

# 2017 NOTABLE BOOKS LIST AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION REFERENCE AND USER SERVICES ASSOCIATION



## FICTION

[Behold the Dreamers: A Novel](#) by Imbolo Mbue (Random House, a division of Penguin Random House)

ISBN 9780525509714

A Cameroonian family struggles to achieve the American dream during the Great Recession.

[Christodora: A Novel](#) by Tim Murphy (Grove Press, an imprint of Grove Atlantic) ISBN 9780802125286

A powerful narrative about the impact of HIV and AIDS on individual lives, the activist community that developed in response, and the ways that the virus reverberates through decades and generations.

[Grief Is the Thing with Feathers: A Novel](#) by Max Porter (Graywolf Press) ISBN 9781555977412

A surreal and poetic look at a time in life when nothing feels quite right--the time after losing someone you love. What's real? What's imagined?

[Homegoing: A Novel](#) by Yaa Gyasi (Alfred A. Knopf, a division of Penguin Random House) ISBN 9781101947135

A dual history of two countries and the descendants of two half-sisters--one sold into slavery in the United States, the other remaining in Ghana.

[I'm Thinking of Ending Things: A Novel](#) by Lain Reid (Scout Press, an imprint of Simon & Schuster) ISBN 9781501126925

Things are not as they seem as a couple ponders the meaning of it all on an eerie road trip to nowhere.

[Missile Paradise: A Novel](#) by Ron Tanner (Ig Publishing) ISBN 9781632460097

Drama and satirical humor intertwine to create an insightful story of regret, exposing American privilege and its effects on the Marshallese people. Hoopla eBook

[The Nix: A Novel](#) by Nathan Hill (Borzoi Books, Alfred A. Knopf, a division of Penguin Random House)

ISBN 9781101946619 When his absent mother gets arrested for an activist crime, a half-hearted college professor (who spends more time gaming than working) undertakes an offbeat voyage of self-discovery.

[The Sport of Kings: A Novel](#) by C. E. Morgan (Farrar, Straus and Giroux) ISBN 9780374281083

A Kentucky horse farmer breeds thoroughbreds, but his focus on controlling the outcomes of life, both equine and human, has far-reaching consequences.

[To the Bright Edge of the World: A Novel](#) by Eowyn Ivey (Little, Brown/Hachette Book Group) ISBN 9780316242851

From the wildly adventurous story in the Alaskan frontier to the innovative presentation on the pages, this historical novel blends folklore, science, feminism, and the new art of photography.

[The Underground Railroad](#) Colson Whitehead (Doubleday, a division of Penguin Random House) ISBN 9780385542364

A shattering, powerful meditation on the history we all share, with characters as fully realized as the train that carries them to "freedom."

[An Unrestored Woman](#) by Shoba Rao (Flatiron Books) ISBN 9781250073822

Women recover--or lose themselves--amidst the backdrop of war, power, and politics after the 1947 Partition of India and Pakistan. [Not owned by library at this time.]

[The Unseen World](#) by Liz Moore (W.W. Norton) ISBN 9780393241686

When she loses her father to Alzheimer's disease, young Ada Sibelius becomes aware of how little she truly knows about him. From Turing to the next incarnation of Second Life, this character-driven novel is part mystery and part meditation on humanity.

## NONFICTION

[Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are?](#) by Frans de Waal (W.W. Norton) ISBN 9780393246186

Different species illuminate how we can learn from their natural intelligence, instead of imposing limits based on human perspective. 591.513 WAA

**[At the Existentialist Cafe: Freedom, Being, and Apricot Cocktails](#)** by Sarah Bakewell (Other Press) ISBN 9781590514887  
A heady mix of biography, philosophy, and social history (with drinks!). 142.78 BAK

**[Blood at the Root: A Racial Cleansing in America](#)** by Patrick Phillips (W.W. Norton) ISBN 9780393293012  
The expulsion of the entire African American community from Forsyth County, GA in 1912 established it as a white-only county, a condition which persisted into the 1980s with the support of local officials. 305.8 AFRYP

**[The Boys in the Bunkhouse: Servitude and Salvation in the Heartland](#)** by Dan Barry (Harper/HarperCollins Publishers)  
ISBN 9780062372130 Spanning decades, a group of men with intellectual disabilities, marginalized by society, work tirelessly in a turkey processing plant in Iowa under exploitive conditions. 362.3 BAR

**[Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City](#)** by Matthew Desmond (Crown Publishers/Penguin Random House)  
ISBN 9780553447439 Told through the painful struggles of individual families, this insightful ethnographic study elevates housing insecurity as a leading social justice issue. 339.46 DES

**[The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship - Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the Struggle for Social Justice](#)** by Patricia Bell-Scott (Alfred A. Knopf, a division for Penguin Random House) ISBN 9780679446521  
The correspondence of two trailblazing women embodies the tension between the need for immediate action on civil rights versus the political philosophy of picking one's battles. Biography Murray

**[The Gene: An Intimate History](#)** by Siddhartha Mukherjee (Scribner/Simon & Schuster) ISBN 9781410490087  
A cancer physician and researcher uses his family history to frame the story of genetics, in all its danger and wonder. 616.042 MUK

**[Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race](#)**  
by Margot Lee Shetterly (William Morrow/HarperCollins Publishers) ISBN 9780062363602  
The compelling narrative of the unsung heroines who helped us win World War II and reach the stars. Read the movie. 510.92 LEE

**[In the Darkroom](#)** by Susan Faludi (Metropolitan Books, Henry Holt) ISBN 9780805089080  
A feminist writer's investigation into her parent leads to an examination of our contemporary ideas of national and individual identity, gender, and family. 306.76 FAL

**[Louisa: The Extraordinary Life of Mrs. Adams](#)** by Louisa Thomas (Penguin Press/Penguin Random House)  
ISBN 9781410488145 A nuanced portrait of a multi-talented and widely traveled woman, often overshadowed by other members of America's first political dynasty. Biography Adams

**[Shirley Jackson: A Rather Haunted Life](#)** by Ruth Franklin (Liveright Publishing/W.W. Norton) ISBