire villages through horrific state-sponsored genocide—and one of the chief weapons was water. By dumping corpses in water sources and shooting up water bladders, Janjaweed terrorists doomed hundreds of thousands of citizens to dehydration, disease, and death. At just twenty-five years old, Doc was inexperienced, untrained, and in constant danger—but he stepped up to save lives. Alternatively begging international organizations for funding and dodging trigger-happy Janjaweed, Doc began drilling and repairing wells, bringing drinking water to those who desperately needed it. *Wine to Water* is his story about braving tribal warfare in far-flung regions of the world, and an inspirational tale of how one ordinary person can make a difference.

**Hilton, Isabel. [The Search for the Panchen Lama](#). (Tibet/China)**

In May 1995, a seven-year-old Tibetan boy and his family were taken from their home by Chinese security forces. They have not been seen since. The boy's devotees believe him to be the eleventh incarnation of the Panchen Lama, the second most important incarnation in the Tibetan Buddhist hierarchy. Isabel Hilton tells the gripping inside story of how this child became the pawn in a battle between the Chinese regime and Tibet's exiled religious leader, the Dalai Lama. In revealing the political intrigue that accompanied the race to choose and enthrone the eleventh Panchen Lama, Hilton "clarifies a great deal about the nature of Tibetan culture and history and the complexities of Tibet's relationship with China" (*New York Times*).

**Hosseini, Khaled. [The Kite Runner](#). (Afghanistan) (Fiction)**

Traces the unlikely friendship of a wealthy Afghan youth and a servant's son in a tale that spans the final days of Afghanistan's monarchy through the atrocities of the present day. "... a political chronicle and a deeply personal tale about how childhood choices affect our adult lives. The character studies alone would make this a noteworthy debut..."

**Hulme, Keri. [The Bone People](#). (New Zealand) (Fiction)**

In a tower on the New Zealand sea lives Kerewin Holmes, part Maori, part European, an artist estranged from her art, a woman in exile from her family. One night her solitude is disrupted by a visitor—a speechless, mercurial boy named Simon, who tries to steal from her and then repays her with his most precious possession. As Kerewin succumbs to Simon's feral charm, she also falls under the spell of his Maori foster father Joe, who rescued the boy from a shipwreck and now treats him with an unsettling mixture of tenderness and brutality. Out of this unorthodox trinity Keri Hulme has created what is at once a mystery, a love story, and an ambitious exploration of the zone where Maori and European New Zealand meet, clash, and sometimes merge. Winner of both a Booker Prize and Pegasus Prize for Literature, *The Bone People* is a work of unfettered wordplay and mesmerizing emotional complexity.

**Huynh, Quang Nhuong. [The Land I Lost: Adventures of a Boy in Vietnam](#). (Vietnam)**

A collection of personal reminiscences of the author's youth in a hamlet on the central highlands of Vietnam. Encounters with tigers, wild hogs, and deadly snakes were as much a part of his life as tending the rice fields while on the back of his pet water buffalo, Tank. Here are fifteen tale that will transport you into a world of lush beauty and terrible danger -- and a way of life that is gone forever.

**Ibadi or Ebadi, Shirin. [Iran Awakening: One Woman's Journey to Reclaim Her Life and Country](#). (Iran)**

The moving, inspiring memoir of one of the great women of our times, Shirin Ebadi, winner of the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize and advocate for the oppressed, whose spirit has remained strong in the face of political persecution and despite the challenges she has faced raising a family while pursuing her work. Best known in this country as the lawyer working tirelessly on behalf of Canadian photojournalist, Zara Kazemi – raped, tortured and murdered in Iran – Dr. Ebadi offers us a vivid picture of the struggles of one woman against the system. The book movingly chronicles her childhood in a loving, untraditional family, her upbringing before the Revolution in 1979 that toppled the Shah, her marriage and her religious faith, as well as her life as a mother and lawyer battling an oppressive regime in the courts while bringing up her girls at home. Outspoken, controversial, Shirin Ebadi is one of the most fascinating women today. She rose quickly to become the first female judge in the country; but when the religious authorities declared women unfit to serve as judges she was demoted to clerk in the courtroom she had once presided over. She eventually fought her way back as a human rights lawyer, defending women and children in politically charged cases that most lawyers were afraid to represent. She has been arrested and been the target of assassination, but through it all has spoken out with quiet bravery on behalf of the victims of injustice and discrimination and become a powerful voice for change, almost universally embraced as a hero.

**Ilibagiza, Immaculée. [Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust](#). (Rwanda)**

In 1994, Rwandan native Ilibagiza was 22 years old and home from college to spend Easter with her devout Catholic family, when the death of Rwanda's Hutu president sparked a three-month slaughter of nearly one million ethnic Tutsis in the country. She survived by hiding in a Hutu pastor's tiny bathroom with seven other starving women for 91 cramped, terrifying days. This searing firsthand account of Ilibagiza's experience cuts two ways: her description of the evil that was perpetrated, including the brutal murders of her family members, is soul-numbingly devastating, yet the story of her unquenchable faith and connection to God throughout the ordeal uplifts and inspires. Her account of the miracles that protected her is simple and vivid. Her Catholic faith shines through, but the book will speak on a deep level to any person of faith. Ilibagiza's remarkable path to forgiving the perpetrators and releasing her anger is a beacon to others who have

suffered injustice. See also the sequel: [\*Led by Faith: Rising From the Ashes of the Rwandan Genocide\*](#).

**IraqiGirl. [\*IraqiGirl: Diary of a Teenage Girl in Iraq\*](#). (Iraq)**

"Despite all the news coverage about the war in Iraq, very little is reported about how it affects the daily lives of ordinary citizens. A high schooler in the city of Mosul fills in the gap with this compilation of her blog posts about living under U.S. occupation. She writes in English because she wants to reach Americans, and in stark specifics, she records the terrifying dangers of car bombs on her street and American warplanes overhead, as well as her everyday struggles to concentrate on homework when there is no water and electricity at home. Her tone is balanced: she does not hate Americans, and although she never supported Saddam Hussein, she wonders why he was executed... Readers will appreciate the details about family, friends, school, and reading Harry Potter, as well as the ever-present big issues for which there are no simple answers." —Hazel Rochman, *Booklist*

**Isfandiari, Halah. [\*My Prison, My Home: One Woman's Story of Captivity in Iran\*](#). (Iran)**

On December 31, 2006, Isfandiārī's life changed. It was believed she was part of an American conspiracy for "regime change" in Iran. After weeks of interrogation, she was detained at the notorious Evin Prison, where she spent 105 days in solitary confinement.

**Iweala, Uzodinma. [\*Beasts of No Nation\*](#). (West Africa) (Fiction)**

In this stunning debut novel, Agu, a young boy in an unnamed West African nation, is recruited into a unit of guerrilla fighters as civil war engulfs his country. Haunted by his father's own death at the hands of militants, which he fled just before witnessing, Agu is vulnerable to the dangerous yet paternal nature of his new commander. While the war rages on, Agu becomes increasingly divorced from the life he had known before the conflict started -- a life of school friends, church services, and time with his family still intact. As he vividly recalls these sunnier times, his daily reality spins further downward into inexplicable brutality, primal fear, and loss of selfhood. His relationship with his commander deepens even as it darkens, and his camaraderie with a fellow soldier lends a deceptive sense of normalcy to his experience. In a powerful, strikingly original voice that vividly captures Agu's youth and confusion, Uzodinma Iweala has produced a harrowing, deeply affecting novel. Both a searing take on coming-of-age and a vivid document of the dark face of war, *Beasts of No Nation* announces the arrival of an extraordinary new writer.

**Joya, Malalai. [\*A Woman Among Warlords: the Extraordinary Story of an Afghan Who Dared to Raise Her Voice\*](#). (Afghanistan)** Malalai Joya was named one of *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2010.

An extraordinary young woman raised in the refugee camps of Iran and Pakistan, Joya became a teacher in secret girls' schools, hiding her books under her burqa so the Taliban couldn't find them; she helped establish a free medical clinic and orphanage in her impoverished home province of Farah; and at a constitutional assembly in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 2003, she stood up and denounced her country's powerful NATO-backed warlords. She was twenty-five years old. Two years later, she became the youngest person elected to Afghanistan's new Parliament. In 2007, she was suspended from Parliament for her persistent criticism of the warlords and drug barons and their cronies. She has survived four assassination attempts to date, is accompanied at all times by armed guards, and sleeps only in safe houses. Joya takes us inside this massively important and insufficiently understood country, shows us the desperate day-to-day situations its remarkable people face at every turn, and recounts some of the many acts of rebellion that are helping to change it. A controversial political figure in one of the most dangerous places on earth, Malalai Joya is a hero for our times.

**Kadeer, Rebiya. [\*Dragon Fighter: One Woman's Epic Struggle for Peace With China\*](#). (China/Uighur people)**

"The remarkable autobiographical journey from humble beginnings to a powerful world figure fighting for her Uyghur nation's self-determination against Chinese domination. Rebiya Kadeer is president of the World Uyghur Congress and the Uyghur American Association. She is devoted to the principles of nonviolence. Recognized as an unofficial head of state, she regularly meets with world leaders."

**Kaguri, Twesigye Jackson.** [\*A School For My Village: a Promise to the Orphans of Nyaka\*](#). (original title: *The Price of Stones: Building a School for My Village*) (Uganda) So many people die of AIDS in Uganda that at times bodies are stacked in city mortuaries like firewood. Moved by the plight of more than one million AIDS orphans in a nation with a population of 30 million, Kaguri, a human rights advocate returning home after studying at Columbia University, decided to build a school for children who had lost one or both parents to the syndrome. Kaguri and his American wife used their modest resources and contributions from friends and churches to open the two-classroom Nyaka AIDS Orphans School and initiate advocacy campaigns to counteract the superstitions that have stigmatized HIV/AIDS in Uganda. Anecdotes about the students, the author's family—his own brother and sister died from the disease—and his dealings with donors and corrupt officials, reveal Kaguri to be at once vulnerable and ferociously determined. Written in simple, straight-forward style, the book is an affecting and accessible tribute to the difference one person can make in the world.

**Kamara, Mariatu.** [\*The Bite of the Mango\*](#). (Sierra Leone)

When Mariatu set out for a neighborhood village in Sierra Leone, she was kidnapped and tortured, and both of her hands cut off. She turned to begging to survive. This heart-rending memoir is a testament to her courage and resilience. Today she is a UNICEF Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict.

**Kamkwamba, William.** [\*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope\*](#). (Malawi)

An enterprising teenager in Malawi builds a windmill from scraps he finds around his village and brings electricity, and a future, to his family. William Kamkwamba shares the remarkable story of his youth in Malawi, Africa—a nation crippled by intense poverty, famine, and the AIDS plague—and how, with tenacity and imagination, he built a better life for himself, his family, and his village. See also children's version: [\*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind\*](#).

**Kane, Joe.** [\*Savages\*](#). (Amazon/South America)

An American journalist recounts the story of the struggle for autonomy by the Huaorani, a nation of 1,300 nomadic Amazonian Indians, whose oil-rich territory has been besieged by hell-bent oil companies, missionaries, unscrupulous bureaucrats, and environmentalists, all claiming to represent the Huaorani's best interests.

**Kargar, Zarghuna.** [\*Dear Zari: the Secret Lives of the Women of Afghanistan\*](#). (Afghanistan)

Zarghuna Kargar was born in Kabul in 1982. When civil war erupted across Afghanistan, she and her family escaped to Pakistan, and it was there that Zarghuna attended a journalism course organised by the BBC. Then in 2001 her family sought asylum in the UK, and she started working for the BBC World Service Pashtu Section. She joined the team on the groundbreaking programme Afghan Woman's Hour as producer and presenter in 2004, until it was discontinued in 2010. Moving, enlightening, and heartbreaking, *Dear Zari* gives voice to the secret lives of Afghan women. For the first time, *Dear Zari* allows these women to tell their stories in their own words: from the child bride given as payment to end of a family feud, to a life spent in a dark, dusty room weaving carpets, from a young girl being brought up as a boy, to a woman living as a widow

**Kestin, Hesh.** [\*The Lie: a Novel\*](#). (Israel) (Fiction)

DAHLIA BARR DOES NOT SUFFER FOOLS—or her own government, with which she is normally at odds. Shrewd, brash, and as tough as she is beautiful, the controversial Israeli attorney specializes in defending Palestinians accused of terrorism. She is also a devoted mother, a soon-to-be-divorced wife, and the lover of a handsome American television correspondent. To Dahlia's astonishment, the Israeli security establishment one day approaches her with a tantalizing proposition: Join us, and become the beleaguered nation's arbiter on when to use the harshest of interrogation methods—what some would call torture. Dahlia is intrigued. She has no intention of permitting torture. Can she change the system from within? Then, as Dahlia settles into her new job, her son Ari, a twenty-year-old lieutenant in the Israel Defense Forces, is kidnapped by



Hezbollah and whisked over the border to Lebanon. The one man who may hold the key to Ari's rescue is locked in a cell in police headquarters. Edward Al-Masri—professor, activist, media gadfly—is an Arab who has a long and complicated history with Dahlia. And he's not talking. Yet. *The Lie* is a nail-biting thriller, pulsing with insight into the inner workings of Israel's security apparatus. It is an unforgettable story of human beings on both sides of the terror equation whose lives turn out to share more in common than they—and the reader—could ever have imagined.

**Khoo Thwe, Pascal. [\*From the Land of Green Ghosts: a Burmese Odyssey\*](#). (Burma)**

In 1988, Dr. John Casey, a professor visiting Burma, meets a waiter in Mandalay with a passion for the works of James Joyce, and the encounter changes both their lives. Pascal, a member of the Kayan Padaung tribe, was the first member of his community to study English at a university. Within months of his meeting with Dr. Casey, Pascal's world lay in ruins. Burma's military dictatorship forces him to sacrifice his studies, and the regime's brutal armed forces murder his lover. Fleeing to the jungle, he becomes a guerrilla fighter in the life-or-death struggle against the government. In desperation, he writes a letter to the Englishman he met in Mandalay. Miraculously reaching its destination, the letter leads to Pascal's rescue and his enrollment in Cambridge University, where he is the first Burmese tribesman ever to attend. *From the Land of Green Ghosts* unforgettably evokes the realities of life in modern-day Burma and one man's long journey to freedom despite almost unimaginable odds.

**Khouri, Norma. [\*Honor Lost: Love and Death in Modern-Day Jordan\*](#). (Jordan)**

Relates the story of Dalia, a young Jordanian Muslim woman, whose relationship with a Catholic major in the Royal Army resulted in her death at the hands of the male members of her family. Written by her friend, the book is a first-hand account of the ancient practice of honor killing, which encourages the murder of women considered to have dishonored their families.

**Kidder, Tracy. [\*Mountains Beyond Mountains\*](#).**

At the center of *Mountains Beyond Mountains* stands Paul Farmer. Doctor, Harvard professor, renowned infectious-disease specialist, anthropologist, the recipient of a MacArthur "genius" grant, world-class Robin Hood, Farmer was brought up in a bus and on a boat, and in medical school found his life's calling: to diagnose and cure infectious diseases and to bring the lifesaving tools of modern medicine to those who need them most. This magnificent book shows how radical change can be fostered in situations that seem insurmountable, and it also shows how a meaningful life can be created, as Farmer—brilliant, charismatic, charming, both a leader in international health and a doctor who finds time to make house calls in Boston and the mountains of Haiti—blasts through convention to get results. *Mountains Beyond Mountains* takes us from Harvard to Haiti, Peru, Cuba, and Russia as Farmer changes minds and practices through his dedication to the philosophy that "the only real nation is humanity" -- a philosophy that is embodied in the small public charity he founded, Partners In Health. He enlists the help of the Gates Foundation, George Soros, the U.N.'s World Health Organization, and others in his quest to cure the world. At the heart of this book is the example of a life based on hope, and on an understanding of the truth of the Haitian proverb "Beyond mountains there are mountains": as you solve one problem, another problem presents itself, and so you go on and try to solve that one too.

**Kielburger, Craig & Major, Kevin. [\*Free the Children: a Young Man Fights Against Child Labor and Proves That Children Can Save the World\*](#). (Canada/South Asia)**

Twelve-year-old Craig Kielburger, upset by a newspaper article about the forced slavery and subsequent murder of a child in Pakistan, began in 1995 to research worldwide injustice against children. Armed with the disturbing facts, he convinced friends at his Canadian grade school to form a group to advocate for children's rights. With world-changing zeal, Free the Children gathered information, wrote world leaders, and led conferences on the issue with other youth. Kielburger himself was given the opportunity to accompany a human rights worker through cities in South Asia. The young man witnessed shocking abuse from which most middle-class Western children have been carefully shielded: he met an 8-year-old girl whose job was to recycle bloody syringes without gloves or other

protection, children in a factory working with extremely hazardous materials to provide fireworks for a Hindu religious celebration, and children sold for sex on urban streets. On returning to his home in Canada, Kielburger bore witness to what he had seen and asked a simple, devastating question: "If child labour is not acceptable for white, middle-class North American kids, then why is it acceptable for a girl in Thailand or a boy in Brazil?" See also: [\*Iqbal Masih and the Crusaders Against Child Slavery\*](#) by Susan Kuklin . (Pakistan).

**Kim, Suki.** [\*Without You There Is No Us: My Time With the Sons of North Korea's Elite\*](#). (North Korea)

Every day, three times a day, the students march in two straight lines, singing praises to Kim Jong-il and North Korea: *Without you, there is no motherland. Without you, there is no us*. It is a chilling scene, but gradually Suki Kim, too, learns the tune and, without noticing, begins to hum it. It is 2011, and all universities in North Korea have been shut down for an entire year, the students sent to construction fields—except for the 270 students at the all-male Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST), a walled compound where portraits of Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il look on impassively from the walls of every room, and where Suki has accepted a job teaching English. Over the next six months, she will eat three meals a day with her young charges and struggle to teach them to write, all under the watchful eye of the regime. Life at PUST is lonely and claustrophobic, especially for Suki, whose letters are read by censors and who must hide her notes and photographs not only from her minders but from her colleagues—evangelical Christian missionaries who don't know or choose to ignore that Suki doesn't share their faith. As the weeks pass, she is mystified by how easily her students lie, unnerved by their obedience to the regime. At the same time, they offer Suki tantalizing glimpses of their private selves—their boyish enthusiasm, their eagerness to please, the flashes of curiosity that have not yet been extinguished. She in turn begins to hint at the existence of a world beyond their own—at such exotic activities as surfing the Internet or traveling freely and, more dangerously, at electoral democracy and other ideas forbidden in a country where defectors risk torture and execution. But when Kim Jong-il dies, and the boys she has come to love appear devastated, she wonders whether the gulf between her world and theirs can ever be bridged.

**Kim, Un-ju (Eunsun).** [\*A Thousand Miles to Freedom: My Escape from North Korea\*](#). (North Korea)

Eunsun Kim was born in North Korea, one of the most secretive and oppressive countries in the modern world. As a child Eunsun loved her country...despite her school field trips to public executions, daily self-criticism sessions, and the increasing gnaw of hunger as the country-wide famine escalated. By the time she was eleven years old, Eunsun's father and grandparents had died of starvation, and Eunsun was in danger of the same. Finally, her mother decided to escape North Korea with Eunsun and her sister, not knowing that they were embarking on a journey that would take them nine long years to complete. Before finally reaching South Korea and freedom, Eunsun and her family would live homeless, fall into the hands of Chinese human traffickers, survive a North Korean labor camp, and cross the deserts of Mongolia on foot. Now, Eunsun is sharing her remarkable story to give voice to the tens of millions of North Koreans still suffering in silence. Told with grace and courage, her memoir is a riveting exposé of North Korea's totalitarian regime and, ultimately, a testament to the strength and resilience of the human spirit. See also **Joseph Kim's** [\*Under the Same Sky: From Starvation in North Korea to Salvation in America\*](#).

**Kincaid, Jamaica.** [\*Annie John\*](#). (Antigua) (Fiction)

An adored only child, Annie has until recently lived an idyllic life. She is inseparable from her beautiful mother, a powerful presence, who is the very center of the little girl's existence. Loved and cherished, Annie grows and thrives within her mother's benign shadow. Looking back on her childhood, she reflects, "It was in such a paradise that I lived." When she turns twelve, however, Annie's life changes, in ways that are often mysterious to her. She begins to question the cultural assumptions of her island world; at school she instinctively rebels against authority; and most frighteningly, her mother, seeing Annie as a "young lady," ceases to be the source of unconditional adoration and takes on the new and unfamiliar guise of adversary. At the end of her school years, Annie decides to leave Antigua and her family, but not without a measure of sorrow, especially for the mother she once knew and never ceases to mourn. "For I could not be sure," she reflects, "whether for the rest of my life I would be able to tell when it was really my mother and when it was

really her shadow standing between me and the rest of the world."

**Kingsolver, Barbara. [The Poisonwood Bible](#). (Belgian Congo) (Fiction)**

*The Poisonwood Bible* is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it—from garden seeds to Scripture—is calamitously transformed on African soil. What follows is a suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa.

**Koofi, Fawzia. [The Favored Daughter: One Woman's Fight to Lead Afghanistan into the Future](#). (Afghanistan)**

The nineteenth daughter of a local village leader in rural Afghanistan, Fawzia Koofi was left to die in the sun after birth by her mother. But she survived, and perseverance in the face of extreme hardship has defined her life ever since. Despite the abuse of her family, the exploitative Russian and Taliban regimes, the murders of her father, brother, and husband, and numerous attempts on her life, she rose to become the first Afghani woman Parliament speaker. Here, she shares her amazing story, punctuated by a series of poignant letters she wrote to her two daughters before each political trip—letters describing the future and freedoms she dreamed of for them and for all the women of Afghanistan. Her story movingly captures the political and cultural moment in Afghanistan, a country caught between the hope of progress and the bitter truth of history.

**Korn, Fadumo. [Born in the Big Rains: a Memoir of Somalia and Survival](#). (Somalia)**

Born a nomad, freely roaming the Somalian steppes, Korn nearly dies from the effects of female genital mutilation (FGM). As her health deteriorates, Korn is sent to Mogadishu for treatment and, despite the looming civil war, finds herself living amid luxury in the household of her uncle, a relative of the Somali president. Escaping the political upheaval, she travels to Europe for advanced medical care and eventually becomes an anti-FGM activist.

**Kristof, Nicholas D. & WuDunn, Sheryl. [Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide](#). (Africa, Asia)** Two Pulitzer Prize winners issue a call to arms against our era's most pervasive human rights violation: the oppression of women in the developing world. With Pulitzer Prize winners Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn as our guides, we undertake an odyssey through Africa and Asia to meet the extraordinary women struggling there, among them a Cambodian teenager sold into sex slavery and an Ethiopian woman who suffered devastating injuries in childbirth. Drawing on the breadth of their combined reporting experience, Kristof and WuDunn depict our world with anger, sadness, clarity, and, ultimately, hope. They show that a little help can transform the lives of women and girls abroad and that the key to economic progress lies in unleashing women's potential. That Cambodian girl eventually escaped from her brothel and, with assistance from an aid group, built a thriving retail business that supports her family. The Ethiopian woman had her injuries repaired and in time became a surgeon. A Zimbabwean mother of five, counseled to return to school, earned her doctorate and became an expert on AIDS. See also the documentary DVD: [Half the Sky](#) and their new book [A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity](#).

**Latifi, Afschineh. [Even After All This Time: a Story of Love, Revolution, and Leaving Iran](#). (Iran)**

"In February 1979, when Afschineh Latifi was just ten years old, her father, a colonel under the Shah of Iran, was imprisoned by Khomeini's soldiers. Afschineh and her three siblings were left in the care of their mother, who did everything in her power to free her husband from jail, and who struggled to survive in a newly fundamentalist society that was openly hostile to women... In late May, Colonel Latifi was executed... Fearing for the safety of her daughters, Mrs. Latifi made a heartrending decision: she sent Afschineh and her sister, Afsaneh, abroad, knowing it might be years before she embraced them again—if ever."

**Laye, Camara.** [\*The Dark Child: the Autobiography of an African Boy.\*](#) (French Guinea)

*The Dark Child* is a distinct and graceful memoir of Camara Laye's youth in the village of Koroussa, French Guinea. Long regarded Africa's preeminent Francophone novelist, Laye (1928-80) herein marvels over his mother's supernatural powers, his father's distinction as the village goldsmith, and his own passage into manhood, which is marked by animistic beliefs and bloody rituals of primeval origin. Eventually, he must choose between this unique place and the academic success that lures him to distant cities.

**Le Clézio, J.-M. G.** [\*Desert.\*](#) (Morocco/ Sahara) (Fiction)

After being driven from their land by French colonial soldiers in 1909, Nour and his people, "the blue men" must search for a haven out of the desert that will shelter them. Interspersed with the story of Nour is the contemporary story of Lalla, a descendent of the blue men, who lives in Morocco and tries to stay true to the blood of her ancestors while experiencing life as a modern immigrant. Author won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2008.

**Lemmon, Gayle Tzemach.** [\*The Dressmaker of Khair Khana: Five Sisters, One Remarkable Family, and the Woman Who Risked Everything to Keep Them Safe.\*](#) (Afghanistan)

The life Kamila Sidiqi had known changed overnight when the Taliban seized control of the city of Kabul. After receiving a teaching degree during the civil war—a rare achievement for any Afghan woman—Kamila was subsequently banned from school and confined to her home. When her father and brother were forced to flee the city, Kamila became the sole breadwinner for her five siblings. Armed only with grit and determination, she picked up a needle and thread and created a thriving business of her own. *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana* tells the incredible true story of this unlikely entrepreneur who mobilized her community under the Taliban. Former ABC News reporter Gayle Tzemach Lemmon spent years on the ground reporting Kamila's story, and the result is an unusually intimate and unsanitized look at the daily lives of women in Afghanistan. These women are not victims; they are the glue that holds families together; they are the backbone and the heart of their nation. Afghanistan's future remains uncertain as debates over withdrawal timelines dominate the news.

**Lindaman, Dana.** [\*History Lessons: How Textbooks From Around the World Portray U.S. History.\*](#)

*History Lessons* offers a lighthearted and fascinating challenge to the biases we bring to our understanding of American history. The subject of widespread attention when it was first published in 2004—including a full front-page review in the *Washington Post Book World* and features on NPR's *Talk of the Nation* and the History Channel—this book gives us a glimpse into classrooms across the globe, where opinions about the United States are first formed. Heralded as "timely and important" (*History News Network*) and "shocking and fascinating" (*New York Times*), *History Lessons* includes selections from Russia, France, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, Canada, and others, covering such events as the American Revolution, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Iran hostage crisis, and the Korean War, providing an alternative history of the United States from the Viking explorers to the post-Cold War era. By juxtaposing starkly contrasting versions of the historical events we take for granted, *History Lessons* affords us a sometimes hilarious, often sobering look at what the world learns about America's past.

**Linden, Eugene.** [\*The Ragged Edge of the World: Encounters at the Frontier Where Modernity, Wildlands, and Indigenous Peoples Meet.\*](#)

A species nearing extinction, a tribe losing centuries of knowledge, a tract of forest facing the first incursion of humans—how can we even begin to assess the cost of losing so much of our natural and cultural legacy? For forty years, environmental journalist and author Eugene Linden has traveled to the very sites where tradition, wildlands and the various forces of modernity collide. In *The Ragged Edge of the World*, he takes us from pygmy forests to the Antarctic to the world's most pristine rainforest in the Congo to tell the story of the harm taking place—and the successful preservation efforts—in the world's last wild places.

**Lindhout, Amanda.** [\*A House in the Sky: a Memoir.\*](#) (Somalia)

As a child, Amanda Lindhout escaped a violent household by paging through issues of *National Geographic*

and imagining herself in its exotic locales. At the age of nineteen, working as a cocktail waitress in Calgary, Alberta, she began saving her tips so she could travel the globe. Aspiring to understand the world and live a significant life, she backpacked through Latin America, Laos, Bangladesh, and India, and emboldened by each adventure, went on to Sudan, Syria, and Pakistan. In war-ridden Afghanistan and Iraq she carved out a fledgling career as a television reporter. And then, in August 2008, she traveled to Somalia—"the most dangerous place on earth." On her fourth day, she was abducted by a group of masked men along a dusty road. Held hostage for 460 days, Amanda converts to Islam as a survival tactic, receives "wife lessons" from one of her captors, and risks a daring escape. Moved between a series of abandoned houses in the desert, she survives on memory—every lush detail of the world she experienced in her life before captivity—and on strategy, fortitude, and hope. When she is most desperate, she visits a house in the sky, high above the woman kept in chains, in the dark, being tortured. Vivid and suspenseful, as artfully written as the finest novel, *A House in the Sky* is the searingly intimate story of an intrepid young woman and her search for compassion in the face of unimaginable adversity.

**Lisagor, Kimberly.** [\*Disappearing Destinations: 37 Places in Peril and What Can Be Done to Save Them.\*](#)

The expression tourist hot spot takes on new meaning in this fact-packed survey of travel destinations endangered by global warming, environmental degradation, predatory logging, mining and fishing and the impact of too many tourists. In 37 essays, travel journalists Lisagor and Hansen vividly document places in peril, ranging from the ocean nations of Tuvalu and the Maldives, slowly submerging beneath rising waters, to the historic ski chalets of the Alps, where snow is falling less and melting faster. The catalogue of disasters is chilling: the glaciers are vanishing from America's Glacier National Park; the ancient city of Timbuktu in central Mali is succumbing to desertification; warming seas are bleaching Australia's Great Barrier Reef; dry winters and inept water management have drained life from the Rio Grande; and the relentless march of hundreds of thousands of enthralled tourists is causing irrevocable damage to the ancient Incan city of Machu Picchu. The authors' accounts of how the world's beauty is being despoiled, based on sharp on-site reporting, are a cautionary call to arms for tourists to fight environmental excesses and, when traveling, to tread lightly.

**Livaneli, Zülfü.** [\*Bliss.\*](#) (Turkey) (Fiction)

Fifteen-year-old Meryem lives in a rural village in Eastern Anatolia, Turkey. Her simple, conventional way of life changes dramatically after her uncle, a sheikh in a dervish order, rapes her—and condemns her to death for shaming the family. Asked to carry out the "honor killing" is his son Cemal, a commando in the Turkish army. So begins a long, mystifying voyage for Meryem as her shell-shocked cousin ushers her to the shining metropolis of Istanbul where another troubled soul, the Harvard-educated professor Irfan, embarks on his own journey of transformation—one that catapults him into the heart of Meryem and Cemal's conflict. See also the feature film DVD [\*Bliss.\*](#)

**Lomong, Lopez.** [\*Running for My Life: One Lost Boy's Journey From the Killing Fields of Sudan to the Olympic Games.\*](#) (Sudan/US)

"The story of a former Lost Boy of Sudan is really a journey, one that takes Lopez Lomong from his life as a 6-year-old boy in a refugee camp to a whole new world as a teen in the United States. How he gets to America is an amazing story, but even more amazing are the new wonders and possibilities of his new life here. Lopez Lomong chronicles his inspiring ascent from a barefoot lost boy of the Sudanese Civil War to a Nike sponsored athlete on the US Olympic Team. Though most of us fall somewhere between the catastrophic lows and dizzying highs of Lomong's incredible life, every reader will find in his story the human spark to pursue dreams that might seem unthinkable, even from circumstances that might appear hopeless. See also the audiobook: [\*Running for My Life.\*](#)

**Louie, Miriam Ching Yoon.** [\*Sweatshop Warriors: Immigrant Women Workers Take on the Global Factory.\*](#)

(U.S.) In this up-close and personal look at the heroines who make family, community, and society tick, Miriam Ching Yoon Louie showcases immigrant women workers speaking out for themselves, in their own words. While public outrage over sweatshops builds in intensity, this book shows us who these workers really are and how they are leading campaigns to fight for their rights. In-depth, accessible analyses of the



immigration, labor, and trade policies, which together have forced these women into the most dangerous, poorly paid jobs, dovetail with vivid portraits of the women themselves. Louie, a longtime writer/activist and well-known figure in feminist, immigrant, and labor circles, is uniquely poised to make her case: that the labor of immigrant women worker-activists not only sustains families and communities, but the vibrant social activism that undergirds democracy itself. With chapters on successful campaigns against Levi-Strauss, Donna Karan, and restaurants in Los Angeles; Koreatown, among others.

**Ma Bo. [\*Blood Red Sunset: a Memoir of the Chinese Cultural Revolution\*](#). (China)**

"We were dupes of class struggle" the author says of the 1966-76 national aberration known as the Cultural Revolution, "made to howl at the moon like a pack of dogs." When the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party launched the One-Smash-and-Three-Oppose Campaign in 1970, the author was a fervent Red Guard. But his best friend betrayed him and Ma Bo was denounced as an "active counterrevolutionary," charged with slandering Chairman Mao and sentenced to labor reform in the quarries of Inner Mongolia. An irrepressible, pugnacious young man, Ma Bo launched a campaign to convince the authorities to reopen his case. The upshot was a period of official ostracism and personal isolation; how he managed to cope with this while suffering the tortures of unrequited love forms a major portion of this compelling memoir. In 1976 the Party unexpectedly changed the verdict on him to "serious political errors" and ordered his conditional release. A huge bestseller in China, this richly detailed record is told with raw narrative power. Ma Bo is writer-in-residence at Brown University.

**Ma Yan. [\*The Diary of Ma Yan\*](#). (China)**

In a drought-stricken corner of rural China, an education can be the difference between a life of crushing poverty and the chance for a better future. But money is scarce, and the low wages paid for backbreaking work aren't always enough to pay school fees. Ma Yan's heart-wrenching, honest diary chronicles her struggle to escape hardship and bring prosperity to her family through her persistent, sometimes desperate, attempts to continue her schooling. First published in France in 2002, *The Diary of Ma Yan* created an outpouring of support for this courageous teenager and others like her -- support that led to the creation of an international organization dedicated to helping these children . . . all because of one ordinary girl's extraordinary diary. [OUTSTANDING!!]

**McKay, Sharon E. [\*War Brothers: the Graphic Novel\*](#). (Uganda) (Fiction)**

Jacob is a 14-year-old Ugandan who is sent away to a boys' school. Once there, he assures his friend Tony that they need not be afraid -- they will be safe. But not long after, in the shadow of the night, the boys are abducted. Marched into the jungle, they are brought to an encampment of the feared rebel soldiers. They are told they must kill or be killed, and their world turns into a terrifying struggle to endure and survive.

**Mah, Adeline Yen. [\*Falling Leaves: the True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter\*](#). (China/Hong Kong/U.S.)**

Although the focus of this memoir is the author's struggle to be loved by a family that treated her cruelly, it is more notable for its portrait of the domestic affairs of an immensely wealthy, Westernized Chinese family in Shanghai as the city evolved under the harsh strictures of Mao and Deng. Yen Mah's father knew how to make money and survive, regardless of the regime in power. In addition to an assortment of profitable enterprises, he stashed away two tons of gold in a Swiss bank, and eventually the family fled to Hong Kong. But he was indifferent to his seven children and in the thrall of a second wife who makes Cinderella's stepmother seem angelic. His first wife, Yen Mah's mother, died at her birth, and the child, considered an ill omen, was treated with crushing severity. But she was encouraged by the love of an aunt and eventually made her way to the U.S., where she became a doctor, married happily and, ironically, was the one her father and stepmother turned to in their old age. In recounting this painful tale, Yen Mah's unadorned prose is powerful, her insights keen and her portrait of her family devastating.

**Majd, Hooman. [\*The Ministry of Guidance Invites You Not to Stay: an American Family in Iran\*](#). (Iran)**

Born in Tehran to an upper-class diplomat family that fled after the overthrow of the shah, Brooklyn

journalist Majd has been to Iran many times and written extensively on contemporary politics there for news journals and TV. Then, in 2011, at age 50, he returned to Tehran for a year with his young American wife and their baby son. Never simplistic, his in-depth, insider-outsider perspectives make for a gripping narrative about what is going on, personally and politically, in that troubled country. A relative of former president Mohammad Khatami, Majd has many connections in Iran, even as some regard him as an American spy. His wife must wear a hijab, even to swim. They fast at Ramadan. Everyone talks politics; he has access to Iranian officialdom, and he shows close up how Iran's unique path of modernity fused with religion has very mixed results. In spite of it all, he reports, the literacy rate has been raised to nearly 90 percent. His on-the-spot reporting will engage readers and spark debate beyond the usual headline news of the theocracy and the fear in the Western world of potential Iranian nuclear weapons. -- Hazel Rochman

**Makdisi, Jean Said. [\*Teta, Mother, and Me: Three Generations of Arab Women\*](#). (Palestine/Lebanon)**

In this beautifully written memoir, Makdisi (author of *Beirut Fragments*; sister of the late Edward Said) explores the lives of three generations of Palestinian women, deftly illuminating a tumultuous century of modern Middle Eastern history, while raising important questions about the efficacy of ideology, the process of social development and the role of memory. Opening with the author's birth during WWII—"my birth occurred at a particularly unromantic time: the anxiety of the war and the events in Palestine and Egypt weighed heavily on my parents"—the volume grows ever more engaging as Makdisi moves into the distant past of her grandmother Munira Badr Musa (or Teta) and her mother, Hilda Musa Said. Makdisi moves easily between dispassionate historical report and deeply felt emotion, mining first-person accounts where available and offering extensive research to fill in the gaps. Touching on one calamitous event after the other, from the devastating post-WWI famine in the Levant through the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and up to the Lebanese civil war—and explaining how the lives of women shaped and were shaped by each—Makdisi demonstrates how discussions of tradition and modernity generally miss the mark. "The word tradition is used," she says, "much more than it is explained," and women's specific histories, as they were actually lived generation by generation, are rarely taken into account.

**Mam, Somaly. [\*The Road of Lost Innocence: the Story of a Cambodian Heroine\*](#). (Cambodia)**

Born in a Cambodian village, Somaly Mam was sold into sexual slavery by her grandfather at age twelve. For the next decade she was shuttled through the brothels that make up the sprawling sex trade of Southeast Asia. She suffered the brutality and horrors of human trafficking—rape, torture, deprivation—until she managed to escape with the help of a French aid worker. Emboldened by her newfound freedom, education, and security, Somaly blossomed but remained haunted by the girls in the brothels she left behind. This book tells the story of her awakening as an activist and her harrowing and brave fight against the powerful and corrupt forces that steal the lives of these girls. She has built shelters, started schools, and founded an organization that has so far saved more than four thousand women and children in Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos.--From publisher description.

**Mathabane, Mark. [\*Kaffir Boy\*](#) OR [\*Miriam's Song: a Memoir\*](#). (South Africa)**

Mark Mathabane first came to prominence with the publication of *Kaffir Boy*, which became a *New York Times* bestseller. His story of growing up in South Africa was one of the most riveting accounts of life under apartheid. Mathabane's newest book, *Miriam's Song*, is the story of Mark's sister, who was left behind in South Africa. It is the gripping tale of a woman -- representative of an entire generation -- who came of age amid the violence and rebellion of the 1980s and finally saw the destruction of apartheid and the birth of a new, democratic South Africa. Mathabane writes in Miriam's voice based on stories she told him, but he has re-created her unforgettable experience as only someone who also lived through it could. The immediacy of the hardships that brother and sister endured -- from daily school beatings to overwhelming poverty -- is balanced by the beauty of their childhood observations and the true affection that they have for each other.

**Menchu, Rigoberta. [\*I, Rigoberta Menchu: an Indian Woman in Guatemala\*](#). (Guatemala)**

Now a global bestseller, the remarkable life of Rigoberta Menchú, a Guatemalan peasant woman, reflects on

the experiences common to many Indian communities in Latin America. Menchú suffered gross injustice and hardship in her early life: her brother, father and mother were murdered by the Guatemalan military. She learned Spanish and turned to catechistic work as an expression of political revolt as well as religious commitment. Menchú vividly conveys the traditional beliefs of her community and her personal response to feminist and socialist ideas. Above all, these pages are illuminated by the enduring courage and passionate sense of justice of an extraordinary woman. Author won the Nobel Peace Prize.

**Menzel, Peter.** [\*Hungry Planet: What the World Eats.\*](#)

HUNGRY PLANET profiles 30 families from around the world—including Bosnia, Chad, Egypt, Greenland, Japan, the United States, and France—and offers detailed descriptions of weekly food purchases; photographs of the families at home, at market, and in their communities; and a portrait of each family surrounded by a week's worth of groceries. Featuring photo-essays on international street food, meat markets, fast food, and cookery, this captivating chronicle offers a riveting look at what the world really eats. See also his books: [\*Material World: a Global Family Portrait\*](#) and [\*What I Eat: Around the World in 80 Diets\*](#) and the children's version of Hungry Planet: [\*What the World Eats.\*](#)

**Mernissi, Fatima.** [\*Dreams of Trespass: Tales of a Harem Girlhood.\*](#) (Morocco)

In 1940, harems still abounded in Fez, Morocco. They weren't the opulent, bejeweled harems of Scheherezade, but the domestic sprawl of extended families encamped around a walled courtyard that marked the edges of women's lives. Though born into this tightly sheltered world, Fatima Mernissi is constantly urged by her rebellious mother to spring beyond it. Worried that Mernissi is too shy and quiet, her mother tells her, "You must learn to scream and protest, just the way you learned to walk and talk." In *Dreams of Trespass*, an enjoyable weave of memory and fantasy, it is clear that Mernissi's fertile imagination let her slip back and forth through the gates that trapped her restive mother. She spins amiable, often improbable tales of the rigidly proper city harem in Fez and the contrasting freedoms of the country harem where her grandmother Yakima lives. There, one of Yakima's co-wives rides like the wind, another swims like a fish, and Yakima relishes twitting the humorless first wife by naming a fat, waddling duck after her.

**Miller, Cathleen.** [\*Champion of Choice: the Life and Legacy of Women's Advocate Nafis Sadik.\*](#)

Biography of the world's foremost advocate for women's health and reproductive rights and the first female director of a United Nations agency. An obstetrician, wife, mother, and devout Muslim, Sadik has been a courageous and tireless advocate for women, insisting on discussing the difficult issues that impact their lives: education, contraception, abortion, as well as rape and other forms of violence. After Sadik joined the fledgling UN Population Fund in 1971, her groundbreaking strategy for providing females with education and the tools to control their own fertility has dramatically influenced the global birthrate. This book is the first to examine Sadik's contribution to history and the unconventional methods she has employed to go head-to-head with world leaders to improve millions of women's lives. Interspersed between the chapters recounting Sadik's life are vignettes of females around the globe who represent her campaign against domestic abuse, child marriage, genital mutilation, and other human rights violations.

**Min, Anchee.** [\*Red Azalea.\*](#) (China)

A woman who grew up in China during its Cultural Revolution describes the grueling physical labor she endured on Red Fire Farm, her forced segregation from men, her sexual relationship with her platoon leader, and her introduction to acting.

**Minot, Susan.** [\*Thirty Girls.\*](#) (Uganda) (Fiction)

Susan Minot interweaves the stories of two young women fighting for salvation in the face of ruinous brutality and loss. Esther is a precocious Ugandan teenager who is abducted from her Catholic boarding school by Joseph Kony's rebels and, along with twenty-nine of her classmates, forced to witness and commit unspeakable atrocities in the Lord's Resistance Army. Jane is a sensual, idealistic American writer often waylaid by romantic pleasures who has come to Africa hoping to regain her center after a devastating

marriage. Absorbed into a group of glamorous, nomadic expatriates in a landscape of singular beauty and intensity, Jane is reawakened. But she is on a journalistic mission as well, hoping to give voice to the thirty abducted girls she first heard about back in America, and her reporting draws her ever deeper into Africa's dangerous heart--toward Uganda and toward Esther."

**Missamou, Tchicaya.** [\*In the Shadow of Freedom: a Heroic Journey to Liberation, Manhood, and America.\*](#) **(Congo)** From poverty to wealth, from Africa to America and from child soldier to US Marine. Born into the Congolese wilderness, Tchicaya Missamou became a child soldier at age 11. As a horrific civil war loomed across his country, Tchicaya began using his militia connections to ferry jewels, cash, computers, and white diplomats out of the country. By 17, he was rich. By 18, he was a hunted man, his house destroyed, his family brutalized in front of him by his own militia. By 19, he'd left behind everything he'd ever known, escaping to Europe and, eventually, to America. *In the Shadow of Freedom* is the uplifting story of one man's quest to achieve the American Dream. Tchicaya Missamou's life is a shining example of why America is a gift that should not be taken for granted, and why we are limited only by the breadth of our imagination and the strength of our will.

**Mohamed, Nadifa.** [\*The Orchard of Lost Souls: a Novel.\*](#) **(Somalia) (Fiction)**  
1987. Whispers of revolution travel on the dry winds, but still the dictatorship remains secure. Soon, through the eyes of three women, we will see Somalia fall. Nine-year-old Deqo, lured to the city by the promise of her first pair of shoes. Kawsar, a solitary widow, confined to her bed after a savage beating in the local police station. Filsan, a young female soldier who has moved from Mogadishu to suppress the rebellion growing in the north. As the country is unraveled by a civil war that will shock the world, the fates of these three women are twisted irrevocably together.

**Mohlke, Matthew.** [\*The Man Who Swam the Amazon: 3,274 Miles on the World's Deadliest River.\*](#) **(South America)** On Sunday, April 8, 2007, a 52-year-old self-described fat man in a Speedo by the name of Martin Strel swam 3,274 miles of the Amazon River. The Fish Man, as he was called by locals, almost died in the process several times. At the finish his blood pressure was at heart attack level, his entire body full of subcutaneous larvae, and besieged by dehydration and diarrhea and exhaustion. Strel undertook this epic swim to call attention to two issues he is concerned about: deforestation, and river pollution. Along the way he suffered from blisters, sunburn, exotic stomach illnesses, all the while trying to avoid piranhas, anacondas, crocodiles, alligators, river sharks, and a small fish known as the canduru, which when attracted by the smell of urine releases razor-sharp spines into the human orifice it has crawled into.

**Molloy, Aimee.** [\*However Long the Night: Molly Melching's Journey to Help Millions of African Women and Girls Triumph.\*](#) **(Africa)** Aimee Molloy tells the unlikely and inspiring story of Molly Melching, an American woman whose experience as an exchange student in Senegal led her to found Tostan and dedicate almost four decades of her life to the girls and women of Africa. This moving biography details Melching's beginnings at the University of Dakar and follows her journey of 40 years in Africa, where she became a social entrepreneur and one of humanity's strongest voices for the rights of girls and women.

**Moore, Charles.** [\*Plastic Ocean: How a Sea Captain's Chance Discovery Launched a Determined Quest to Save the Oceans.\*](#) **(Pacific)** In the summer of 1997, Charles Moore set sail from Honolulu returning home after competing in a trans-Pacific race. To get to California, he and his crew took a shortcut through the seldom-traversed North Pacific Subtropical Gyre, a vast "oceanic desert" where winds are slack and sailing ships languish. There, Moore realized his catamaran was surrounded by a "plastic soup." He had stumbled upon the largest garbage dump on the planet—a spiral nebula where plastic outweighed zooplankton, the ocean's food base, by a factor of six to one. In *Plastic Ocean*, Moore recounts his ominous findings and unveils the secret life and hidden proper ties of plastics. From milk jugs to polymer molecules small enough to penetrate human skin or be unknowingly inhaled, plastic is now suspected of contributing to a host of ailments, including infertility, autism, thyroid dysfunction, and some cancers. An urgent call to action, Moore's

sobering revelations will be embraced by activists, concerned parents, and anyone concerned about the deadly impact and implications of this man-made blight.

**Moorehead, Caroline.** [\*Human Cargo: a Journey Among Refugees.\*](#)

The word refugee is more often used to invoke a problem than it is to describe a population of millions of people forced to abandon their homes, possessions, and families in order to find a place where they may, quite literally, be allowed to live. In spite of the fact that refugees surround us--the latest UN estimates suggest that 20 million of the world's 6.3 billion people are refugees--few can grasp the scale of their presence or the implications of their growing numbers. Caroline Moorehead has traveled for nearly two years and across four continents to bring us their unforgettable stories. In prose that is at once affecting and informative, we are introduced to the men, women, and children she meets as she travels to Cairo, Guinea, Sicily, the U.S./Mexico border, Lebanon, England, Australia, and Finland. She explains how she came to work and for a time live among refugees, and why she could not escape the pressing need to understand and describe the chain of often terrifying events that mark their lives. *Human Cargo* is a work of deep and subtle sympathy that completely alters our understanding of what it means to have and lose a place in the world.

**Mortenson, Greg.** [\*Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Fight Terrorism and Build Nations One School at a Time.\*](#) (Pakistan/Afghanistan) One man's campaign to build schools in the most dangerous, remote, and anti-American reaches of Asia. In 1993 Greg Mortenson was an American mountain-climbing bum wandering emaciated and lost through Pakistan's Karakoram. After he was taken in and nursed back to health by the people of a Pakistani village, he promised to return one day and build them a school. From that rash, earnest promise grew one of the most incredible humanitarian campaigns of our time--Mortenson's one-man mission to counteract extremism by building schools, especially for girls, throughout the breeding ground of the Taliban. In a region where Americans are often feared and hated, he has survived kidnapping, fatwas issued by enraged mullahs, death threats, and wrenching separations from his wife and children. But his success speaks for itself--at last count, his Central Asia Institute had built fifty-five schools.--From publisher description. See also his book: [\*Stones Into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan\*](#) and the children's book: [\*Listen to the Wind: the Story of Dr. Greg and Three Cups of Tea.\*](#)

**Moshiri, Farnoosh.** [\*The Bathhouse.\*](#) (Iran) (Fiction)

In the early days of the fundamentalist revolution in Iran, a seventeen-year-old girl is arrested because of her brother's involvement with leftist politics. She is placed in a makeshift jail, a former bathhouse, in which other women are also being held captive. With intense emotion and great literary skill, Moshiri gives voice to these prisoners, exploring their torment and struggle, but also their courage and humanity, in the face of tyrants. Based on interviews with real women who have been imprisoned, Farnoosh Moshiri's novel is a gripping and moving narrative of oppression, injustice, and the human spirit.

**Muhsen, Zana.** [\*Sold: a Story of Modern-Day Slavery.\*](#) (Great Britain/Yemen)

Zana Muhsen, born and bred in Birmingham, is of Yemeni origin. When her father told her she was to spend a holiday with relatives in North Yemen, she jumped at the chance. Ages 15 and 13 respectively, Zana and her sister discovered that they had been literally sold into marriage, and that on their arrival they were virtually prisoners. They had to adapt to a completely alien way of life, with no running water, dung-plastered walls, frequent beatings, and the ordeal of childbirth on bare floors with only old women in attendance. After eight years of misery and humiliation Zana succeeded in escaping, but her sister is still there, and it seems likely that she will now never leave the country where she has spent more than half her life. See also the sequel: [\*A Promise to Nadia: a True Story of a British Slave in Yemen.\*](#)

**Müller, Herta.** [\*The Appointment: a Novel.\*](#) (Romania) (Fiction)

"I've been summoned, Thursday, ten sharp." Thus begins a day in the life of a young factory worker during Ceaușescu's totalitarian regime. Her crime? Sewing notes into the linings of men's suits bound for Italy. "Marry me," the notes say, with her name and address. As she rides the tram to her interrogation, she thinks



over the events and people of her life under terror. In her distraction she misses her stop and finds herself alone on an unfamiliar street. And what she discovers there makes her fear of the interrogation pale in comparison." See also her short story collection [Nadirs \(Fiction\)](#) and her novel [The Land of Green Plums \(Fiction\)](#). The author won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2009.

**Murphy, Laura T.** [Survivors of Slavery: Modern-Day Slave Narratives.](#)

Slavery is not a crime confined to the far reaches of history. It is an injustice that continues to entrap twenty-seven million people across the globe. Laura Murphy offers close to forty survivor narratives from Cambodia, Ghana, Lebanon, Macedonia, Mexico, Russia, Thailand, Ukraine, and the United States, detailing the horrors of a system that forces people to work without pay and against their will, under the threat of violence, with little or no means of escape. Representing a variety of circumstances in diverse contexts, these survivors are the Frederick Douglasses, Sojourner Truths, and Olaudah Equianos of our time, testifying to the widespread existence of a human rights tragedy and the urgent need to address it. Through storytelling and firsthand testimony, this anthology shapes a twenty-first-century narrative that many believe died with the end of slavery in the Americas. Organized around such issues as the need for work, the punishment of defiance, and the move toward activism, the collection isolates the causes, mechanisms, and responses to slavery that allow the phenomenon to endure. Enhancing scholarship in women's studies, sociology, criminology, law, social work, and literary studies, the text establishes a common trajectory of vulnerability, enslavement, captivity, escape, and recovery, creating an invaluable resource for activists, scholars, legislators, and service providers.

**Nafisi, Azar.** [Reading Lolita in Tehran: a Memoir in Books.](#) (Iran)

This is the story of one woman's dream and the nightmare that made it come true. For two years before she left Iran in 1997, Nafisi gathered seven young women at her house every Thursday morning to read and discuss forbidden works of Western literature. They were all former students whom she had taught at university. They were unaccustomed to being asked to speak their minds, but soon they began to open up and speak more freely, not only about the novels they were reading but also about themselves, their dreams and disappointments. Nafisi's account flashes back to the early days of the revolution, when she first started teaching at the University of Tehran amid the swirl of protests and demonstrations. Her tale offers a fascinating portrait of the Iran-Iraq war viewed from Tehran and gives us a rare glimpse, from the inside, of women's lives in revolutionary Iran.

**Naktsang Nulo.** [My Tibetan Childhood: When Ice Shattered Stone.](#) (Tibet)

In *My Tibetan Childhood*, Naktsang Nulo recalls his life in Tibet's Amdo region during the 1950s. From the perspective of himself at age ten, he describes his upbringing as a nomad on Tibet's eastern plateau. He depicts pilgrimages to monasteries, including a 1500-mile horseback expedition his family made to and from Lhasa. A year or so later, they attempted that same journey as they fled from advancing Chinese troops. Naktsang's father joined and was killed in the little-known 1958 Amdo rebellion against the Chinese People's Liberation Army, the armed branch of the Chinese Communist Party. During the next year, the author and his brother were imprisoned in a camp where, after the onset of famine, very few children survived. The real significance of this episodic narrative is the way it shows, through the eyes of a child, the suppressed histories of China's invasion of Tibet. The author's matter-of-fact accounts cast the atrocities that he relays in stark relief. Remarkably, Naktsang lived to tell his tale. His book was published in 2007 in China, where it was a bestseller before the Chinese government banned it in 2010. It is the most reprinted modern Tibetan literary work. This translation makes a fascinating if painful period of modern Tibetan history accessible in English.

**Napoli, Lisa.** [Radio Shangri-La: What I Learned in the Happiest Kingdom on Earth.](#) (Bhutan)

Describes how a midlife crisis and chance encounter prompted the author's relocation to Bhutan, where she volunteered at the country's first youth radio station and witnessed the rapid changes in the culture of a country just beginning to open up to the modern world.

**Nasrin, Taslima. [Shame: a Novel](#). (Bangladesh) (Fiction)**

Not since Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses* has the publication of a book provoked such mob violence, public outcries for the arrest and death of the author, and international efforts to secure her safety. The animosity and bloodletting between Muslim and Hindu extremists on the Indian subcontinent is centuries old. When the Babri Mosque at Ayodhya, India, was destroyed by Hindu fundamentalists on December 6, 1992, fierce mob reprisals took place against the Hindu minority in Muslim Bangladesh. These incidents form the backdrop for Dr. Taslima Nasrin's explosive and courageous book, *Shame*, describing the nightmarish fate of one family within her country's small Hindu community. Her book so angered Muslim leaders that a fatwa, or holy judgment, was invoked, offering thousands of dollars to anyone who would kill her. The Soldiers of Islam accused her of "blasphemy and conspiracy against Islam," while the Bengali government charged her with sacrilege merely for saying that the Koran should be revised. After months in hiding, Dr. Nasrin escaped to Sweden with the aid of American, French, and European Union authorities. Her commitment to eliminating religious extremism worldwide is stated in her preface to *Shame*: "The disease of religious Fundamentalism must be fought at every turn. I will continue to write and protest persecution and discrimination. I am convinced that the only way the fundamentalist forces can be stopped is if all of us join together to fight their malignant influence. I, for one, will not be silenced." See also her novel: [Revenge](#).

**(Fiction)**

**Nazer, Mende. [Slave: My True Story](#). (Sudan/UK)**

Mende Nazer lost her childhood at age twelve, when she was sold into slavery. It all began one horrific night in 1993, when Arab raiders swept through her Nuba village, murdering the adults and rounding up thirty-one children, including Mende. Mende was sold to a wealthy Arab family who lived in Sudan's capital city, Khartoum. So began her dark years of enslavement. Her Arab owners called her "Yebit," or "black slave." She called them "master." She was subjected to appalling physical, sexual, and mental abuse. She slept in a shed and ate the family leftovers like a dog. She had no rights, no freedom, and no life of her own. Normally Mende's story never would have come to light. But seven years after she was seized and sold into slavery, she was sent to work for another master—a diplomat working in the United Kingdom. In London, she managed to make contact with other Sudanese, who took pity on her. In September 2000, she made a dramatic break for freedom. *Slave* is a story almost beyond belief. It depicts the strength and dignity of the Nuba tribe. It recounts the savage way in which the Nuba and their ancient culture are being destroyed by a secret modern-day trade in slaves. Most of all, it is a remarkable testimony to one young woman's unbreakable spirit and tremendous courage.

**Nemat, Marina. [Prisoner of Tehran: a Memoir](#). (Iran)**

Nemat tells the heart-pounding story of her life as a young girl in Iran during the early days of Ayatollah Khomeini's brutal Islamic Revolution--arrested, tortured, and sentenced to death for "political crimes".

**Niu-Niu. [No Tears for Mao: Growing Up in the Cultural Revolution](#). (China)**

"Niu-Niu was four years old when, amidst the rubble of charred books and tattered curtains that had been her comfortable "bourgeois" home, she watched the mindless beating of her helpless parents, and saw them, bloody and with shaven heads, taken away for what seemed like forever. That traumatic day marked the end of Niu-Niu's innocent childhood. Two days after she was born, on May 16, 1966, Mao Zedong began his "Great Cultural Revolution," which caused untold suffering. Niu-Niu's "intellectual" family was among the tens of thousands of Chinese people cruelly persecuted and even murdered in the name of the "Social Revolution." For the next nine years, Niu-Niu's life became a nightmare in which human kindness and reason all but disappeared, where violence and hunger were the order of the day. Even after the end of the Cultural Revolution, when Niu-Niu attended university in Beijing, she found Chinese society rigid, puritanical, and small-minded. This direct eyewitness account of one of the world's most shocking social upheavals is told vividly and compassionately."

**Nordberg, Jenny.** [\*The Underground Girls of Kabul: In Search of a Hidden Resistance in Afghanistan.\*](#)

**(Afghanistan)** In Afghanistan, a culture ruled almost entirely by men, the birth of a son is cause for celebration and the arrival of a daughter is often mourned as misfortune. A *bacha posh* (literally translated from Dari as “dressed up like a boy”) is a third kind of child – a girl temporarily raised as a boy and presented as such to the outside world. Jenny Nordberg, the reporter who broke the story of this phenomenon for the *New York Times*, constructs a powerful and moving account of those secretly living on the other side of a deeply segregated society where women have almost no rights and little freedom.

**Nordland, Rod.** [\*The Lovers: Afghanistan’s Romeo and Juliet, the True Story of How They Defied Their Families and Escaped an Honor Killing.\*](#) **(Afghanistan) (on order)**

Zakia and Ali were from different tribes, but they grew up on neighboring farms in the hinterlands of Afghanistan. By the time they were young teenagers, Zakia, strikingly beautiful and fiercely opinionated, and Ali, shy and tender, had fallen in love. Defying their families, sectarian differences, cultural conventions, and Afghan civil and Islamic law, they ran away together only to live under constant threat from Zakia’s large and vengeful family, who have vowed to kill her to restore the family’s honor. They are still in hiding. Despite a decade of American good intentions, women in Afghanistan are still subjected to some of the worst human rights violations in the world. Rod Nordland, then the Kabul bureau chief of the *New York Times*, had watched these abuses unfold for years when he came upon Zakia and Ali, and has not only chronicled their plight, but has also shepherded them from danger. *The Lovers* will do for women’s rights generally what Malala’s story did for women’s education. It is an astonishing story about self-determination and the meaning of love that illustrates, as no policy book could, the limits of Western influence on fundamentalist Islamic culture and, at the same time, the need for change.

**Norris, John.** [\*The Disaster Gypsies: Humanitarian Workers in the World’s Deadliest Conflicts.\*](#)

Chatting with notorious war criminal Charles Taylor on the lawn of his presidential mansion as ostriches and armed teenagers strut in the background. Landing in snow-covered Afghanistan weeks after the fall of the Taliban and trying to make sense of a country shattered by years of war. Being held at gunpoint by young soldiers amid the tragedy of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. Standing in the middle of a violent riot in the streets of Kathmandu. Having hushed conversations with the widows of Europe's largest massacre since World War II. These are all scenes from *The Disaster Gypsies*, a compelling personal memoir by a relief worker and conflict specialist who has worked on the ground in a host of war-torn countries. Initially deployed as part of a humanitarian relief team in Rwanda almost by accident, Norris has experienced the tragedies of Rwanda, Bosnia, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and Liberia over a span of ten years. Rich with poignant human stories, *The Disaster Gypsies* captures the reality of modern war with an immediacy and compassion that puts the reader in the front seat for some of the most wrenching events of our times. Norris approaches his story with a unique and dynamic perspective, having worked both in the upper echelons of the U.S. government and in some of the world's most dangerous places. Moving from face-to-face encounters with powerful warlords to quiet moments with the victims of horrific violence, Norris gives readers a behind-the-scenes tour of a world most of them can barely imagine. He makes a compelling argument that these nasty civil wars were often dismissed as tribal, ethnic, or regional disputes by most Americans, when in reality such violence is fundamentally part of the human condition. That may sound simple or even self-evident, but Norris contends that most people in the United States and Europe continue to view war as something that is outside of themselves and profoundly foreign in its nature, even as their own troops continue to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Novogratz, Jacqueline.** [\*The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World.\*](#)

It all started back home in Virginia, with the blue sweater, a gift that quickly became her prized possession—until the day she outgrew it and gave it away to Goodwill. Eleven years later in Africa, she spotted a young boy wearing that very sweater, with her name still on the tag inside. That the sweater had made its trek all the way to Rwanda was ample evidence, she thought, of how we are all connected, how our actions—and inaction—touch people every day across the globe, people we may never know or meet. From her first stumbling efforts as a young idealist venturing forth in Africa to the creation of the trailblazing

organization she runs today, Novogratz tells gripping stories with unforgettable characters—women dancing in a Nairobi slum, unwed mothers starting a bakery, courageous survivors of the Rwandan genocide, entrepreneurs building services for the poor against impossible odds. She shows, in ways both hilarious and heartbreaking, how traditional charity often fails, but how a new form of philanthropic investing called "patient capital" can help make people self-sufficient and can change millions of lives. More than just an autobiography or a how-to guide to addressing poverty, *The Blue Sweater* is a call to action that challenges us to grant dignity to the poor and to rethink our engagement with the world.

**Omar, Qais Akbar. [A Fort of Nine Towers: an Afghan Family Story](#). (Afghanistan)**

A young Afghan man's memoir of his family and country in which the horrors and perils he faced, his imprisonment, and his quiet resistance explore life in a country whose history has become deeply entwined with the United States, but has eluded understanding.

**Ondaatje, Michael. [Anil's Ghost](#). (Sri Lanka) (Fiction)**

*Anil's Ghost* transports us to Sri Lanka, a country steeped in centuries of tradition, now forced into the late twentieth century by the ravages of civil war. Into this maelstrom steps Anil Tissera, a young woman born in Sri Lanka, educated in England and America, who returns to her homeland as a forensic anthropologist sent by an international human rights group to discover the source of the organized campaigns of murder engulfing the island. What follows is a story about love, about family, about identity, about the unknown enemy, about the quest to unlock the hidden past—a story propelled by a riveting mystery. Unfolding against the deeply evocative background of Sri Lanka's landscape and ancient civilization, *Anil's Ghost* is a literary spellbinder—Michael Ondaatje's most powerful novel yet.

**Oufkir, Malika. [Stolen Lives: Twenty Years in a Desert Jail](#). (Morocco)**

A gripping memoir that reads like a political thriller—the story of Malika Oufkir's turbulent and remarkable life. Born in 1953, Malika Oufkir was the eldest daughter of General Oufkir, the King of Morocco's closest aide. Adopted by the king at the age of five, Malika spent most of her childhood and adolescence in the seclusion of the court harem, one of the most eligible heiresses in the kingdom, surrounded by luxury and extraordinary privilege. Then, on August 16, 1972, her father was arrested and executed after an attempt to assassinate the king. Malika, her five younger brothers and sisters, and her mother were immediately imprisoned in a desert penal colony. After fifteen years, the last ten of which they spent locked up in solitary cells, the Oufkir children managed to dig a tunnel with their bare hands and make an audacious escape. Recaptured after five days, Malika was finally able to leave Morocco and begin a new life in exile in 1996. A heartrending account in the face of extreme deprivation and the courage with which one family faced its fate, *Stolen Lives* is an unforgettable story of one woman's journey to freedom. Sequel: ***Freedom: the Story of My Second Life***.

**Park, Linda Sue. [A Long Walk to Water](#). (Sudan) (Fiction)**

The *New York Times* bestseller *A Long Walk to Water* begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way. Based on a true story.

**Parkin, Gaile. [Baking Cakes in Kigali: a Novel](#). (Rwanda) (Fiction)**

Set in an international apartment complex in Rwanda, Parkin's appealing but overstuffed debut throws together university professors, U.N. employees and CIA agents among a panoply of traditions and cultures. Heroine Angel Tungararza has moved from Tanzania with her husband, Pius, who's taken a job at the local university; before long, she develops a reputation as a masterful baker and a sagacious friend. Though

haunted by the deaths of her grown daughter and son, Angel plunges back into motherhood, caring for her five grandchildren, tending to Pius, baking cakes and dispensing advice. Meanwhile, the sour undercurrents of AIDS and genocide play quiet but instrumental parts in shaping Angel's world. In Parkin's eagerness to introduce a rainbow of cultures and personalities, she crowds her enjoyable but terminally dedicated heroine, forcing Angel to take a saccharine supporting role in her own story; almost simultaneously, she's soothing survivors of Rwandan genocide, reconciling a local prostitute and her client, and serving as an honorary mother-of-the-bride.

**Pazira, Nelofer.** [\*A Bed of Red Flowers: In Search of My Afghanistan.\*](#) (Afghanistan)

"The picnic of the red flower" is a traditional time of celebration for Afghans. One of Nelofer Pazira's earliest memories is of people gathering in the countryside to admire the tulips and poppies carpeting the landscape. It is the mid-1970s, and her parents are building a future for themselves and their young children in the city of Kabul." "But when Nelofer is just five the Communists take power and her father, a respected doctor, is imprisoned along with thousands of other Afghans. The following year, the Russians invade Afghanistan, which becomes a police state and the center of a bloody conflict between the Soviet army and American-backed mujahidin fighters. A climate of violence and fear reigns. For Nelofer, there is no choice but to grow up fast. At eleven, she and her friends throw stones at the Russian tanks that stir up dust and animosity in the streets of Kabul. As a teenager she joins a resistance group, hiding her gun from her parents. Her emotional refuge is her friendship with her classmate, Dyana, with whom she shares a passion for poetry, dreams and a better life. After a decade of war, Nelofer's family escapes across the mountains to Pakistan and later to Canada, where she continues to write to Dyana. When her friend suddenly stops writing, Nelofer fears for Dyana's life. With lyrical, narrative prose, *A Bed of Red Flowers* movingly tells Pazira's haunting story, as well as Afghanistan's story as a nation." See also the documentary film "[Return to Kandahar](#)"

**Pearce, Fred.** [\*Confessions of an Eco-Sinner: Tracking Down the Sources of My Stuff.\*](#)

A global journey to find the sources of all the stuff in one man's life--and its social and environmental footprint. Where does everything in our daily lives come from? The clothes on our backs, the computers on our desks, the cabinets in our kitchens, and the spices behind their doors? Under what conditions--environmental and social--are they harvested or manufactured? In *Confessions of an Eco-Sinner*, Fred Pearce shows us the hidden worlds that sustain a Western lifestyle, and he does it by examining the sources of everything in his own life; as an ordinary citizen of the Western world, he, like all of us, is an "eco-sinner." In conversational and convivial prose, Pearce surveys his home and then starts out on a global tour to track down, among other things, the Kenyans who grow and harvest his fair trade coffee (which isn't as fair as one might hope), the women in the Bangladeshi sweat shops who sew his jeans, and the Chinese factory cities where the world's computers are made. It's a fascinating portrait, by turns sobering and hopeful, of the effects the world's more than 6 billion inhabitants--all eating, consuming, making--have on our planet, and of the working and living conditions of the people who produce most of these goods.

**Pearce, Fred.** [\*The Land Grabbers: the New Fight Over Who Owns the Earth.\*](#)

An unprecedented land grab is taking place around the world. Fearing future food shortages or eager to profit from them, the world's wealthiest and most acquisitive countries, corporations, and individuals have been buying and leasing vast tracts of land around the world. The scale is astounding: parcels the size of small countries are being gobbled up across the plains of Africa, the paddy fields of Southeast Asia, the jungles of South America, and the prairies of Eastern Europe. Veteran science writer Fred Pearce spent a year circling the globe to find out who was doing the buying, whose land was being taken over, and what the effect of these massive land deals seems to be. *The Land Grabbers* is a first-of-its-kind exposé that reveals the scale and the human costs of the land grab, one of the most profound ethical, environmental, and economic issues facing the globalized world in the twenty-first century. The corporations, speculators, and governments scooping up land cheap in the developing world claim that industrial-scale farming will help local economies. But Pearce's research reveals a far more troubling reality. While some mega-farms are ethically run, all too often poor farmers and cattle herders are evicted from ancestral lands or cut off from water sources. The



good jobs promised by foreign capitalists and home governments alike fail to materialize. Hungry nations are being forced to export their food to the wealthy, and corporate potentates run fiefdoms oblivious to the country beyond their fences.

**Peifer, Steve. [\*A Dream So Big: Our Unlikely Journey to End the Tears of Hunger\*](#). (Kenya) (on order)**

*A Dream So Big* is the story of Steve Peifer, a corporate manager who once oversaw 9,000 computer software consultants, who today helps provide daily lunches for over 20,000 Kenyan school children in thirty-five national public schools, and maintains solar-powered computer labs at twenty rural African schools.

**Popham, Peter. [\*The Lady and the Peacock: the Life of Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma\*](#). (Burma)**

Peter Popham's major new biography of Aung San Suu Kyi draws upon previously untapped testimony and fresh revelations to tell the story of a woman whose bravery and determination have captivated people around the globe. Celebrated today as one of the world's greatest exponents of non-violent political defiance since Mahatma Gandhi, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize only four years after her first experience of politics. In April 1988, Suu Kyi returned from Britain to Burma to nurse her sick mother but, within six months, found herself the unchallenged leader of the largest popular revolt in her country's history. When the party she co-founded won a landslide victory in Burma's first free elections for thirty years, she was already under house arrest and barred from taking office by the military junta. Since then, 'The Lady' has set about transforming her country ethically as well as politically, displaying dazzling courage in the process. Under house arrest for 15 of the previous 20 years, she has come close to being killed by her political enemies and her commitment to peaceful revolution has come at extreme personal cost. In November 2010, after fraudulent elections in which she played no part, Suu Kyi was again freed. She was greeted by ecstatic crowds but only time will tell what role this remarkable woman will have in the future of her country. See also: **Rena Pederson's [\*The Burma Spring: Aung San Suu Kyi and the New Struggle for the Soul of a Nation\*](#).**

**Power, Samantha. [\*Chasing the Flame: One Man's Fight to Save the World\*](#).**

Reveals Sergio Vieira de Mello's powerful legacy of humanity and ideological strength in the context of his troubleshooting attempts in Lebanon in the aftermath of Israel's 1982 invasion; in his taming of the Khmer Rouge and his repatriation of four-hundred-thousand Cambodian refugees in the early nineties; in his efforts to negotiate an end to the slaughter in Bosnia; in his struggle to nation-build in war-torn societies during his quasi-colonial governorships of Kosovo and East Timor; and through his tragic final posting as the UN representative in Baghdad, where he became the victim of the country's first-ever suicide bomb. Sergio was the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights.

**Price, Richard. [\*Rainforest Warriors: Human Rights on Trial\*](#). (Suriname)**

The Republic of Suriname, in northeastern South America, contains the highest proportion of rainforest within its national territory, and the most forest per person, of any country in the world. During the 1990s, its government began awarding extensive logging and mining concessions to multinational companies from China, Indonesia, Canada, and elsewhere. Saramaka Maroons, the descendants of self-liberated African slaves who had lived in that rainforest for more than 300 years, resisted, bringing their complaints to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In 2008, when the Inter-American Court of Human Rights delivered its landmark judgment in their favor, their efforts to protect their threatened rainforest were thrust into the international spotlight. Two leaders of the struggle to protect their way of life, Saramaka Headcaptain Wazen Eduards and Saramaka law student Hugo Jabini, were awarded the Goldman Prize for the Environment (often referred to as the environmental Nobel Prize), under the banner of "A New Precedent for Indigenous and Tribal Peoples." Anthropologist Richard Price, who has worked with Saramakas for more than forty years and who participated actively in this struggle, tells the gripping story of how Saramakas harnessed international human rights law to win control of their own piece of the Amazonian forest and guarantee their cultural survival.

**Quin, Mary.** [\*Kidnapped in Yemen: One Woman's Amazing Escape from Terrorist Captivity.\*](#) (Yemen)

"When Mary Quin ripped an AK-47 from the hands of a wounded kidnapper and made her escape in the Yemeni desert, she knew her life could never be the same again. An exotic vacation had turned into a nightmare as she and fifteen fellow tourists were used as human shields in a terrifying gun battle between the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army and Yemeni troops that left four hostages and two kidnappers dead. Lucky to be among those who survived, Quin was determined to find out why the kidnapping had occurred. Her subsequent encounters with clandestine terrorist groups included a meeting with Abu Hamza al-Masri, the notorious disfigured cleric who is now serving a seven-year sentence for inciting murder and racial hatred. *Kidnapped in Yemen* is the unforgettable first-hand account of Quin's journey through murky militant Islam."

**Rawlence, Ben.** [\*City of Thorns: Nine Lives in the World's Largest Refugee Camp.\*](#) (Kenya) (on order)

To the charity workers, Dadaab refugee camp is a humanitarian crisis; to the Kenyan government, it is a 'nursery for terrorists'; to the western media, it is a dangerous no-go area; but to its half a million residents, it is their last resort. Situated hundreds of miles from any other settlement, deep within the inhospitable desert of northern Kenya where only thorn bushes grow, Dadaab is a city like no other. Its buildings are made from mud, sticks or plastic, its entire economy is grey, and its citizens survive on rations and luck. Over the course of four years, Ben Rawlence became a first-hand witness to a strange and desperate limbo-land, getting to know many of those who have come there seeking sanctuary. Among them are Guled, a former child soldier who lives for football; Nisho, who scrapes an existence by pushing a wheelbarrow and dreaming of riches; Tawane, the indomitable youth leader; and schoolgirl Kheyro, whose future hangs upon her education. In *City of Thorns*, Rawlence interweaves the stories of nine individuals to show what life is like in the camp and to sketch the wider political forces that keep the refugees trapped there. Rawlence combines intimate storytelling with broad socio-political investigative journalism, doing for Dadaab what Katherine Boo's *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* did for the Mumbai slums. Lucid, vivid and illuminating, *City of Thorns* is an urgent human story with deep international repercussions, brought to life through the people who call Dadaab home.

**Rice, Andrew.** [\*The Teeth May Smile But the Heart Does Not Forget: Murder and Memory in Uganda.\*](#)

(Uganda) "The people of Uganda have long struggled to bury the worst of their history, but after the violent reign of Idi Amin, reminders were never far from view. In 2000, lawyer Duncan Laki came across a clue to his father's 1972 disappearance, and the ensuing search ultimately led him to a shallow grave--and then to three old soldiers, including Amin's military chief of staff. Laki's discovery resulted in a trial that, in the end, offered all Ugandans the reckoning they had long been denied. A detective story, a tale of fathers and sons, and a political history, this is above all an illumination of the wounded societies of modern Africa and an exploration of how--and whether--the past can ever be laid to rest."

**Rifa'i, Amal & Ainbinder, Odelia.** [\*We Just Want to Live Here: a Palestinian Teenager, an Israeli Teenager—an Unlikely Friendship.\*](#) (Palestine/Israel)

Palestinian Amal Rifa'i and Israeli Odelia Ainbinder are two teenage girls who live in the same city, yet worlds apart. They met on a student exchange program to Switzerland. Weeks after they returned, the latest, violent Intifada broke out in the fall of 2000. But two years later, Middle East correspondent Sylke Tempel encouraged Amal and Odelia to develop their friendship by facilitating an exchange of their deepest feelings through letters. In their letters, Amal and Odelia discuss the Intifada, their families, traditions, suicide bombers, and military service. They write frankly of their anger, frustrations, and fear, but also of their hopes and dreams for a brighter future. Together, Amal and Odelia give us a renewed sense of hope for peace in the Middle East.

**Riverbend.** [\*Baghdad Burning: Girl Blog from Iraq.\*](#) (Iraq)

In August 2003, the world gained access to a remarkable new voice: a blog written by a 25-year-old Iraqi woman living in Baghdad, whose identity remained concealed for her own protection. Calling herself

Riverbend, she offered searing eyewitness accounts of the everyday realities on the ground, punctuated by astute analysis on the politics behind these events. Sequel: ***Baghdad Burning II: More Girl Blog from Iraq***.

**Roberts, Steven V.** **[From Every End of This Earth: 13 Families and the New Lives They Made in America](#)**.

Roberts follows the stories of thirteen families in this poignant, eye-opening look at immigration in America today.

**Robinson, Geoffrey.** **["If You Leave Us Here, We Will Die": How Genocide Was Stopped in East Timor](#)**. (East Timor/ Indonesia)

"If You Leave Us Here, We Will Die" tells the story of East Timor, a half-island that suffered genocide after Indonesia invaded in 1975, and which was again laid to waste after the population voted for independence from Indonesia in 1999. Before international forces intervened, more than half the population had been displaced and 1,500 people killed. Geoffrey Robinson, an expert in Southeast Asian history, was in East Timor with the United Nations in 1999 and provides a gripping first-person account of the violence, as well as a rigorous assessment of the politics and history behind it.

**Rodriguez, Deborah.** **[Kabul Beauty School: an American Woman Goes Behind the Veil](#)**. (Afghanistan)

Soon after the fall of the Taliban, in 2001, Deborah Rodriguez went to Afghanistan as part of a humanitarian aid group. Surrounded by people whose skills--as doctors, nurses, and therapists--seemed eminently more practical than her own, Rodriguez, a hairdresser and mother from Michigan, despaired of being of any real use. Yet she found she had a gift for befriending Afghans, and once her profession became known she was eagerly sought out by Westerners desperate for a good haircut and by Afghan women, who have a long and proud tradition of running their own beauty salons. Thus the idea for the Kabul Beauty School was born. Within that small haven, the line between teacher and student quickly blurred as these vibrant women shared with Rodriguez their stories and their hearts, ultimately giving her the strength to leave her own unhealthy marriage and allow herself to love again, Afghan style. See also her novel: **[The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul](#)**. (Fiction)

**Rusesabagina, Paul.** **[An Ordinary Man: an Autobiography](#)**. (Rwanda)

Readers who were moved and horrified by *Hotel Rwanda* will respond even more intensely to Paul Rusesabagina's unforgettable autobiography. As Rwanda was thrown into chaos during the 1994 genocide, Rusesabagina, a hotel manager, turned the luxurious Hotel Milles Collines into a refuge for more than 1,200 Tutsi and moderate Hutu refugees, while fending off their would-be killers with a combination of diplomacy and deception. In *An Ordinary Man*, he tells the story of his childhood, retraces his accidental path to heroism, revisits the 100 days in which he was the only thing standing between his guests and a hideous death, and recounts his subsequent life as a refugee and activist. See also the movie: **["Hotel Rwanda"](#)**

**Saadawi, Nawal El.** **[A Daughter of Isis: the Autobiography of Nawal El Saadawi](#)**. (Egypt)

Nawal El Saadawi has been pilloried, censored, imprisoned and exiled for her refusal to accept the oppressions imposed on women by gender and class. In her life and in her writings, this struggle against sexual discrimination has always been linked to a struggle against all forms of oppression: religious, racial, colonial and neo-colonial. In 1969, she published her first work of non-fiction, "Women and Sex"; in 1972, her writings and her struggles led to her dismissal from her job. From then on there was no respite; imprisonment under Sadat in 1981 was the culmination of the long war she had fought for Egyptian women's social and intellectual freedom. "A Daughter of Isis" is the autobiography of this extraordinary woman. See also her novel: **[Woman at Point Zero](#)**. (Egypt) (Fiction)

**Saberi, Roxana.** **[Between Two Worlds: My Life and Captivity in Iran](#)**. (Iran)

A chronicle of the Iranian-American journalist's imprisonment, as well as a look at Iran and its political tensions. Here for the first time is the full story of Saberi's arrest and imprisonment, which drew international attention as a cause célèbre from Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and leaders across the globe.

**Sahebjam, Freidoune. [The Stoning of Soraya M.: a Story of Injustice in Iran](#). (Iran)**

Soraya M.'s husband, Ghorban-Ali, couldn't afford to marry another woman. Rather than returning Soraya's dowry, as custom required before taking a second wife, he plotted with four friends and a counterfeit mullah to dispose of her. Together, they accused Soraya of adultery. Her only crime was cooking for a friend's widowed husband. Exhausted by a lifetime of abuse and hardship, Soraya said nothing, and the makeshift tribunal took her silence as a confession of guilt. They sentenced her to death by stoning: a punishment prohibited by Islam but widely practiced. Day by day—sometimes minute by minute—Sahebjam deftly recounts these horrendous events, tracing Soraya's life with searing immediacy, from her arranged marriage and the births of her children to her husband's increasing cruelty and her horrifying execution, where, by tradition, her father, husband, and sons hurled the first stones. A stark look at the intersection between culture and justice, this is one woman's story, but it stands for the stories of thousands of women who suffered—and continue to suffer—the same fate. It is a story that must be told. See also the feature film DVD: [The Stoning of Soraya M.](#)

**Salbi, Zainab. [Between Two Worlds: Escape From Tyranny: Growing Up in the Shadow of Saddam](#). (Iraq)**

Zainab Salbi was eleven years old when her father was chosen to be Saddam Hussein's personal pilot and her family's life was grafted onto his. Her mother, the beautiful Alia, taught her daughter the skills she needed to survive. A plastic smile. Saying yes. Burying in boxes in her mind the horrors she glimpsed around her. "Learn to erase your memories," she instructed. "He can read eyes." In this richly visual memoir, Salbi describes tyranny as she saw it - through the eyes of a privileged child, a rebellious teenager, a violated wife, and ultimately a public figure fighting to overcome the skill that once kept her alive: silence. *Between Two Worlds* is a riveting quest for truth that deepens our understanding of the universal themes of power, fear, sexual subjugation, and the question one generation asks the one before it: How could you have let this happen to us? See also her book: [If You Knew Me You Would Care](#).

**Sanllorente, Jaume. [Bombay Smiles](#). (India)**

Sanllorente was a journalist living a comfortable life in Barcelona when, at the suggestion of his travel agent, he decided to spend his next vacation in India. After landing in Delhi and feeling overwhelmed by the poverty surrounding him at every turn, he wonders if he's seeing "reality or a nightmare." But over two weeks' time, as he experiences shock at the pain and misery he sees everywhere he goes, he is simultaneously undergoing a personal metamorphosis. Back in Barcelona, Sanllorente devours books on India's religions, philosophers, and political history. Compelled to return, this time to Mumbai, he observes the children of the Dharavi slum and realizes that his destiny has become tied to improving their well-being. Frustrated by the bureaucracy of NGOs, he seeks funding from wealthy individuals he has interviewed over the years. First he rescues an orphanage about to close, then he establishes his first school, believing that education is the key to solving the problems of India's poor.

**Sages, Gerard, editor. [It's a Living: Work and Life in Vietnam Today](#). (Vietnam)**

Through 67 interviews and 59 colour photographs, 'It's a Living' reveals the energy and struggle of the world of work in Vietnam today. A goldfish peddler installing aquariums, a business school graduate selling shoes on the sidewalk, a college student running an extensive multi-level sales network, and a girl doing promotions but intent on moving into management, are just a few of the people profiled. Based on frank and freewheeling interviews conducted by students, the book engages a broad range of Vietnamese, both living in Vietnam and abroad, on their feelings about work, life and getting ahead. By providing a ground-level view of the texture of daily working life in the midst of rapid and unsettling change, the book reveals Vietnam today as a place where ordinary people are leveraging whatever assets they have, not just to survive, but to make a better life for themselves, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Seierstad, Asne. [The Bookseller of Kabul](#). (Afghanistan)**

In spring 2002, following the fall of the Taliban, Asne Seierstad spent four months living with a bookseller and his family in Kabul. For more than twenty years Sultan Khan defied the authorities --be they communist or

Taliban--to supply books to the people of Kabul. He was arrested, interrogated and imprisoned by the communists, and watched illiterate Taliban soldiers burn piles of his books in the street. He even resorted to hiding most of his stock - almost ten thousand books - in attics all over Kabul. But while Khan is passionate in his love of books and his hatred of censorship, he also has strict views on family life and the role of women. As an outsider, Asne Seierstad found herself in a unique position, able to move freely between the private, restricted sphere of the women--including Khan's two wives--and the freer, more public lives of the men. It is an experience that Seierstad finds both fascinating and frustrating. As she steps back from the page and allows the Khans to speak for themselves, we learn of proposals and marriages, hope and fear, crime and punishment. The result is a genuinely gripping and moving portrait of a family, and a clear-eyed assessment of a country struggling to free itself from history.' to 'This mesmerizing portrait of a proud man who, through three decades and successive repressive regimes, heroically braved persecution to bring books to the people of Kabul has elicited extraordinary praise throughout the world and become a phenomenal international bestseller. *The Bookseller of Kabul* is startling in its intimacy and its details--a revelation of the plight of Afghan women and a window into the surprising realities of daily life in today's Afghanistan.

**Shafak, Elif. [\*The Bastard of Istanbul\*](#). (Turkey) (Fiction)**

In a novel that overflows with a kitchen sink's worth of zany characters, women are front and center: Asya Kazanci, an angst-ridden 19-year-old Istanbulite is the bastard of the title; her beautiful, rebellious mother, Zeliha (who intended to have an abortion), has raised Asya among three generations of complicated and colorful female relations (including religious clairvoyant Auntie Banu and bar-brawl widow, Auntie Cevriye). The Kazanci men either die young or take a permanent hike like Mustafa, Zeliha's beloved brother who immigrated to America years ago. Mustafa's Armenian-American stepdaughter, Armanoush, who grew up on her family's stories of the 1915 genocide, shows up in Istanbul looking for her roots and for vindication from her new Turkish family. The Kazanci women lament Armanoush's family's suffering, but have no sense of Turkish responsibility for it; Asya's boho cohorts insist there was no genocide at all. As the debate escalates, Mustafa arrives in Istanbul, and a long-hidden secret connecting the histories of the two families is revealed. Shafak was charged with "public denigration of Turkishness" when the novel was published in Turkey earlier this year (2007? the charges were later dropped). She incorporates a political taboo into an entertaining and insightful ensemble novel, one that posits the universality of family, culture and coincidence.

**Shahid, Humaira Awais. [\*Devotion and Defiance: My Fight for Women and the Poor in Pakistan\*](#). (Pakistan)**

In the fall of 2001, a newlywed English professor took on a job editing the "women's section" of one of Pakistan's leading Urdu newspapers. She soon transformed pages of celebrity gossip and fashion advice into a vehicle for the investigation of the true lives of Pakistani women. News of acid attacks on hapless women, the trading of girls as currency in tribal disputes, and other abuses transformed this young mother into a fiery advocate for women's rights—one guided by Islamic ethics and ideals of social justice as she taught rural leaders to distinguish between religion and tribal custom. Her commitment to her countrywomen led her to a seat in the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, where she fought to protect women, girls, and the poor.

**Shannon, Lisa J. [\*Mama Koko and the Hundred Gunmen: an Ordinary Family's Extraordinary Tale of Love, Loss, and Survival in Congo\*](#). (Congo)**

International human rights activist Lisa Shannon spent many afternoons at the kitchen table having tea with her friend Francisca Thelin, who often spoke of her childhood in Congo. Thelin would conjure vivid images of lush flower gardens, fish the size of small children, and of children running barefoot through her family's coffee plantation, gorging on fruit from the robust and plentiful mango trees. She urged Shannon to visit her family in Dungu, to get a taste of *real Congo, peaceful Congo*; a place so different than the conflict-ravaged places Shannon knew from her activism work. But then the nightly phone calls from Congo began: static-filled, hasty reports from Francisca's mother, "Mama Koko," of gunmen—Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army—who had infested Dungu and began launching attacks. Night after night for a year, Mama Koko delivered the devastating news of Francisca's cousins, nieces, nephews, friends, and neighbors, who had been



killed, abducted, burned alive on Christmas Day. In an unlikely journey, Shannon and Thelin decided to travel from Portland, Oregon to Dungeness, to witness first-hand the devastation unfolding at Joseph Kony's hands. Masquerading as Francisca's American sister-in-law, Shannon tucked herself into Mama Koko's raw cement living room and listened to the stories of Mama Koko and her husband, Papa Alexander—as well as those from dozens of other friends and neighbors ("Mama Koko's War Tribunal")—who lined up outside the house and waited for hours, eager to offer their testimony. In *Mama Koko and the Hundred Gunmen*, Shannon weaves together the family's tragic stories of LRA encounters with tales from the family's history: we hear of Mama Koko's early life as a gap-toothed beauty plotting to escape her inevitable fate of wife and motherhood; Papa Alexander's empire of wives he married because they cooked and cleaned and made good coffee; and Francisca's childhood at the family "castle" and coffee plantation. These lively stories transport Shannon from the chaos of the violence around her and bring to life Francisca's kitchen-table stories of the peaceful Congo.

**Shannon, Lisa J.** [\*A Thousand Sisters: My Journey into the Worst Place on Earth to Be a Woman.\*](#) (Congo)

The founder of the organization Run for Congo Women describes her visit to Congo and recounts the extreme hardships and tragic events in the lives of the women she meets there.

**Shostak, Marjorie.** [\*Nisa: the Life and Words of a !Kung Woman.\*](#) (South Africa)

Married at twelve, then separated, divorced and widowed, Nisa is the mother of four children, none of whom survived. She is strong, capable of foraging on her own in one of the world's most hostile environments, not dependent on any man for her daily sustenance and ready to talk to anyone as her equal. Wise, full of humour at the absurdities of life and courageous in the face of its defeats, she is bawdy, practical and incurably romantic. She is a woman of the !Kung people who live by means of humanity's oldest survival strategy - gathering and hunting. This book is the remarkable story of Nisa's life, told in her own words to Marjorie Shostak. It is a story full of echoes from a female past that we can never know directly. But it is also Nisa's unique story, her own voice, her own dignity. In anyone's culture, she is a remarkable woman.

**Sidhwa, Bapsi.** [\*Water.\*](#) (India) (Fiction)

"Set in 1938 colonial India against the backdrop of Mahatma Gandhi's rise to power, *Water* follows the life of eight-year-old Chuyia, a child-bride who is abandoned at a widow's ashram after the demise of her fifty-year-old husband. There, she is forced to live out a life of penitence until death. Unwilling to accept her fate, Chuyia becomes a catalyst for change in the lives of the widows. When her friend, the beautiful widow-prostitute Kalyani, falls in love with a young, upper-class Gandhian idealist, the forbidden affair boldly defies Hindu tradition and threatens to undermine the delicate balance of power within the ashram." -- back cover.

**Sirleaf, Ellen Johnson.** [\*This Child Will Be Great: Memoir of a Remarkable Life by Africa's First Woman\*](#)

[\*President.\*](#) (Liberia) In January 2006, after the Republic of Liberia had been racked by fourteen years of brutal civil conflict, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Africa's "Iron Lady" was sworn in as president, an event that marked a tremendous turning point in the history of the West African nation. In this stirring memoir, Sirleaf shares the inside story of her rise to power, including her early childhood; her experiences with abuse, imprisonment, and exile; and her fight for democracy and social justice. This compelling tale of survival reveals Sirleaf's determination to succeed in multiple worlds: from her studies in the United States to her work as an international bank executive to her election campaigning in some of Liberia's most desperate and war-torn villages and neighborhoods. It is also the story of an outspoken political and social reformer who, despite danger, fought the oppression of dictators and championed change. By sharing her story, Sirleaf encourages women everywhere to pursue leadership roles at the highest levels of power, and gives us all hope that, with perseverance, we can change the world.

**Skrypuch, Marsha Forchuk.** [\*Kobzar's Children: a Century of Untold Ukrainian Stories.\*](#) (Ukraine/Canada)

The Kobzars were the blind minstrels of Ukraine, who memorized the epic poems and stories of 100

generations. Traveling around the country, they stopped in towns and villages along the way, where they told their tales and were welcomed by all. During the early years of Stalin's regime in the USSR, the Kobzars wove their traditional stories with contemporary warnings of soviet repression, famine, and terror. When Stalin heard of it, he called the first conference of Kobzars in Ukraine. Hundreds congregated. Then Stalin had them murdered. As the storytellers of Ukraine died, so too did their stories. *Kobzar's Children* is an anthology of short historical fiction, memoirs, and poems written about the Ukrainian immigrant experience. The stories span a century of history from 1905 to 2004; and they contain the voices of people who lived through internment as "enemy aliens," homesteading, famine, displacement, concentration camps, and this new century's Orange Revolution. More than a collection, it is a social document that revives memories once deliberately forgotten.

**Souad. [\*Burned Alive: a Survivor of an "Honor Killing" Speaks Out.\*](#) (Palestine)**

When Souad was seventeen she fell in love. In her West Bank village, as in so many others, sex before marriage is considered a grave dishonor in one's family and is punishable by death. This was her crime. Her brother-in-law was given the task of meting out her punishment. One morning while Souad was washing the family's clothes, he poured gasoline over her and set her on fire. Miraculously, she survived, rescued by women of her village, who put out the flames and took her to a local hospital. Horribly burned over seventy percent of her body and still denounced by her family, Souad was able to receive the care she needed only after the intervention of a European aid worker. Now in permanent exile from her homeland, she has decided to tell her story and reveal the barbarity of a practice that continues to this day.

**St. John, Warren. [\*Outcasts United: an American Town, a Refugee Team, and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference.\*](#) (Georgia, US)** The extraordinary tale of a refugee youth soccer team and the transformation of a small American town. Clarkston, Georgia, was a typical Southern town until it was designated a refugee settlement center in the 1990s, becoming the first American home for scores of families in flight from the world's war zones—from Liberia and Sudan to Iraq and Afghanistan. Suddenly Clarkston's streets were filled with women wearing the hijab, the smells of cumin and curry, and kids of all colors playing soccer in any open space they could find. The town also became home to Luma Mufleh, an American-educated Jordanian woman who founded a youth soccer team to unify Clarkston's refugee children and keep them off the streets. These kids named themselves the Fugees. Set against the backdrop of an American town that without its consent had become a vast social experiment, *Outcasts United* follows a pivotal season in the life of the Fugees and their charismatic coach. Warren St. John documents the lives of a diverse group of young people as they miraculously coalesce into a band of brothers, while also drawing a fascinating portrait of a fading American town struggling to accommodate its new arrivals. At the center of the story is fiery Coach Luma, who relentlessly drives her players to success on the soccer field while holding together their lives—and the lives of their families—in the face of a series of daunting challenges. This fast-paced chronicle of a single season is a complex and inspiring tale of a small town becoming a global community—and an account of the ingenious and complicated ways we create a home in a changing world.

**Stratton, Allan. [\*Chanda's Secrets.\*](#) (Southern Africa) (Fiction)**

A girl's struggle amid the African AIDS pandemic. Chanda is an astonishingly perceptive girl living in the small city of Bonang, a fictional city in Southern Africa. When her youngest sister dies, the first hint of HIV/AIDS emerges, Chanda must confront undercurrents of shame and stigma in order to get her mother and her best friend, both victims of the epidemic, the medical help they so desperately need. A story about the enduring strength of loyalty, friendship and family ties and the corrosive nature of secrets and the healing power of truth.

**Stuart, Tristram. [\*Waste: Uncovering the Global Food Scandal.\*](#)**

In "Waste," Stuart points out that farmers, manufacturers, supermarkets, and consumers in North America and Europe discard between 30 and 50 percent of their food supplies—enough to feed all the world's hungry three times over. Traveling from China to New York, from Pakistan to Japan, Stuart encounters grotesque

examples of profligacy--but also inspiring innovations--to the global food crisis.

**Tapon, Francis. [The Hidden Europe: What Eastern Europeans Can Teach Us](#). (Europe)**

Francis Tapon yearned for a European adventure, but Western Europe seemed too tame and passé. So he traveled for 3 years visiting every Eastern European country—all 25 of them. *The Hidden Europe* cleverly mixes insightful facts with hilarious personal anecdotes. It's profound, yet light. Francis Tapon is a sharp observer who helps you distinguish a Latvian from a Lithuanian, while not confusing Slovenia with Slovakia.

**Tenberken, Sabriye. [My Path Leads to Tibet: the Inspiring Story of How One Young Blind Woman Brought Hope to the Blind Children of Tibet](#). (Tibet)**

"While studying Chinese and Asian civilizations in college, Sabriye Tenberken was stunned to learn that in Tibet blind children were living in appalling conditions--shunned by society, abandoned, and left to their own devices. Sabriye, who had lost her sight at the age of twelve as a result of a retinal disease, promised herself early on that she would never allow her blindness to turn her into an invalid. When she heard of a place where sightlessness was practically akin to leprosy, the decision was instant: she would go to Tibet to help these children. Armed with nothing but her conviction and determination, she single-handedly devised a Tibetan Braille alphabet and opened the first school for the blind in Lhasa, with only a handful of students. From its modest beginnings, that school has grown into a full-fledged institution for visually impaired people of all ages... Sabriye Tenberken and her partner, Paul Kronenberg, are the founders of Braille Without Borders, a group that provides counsel and services for the blind worldwide. She and Paul are currently planning to open schools for the blind in China and across Africa."

**Theroux, Paul. [The Mosquito Coast](#). (Honduras) (Fiction)**

In a breathtaking adventure story, the paranoid and brilliant inventor Allie Fox takes his family to live in the Honduran jungle, determined to build a civilization better than the one they've left. Fleeing from an America he sees as mired in materialism and conformity, he hopes to rediscover a purer life. But his utopian experiment takes a dark turn when his obsessions lead the family toward unimaginable danger. See also the feature film DVD: ["The Mosquito Coast."](#) See also his novel [The Lower River](#) (Malawi) (Fiction)

**Thurow, Roger. [Enough: Why the World's Poorest Starve in an Age of Plenty](#).**

For more than thirty years, humankind has known how to grow enough food to end chronic hunger worldwide. Yet while the "Green Revolution" succeeded in South America and Asia, it never got to Africa. More than 9 million people die of hunger, malnutrition, and related diseases every year--most of them in Africa and most of them children. More die of hunger in Africa than from AIDS and malaria combined. Now, an impending global food crisis threatens to make things worse. In the west we think of famine as a natural disaster, brought about by drought, or as the legacy of brutal dictators. But in this powerful investigative narrative, Thurow & Kilman show exactly how, in the past few decades, American, British, and European policies conspired to keep Africa hungry and unable to feed itself. See also his book: [The Last Hunger Season: a Year in an African Farm Community on the Brink of Change](#). (Kenya)

**Tintori, Karen. [Unto the Daughters: the Legacy of an Honor Killing in a Sicilian-American Family](#). (Sicily)**

"Karen Tintori thought she knew her family tree. Her grandmother Josie had emigrated from Sicily with her parents at the turn of the century. They settled in Detroit, and, with Josie's eight siblings, worked to create a home for themselves away from the poverty and servitude of the old country. But Josie had a sister that nobody spoke of. Her name was Frances, and at age sixteen, she fell in love with a young barber. Her father wanted her to marry an older don in the neighborhood mafia--a marriage that would give his sons a leg up in the mob. When Frances instead eloped with her barber, her father and brothers killed her for it. Even eighty years and two generations later, Frances and her death were not spoken of, her name was erased from the family genealogy, her pictures burned, and her memory suppressed. *Unto the Daughters* is a historical mystery and family story that unwraps the many layers of family, honor, memory, and fear to find an honor killing in turn-of-the-century Detroit." -- cover.

**Tolan, Sandy.** [\*The Lemon Tree: an Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East.\*](#) (Israel-Palestine)

Based on a 43-minute radio documentary that Tolan produced for "Fresh Air," this volume pursues the story into the homes and histories of the two families at its center through the present day. Their stories form a personal microcosm of the last 70 years of Israeli-Palestinian history.

**Trebinčević, Kenan.** [\*The Bosnia List: a Memoir of War, Exile, and Return.\*](#) (Bosnia/US)

"A young survivor of the Bosnian War returns to his homeland to confront the people who betrayed his family. At age eleven, Kenan Trebinčević was a happy, karate-loving kid living with his family in the quiet Eastern European town of Brčko. Then, in the spring of 1992, war broke out and his friends, neighbors and teammates all turned on him. Pero--Kenan's beloved karate coach--showed up at his door with an AK-47, screaming: "You have one hour to leave or be killed!" Kenan's only crime: he was Muslim. This poignant, searing memoir chronicles Kenan's miraculous escape from the brutal ethnic cleansing campaign that swept the former Yugoslavia. After two decades in the United States, Kenan honors his father's wish to visit their homeland, making a list of what he wants to do there. Kenan decides to confront the former next door neighbor who stole from his mother, see the concentration camp where his Dad and brother were imprisoned and stand on the grave of his first betrayer to make sure he's really dead. Back in the land of his birth, Kenan finds something more powerful-and shocking-than revenge."

**Tuhabonye, Gilbert.** [\*This Voice in My Heart: a Runner's Memoir of Genocide, Faith, and Forgiveness.\*](#)

**(Rwanda)** Gilbert Tuhabonye is a survivor. More than ten years ago, he lay buried under a pile of burning bodies. The centuries-old battle between Hutu and Tutsi tribes had come to Gilbert's school. Fueled by hatred, the Hutus forced more than a hundred Tutsi children and teachers into a small room and used machetes to beat most of them to death. The unfortunate ones who survived the beating were doused with gasoline and set on fire. After hiding under burning bodies for over eight hours, Gilbert heard a voice inside saying, "You will be all right; you will survive." He knows it was God speaking to him. Gilbert was the lone survivor of the genocide, and thanks his enduring faith in God for his survival. Today, having forgiven his enemies and moved forward with his life, he is a world-class athlete, running coach and celebrity in his new hometown of Austin, Texas. The road to this point has been a tough one, but Gilbert uses his survival instincts to spur him on to the goal of qualifying for the 2008 Olympic Summer Games. THIS VOICE IN MY HEART will portray not only the horrific event itself, but will be a catalyst for people to understand real forgiveness and the gift of faith in God.

**Urrea, Luis Alberto.** [\*The Devil's Highway: a True Story.\*](#) (Mexico/U.S.)

So many illegal immigrants die in the desert southwest of the U.S. that only notorious catastrophes make headlines. Urrea reconstructs one such incident in the Sonoran Desert, the ordeal of sun and thirst of two dozen men in May 2001, half of whom suffered excruciating deaths. They came from Vera Cruz; their so-called guide came from Guadalajara. Jesus Lopez Ramos was no master of orienteering, however, just an expendable bottom-feeder in the border's human-smuggling racket. Tracing their lives and the routes to the border, Urrea adopts a slangy, surreal style in which the desert landscape shimmers and distorts, while in desiccated border settlements criminals, officials, and vigilantes patrol for human cargo such as the men from Vera Cruz. The imaginative license Urrea takes, paralleling the laconic facts of the case that he incorporates into his narrative, produces a powerful, almost diabolical impression of the disaster and the exploitative conditions at the border. Urrea shows immigration policy on the human level.

**Ward, Terence.** [\*Searching for Hassan: an American Family's Journey Home to Iran.\*](#) (US/Iran)

Growing up in Tehran in the 1960s, Terence Ward and his brothers were watched over by Hassan, the family's cook, housekeeper, and cultural guide. After an absence of forty years, Ward embarked on a pilgrimage with his family in search of Hassan. Taking us across the landscape of Iran, he plumbs its unimaginably rich past, explores its deep conflicts with its Arab neighbors, and anticipates the new "Great Game" now being played out in central Asia. Insightful, informative, and moving, *Searching for Hassan* enhances our understanding of the Middle East with the story of a family who came to love and admire Iran through their deep affection for

its people.

**Weiner, Eric.** [\*The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World.\*](#)

Part foreign affairs discourse, part humor, and part twisted self-help guide, this book takes the reader from America to Iceland to India in search of happiness, or, in the crabby author's case, moments of "un-happiness." The book uses a mixture of travel, psychology, science and humor to investigate not what happiness is, but where it is. Are people in Switzerland happier because it is the most democratic country in the world? Do citizens of Singapore benefit psychologically by having their options limited by the government? Is the King of Bhutan a visionary for his initiative to calculate Gross National Happiness? Why is Asheville, North Carolina, so darn happy? NPR correspondent Weiner answers those questions and many others, offering travelers of all moods some interesting new ideas for sunnier destinations and dispositions.

**Wongar, B.** [\*Walq: a Novel of Australia.\*](#) (Australia) (Fiction)

"For ten years during the 1950s and '60s the British conducted secret nuclear tests on Australian tribal lands. The cancer and radiation poisoning resulting from these tests led to the deaths of countless aborigines. B. Wongar uses these tests as the starting point for a powerful trilogy about the destruction of a culture and a land. *Walq*, the first of these novels, is told from the point of view of an aboriginal woman. Pregnant, travelling on foot through a landscape destroyed by nuclear blasts and uranium mining, she seeks her tribal country--her "walq" (womb)--to learn the secrets of motherhood which might help her prolong the life of her decimated tribe." Sequels: [\*Karan: a Novel of Australia\*](#) and [\*Gabo Djara: a Novel of Australia.\*](#) (both Fiction)

**Wood, John.** [\*Leaving Microsoft to Change the World: an Entrepreneur's Odyssey to Educate the World's Children.\*](#) (South Asia/Southeast Asia) John Wood discovered his passion, his greatest success, and his life's work not at business school or helping lead Microsoft's charge into Asia in the 1990s but on a soul-searching trip to the Himalayas. He made the difficult decision to walk away from his lucrative career to create Room to Read, a nonprofit organization that promotes education across the developing world. By the end of 2007, the organization will have established over 5,000 libraries and 400 schools, and awarded long-term scholarships to more than 3,000 girls, giving more than one million children the lifelong gift of education. See also his book: [\*Creating Room to Read: a Story of Hope in the Battle for Global Literacy.\*](#)

**Wren, Justin, with Loretta Hunt.** [\*Fight for the Forgotten: How a Mixed Martial Artists Stopped Fighting for Himself and Started Fighting for Others.\*](#) (Congo) Justin Wren knows what it's like to feel like the world is against you. Like many kids, Justin was bullied as a child, but had a dream that kept him going. Fueled by the anger he felt toward his tormenters, Justin trained hard and propelled his dream of becoming a UFC fighter into reality. But the pain from his childhood didn't dissipate and Justin fell into a spiral of depression and addiction, leading him on a path toward destruction. After getting kicked out of his training community, his career was in shambles and he had nowhere else to go, so Justin attended a men's retreat, and it was there he found God. As Justin began piecing his life back together, he joined several international mission trips that opened his eyes and his heart to a world filled with suffering deep in the jungle of the Democratic Republic of Congo. There he came across the Mbuti Pygmy tribe, a group of people persecuted by neighboring tribes and forced into slavery. His encounter with the Pygmy tribe left him wondering who was there to help them and in that moment Justin stepped out of the ring and into a fight for the forgotten.

**Wrong, Michela.** [\*I Didn't Do It For You: How the World Betrayed a Small African Nation.\*](#) (Eritrea)

"Scarred by decades of conflict and occupation, the craggy African nation of Eritrea has weathered the world's longest running guerrilla war. The dogged determination that secured victory against Ethiopia, its giant neighbor, is woven into the national psyche, the product of cynical foreign interventions. Fascist Italy wanted Eritrea as the springboard for a new, racially pure Roman empire. Britain sold off its industry for scrap; the United States needed a base for its state-of-the-art spy station; and the Soviet Union used it as a pawn in a proxy war. In *I Didn't Do It for You*, Michela Wrong reveals the breathtaking abuses this tiny nation has suffered and, with a sharp eye for detail and a taste for the incongruous, tells the story of colonialism



itself and how international power politics can play havoc with a country's destiny."

**Wu, Emily.** [\*Feather in the Storm: a Childhood Lost in Chaos.\*](#) (China)

Emily Wu's account of her childhood under Mao opens on her third birthday, as she meets her father for the first time in a concentration camp. A well-known academic, her father had been designated an "ultra-rightist" and class enemy. As a result, Wu's family would be torn apart and subjected to unending humiliation and abuse. Wu recounts this hidden holocaust in which millions of children and their families died. *Feather in the Storm* is an unforgettable story of the courage of one child in a quicksand world of endless terror.

**Xinran.** [\*The Good Women of China: Hidden Voices.\*](#) (China)

When Deng Xiaoping's efforts to "open up" China took root in the late 1980s, Xinran recognized an invaluable opportunity. As an employee for the state radio system, she had long wanted to help improve the lives of Chinese women. But when she was given clearance to host a radio call-in show, she barely anticipated the enthusiasm it would quickly generate. Operating within the constraints imposed by government censors, "Words on the Night Breeze" sparked a tremendous outpouring, and the hours of tape on her answering machines were soon filled every night. Whether angry or muted, posing questions or simply relating experiences, these anonymous women bore witness to decades of civil strife, and of halting attempts at self-understanding in a painfully restrictive society. In this collection, by turns heartrending and inspiring, Xinran brings us the stories that affected her most, and offers a graphically detailed, altogether unprecedented work of oral history.

**Xinran.** [\*Sky Burial: an Epic Love Story of Tibet.\*](#) (Tibet/China)

"Shu Wen and her husband had been married for only a few months in the 1950s when he joined the Chinese army and was sent to Tibet for the purpose of unification of the two countries. Shortly after he left she was notified that he had been killed, although no details were given. Determined to find the truth, Shu Wen joined a militia unit going to the Tibetan north, where she soon was separated from the regiment. Without supplies and knowledge of the language, she wandered, trying to find her way until, on the brink of death, she was rescued by a family of nomads under whose protection she moved from place to place with the seasons and eventually came to discover the details of her husband's death."

**Yang, Kao Kalia.** [\*The Latecomer: a Hmong Family Memoir.\*](#) (Laos/Thailand/US)

In search of a place to call home, thousands of Hmong families made the journey from the war-torn jungles of Laos to the overcrowded refugee camps of Thailand and onward to America. But lacking a written language of their own, the Hmong experience has been primarily recorded by others. Driven to tell her family's story after her grandmother's death, *The Latecomer* is Kao Kalia Yang's tribute to the remarkable woman whose spirit held them all together. It is also an eloquent, firsthand account of a people who have worked hard to make their voices heard. Beginning in the 1970s, as the Hmong were being massacred for their collaboration with the United States during the Vietnam War, Yang recounts the harrowing story of her family's captivity, the daring rescue undertaken by her father and uncles, and their narrow escape into Thailand where Yang was born in the Ban Vinai Refugee Camp. When she was six years old, Yang's family immigrated to America, and she evocatively captures the challenges of adapting to a new place and a new language. Through her words, the dreams, wisdom, and traditions passed down from her grandmother and shared by an entire community have finally found a voice. Together with her sister, Kao Kalia Yang is the founder of a company dedicated to helping immigrants with writing, translating, and business services. A graduate of Carleton College and Columbia University, Yang has recently screened *The Place Where We Were Born*, a film documenting the experiences of Hmong American refugees. Visit her website at [www.kaokaliayang.com](http://www.kaokaliayang.com).

**Yousafzai, Malala.** [\*I Am Malala: the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban.\*](#)

(Afghanistan) When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while

riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize. This is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons. This story will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world. -- Publisher's description. See also the audiobook version, [\*I Am Malala\*](#).

**Yunus, Muhammad.** [\*Banker to the Poor: Micro-Lending and the Battle Against World Poverty\*](#).

Muhammad Yunus is that rare thing: a bona fide visionary. His dream is the total eradication of poverty from the world. In 1983, against the advice of banking and government officials, Yunus established Grameen, a bank devoted to providing the poorest of Bangladesh with minuscule loans. Grameen Bank, based on the belief that credit is a basic human right, not the privilege of a fortunate few, now provides over 2.5 billion dollars of micro-loans to more than two million families in rural Bangladesh. Ninety-four percent of Yunus's clients are women, and repayment rates are near 100 percent. Around the world, micro-lending programs inspired by Grameen are blossoming, with more than three hundred programs established in the United States alone. *Banker to the Poor* is Muhammad Yunus's memoir of how he decided to change his life in order to help the world's poor. In it he traces the intellectual and spiritual journey that led him to fundamentally rethink the economic relationship between rich and poor, and the challenges he and his colleagues faced in founding Grameen. He also provides wise, hopeful guidance for anyone who would like to join him in "putting homelessness and destitution in a museum so that one day our children will visit it and ask how we could have allowed such a terrible thing to go on for so long." The definitive history of micro-credit direct from the man that conceived of it, *Banker to the Poor* is necessary and inspirational reading for anyone interested in economics, public policy, philanthropy, social history, and business. Muhammad Yunus was born in Bangladesh and earned his Ph.D. in economics in the United States at Vanderbilt University, where he was deeply influenced by the civil rights movement. He still lives in Bangladesh, and travels widely around the world on behalf of Grameen Bank and the concept of micro-credit. See also the Educational DVD: [\*Awakening: Empowering Women Through Microloans\*](#) and the children's book: [\*One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference\*](#) by Katie Smith Milway.

**Zoellner, Tom.** [\*The Heartless Stone: a Journey Through the World of Diamonds, Deceit, and Desire\*](#).

When he proposed to his girlfriend, Tom Zoellner gave what every American man is supposed to give at such a time, a diamond engagement ring. But when the relationship broke apart a few months before the wedding, he was left with a used diamond ring that began to haunt him. Zoellner looked harder at the stone, and the consequent fascination sent him around the world. Across fourteen nations and six continents, his obsession carried him from the "blood diamond" rings of Africa; to the sweltering polishing factories of India; to mines above the Arctic Circle; to illegal diggings in Brazil; to the London headquarters of De Beers, the secretive global colossus that has dominated the industry for more than a century and permanently carved the phrase "A diamond is forever" on the psyche. See also Ian Smillie's book [\*Blood on the Stone: Greed, Corruption, and War in the Global Diamond Trade\*](#).

**Zoya.** [\*Zoya's Story: an Afghan Woman's Struggle for Freedom\*](#). (Afghanistan)

Though she is only twenty-three, Zoya has witnessed and endured more tragedy and terror than most people experience in a lifetime. Born in a land ravaged by war, she was robbed of her parents when they were murdered by Muslim fundamentalists. Devastated, she fled Kabul with her grandmother and started a new life in exile in Pakistan. She joined the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA), an organization that challenged the crushing edicts of the Taliban government, and she took destiny into her own hands, joining a dangerous, clandestine war to save her nation. Direct and unsentimental, Zoya vividly brings to life the realities of growing up in a Muslim culture, the terror of living in a perpetual war zone, the pain of losing those she has loved, the horrors of a woman's life under the Taliban, and the discovered

healing and transformation that lead her on a path of resistance.

**Zulu, Princess Kasune. [\*Warrior Princess: Fighting for Life With Courage and Hope\*](#). (Zambia)**

Life for Princess Kasune Zulu began in a privileged Zambian family living by the shores of the majestic Victoria Falls. But a mystery illness claimed the lives of her parents, baby sister and brother. That illness would become known as AIDS, orphaning more than 15 million children around the world. When Princess learned at the age of twenty-one that she herself was HIV-positive, she emerged as a champion for those at risk and affected by the virus. Her extraordinary journey has taken her from the dusty villages of Zambia to the global corridors of power, from the White House to the United Nations.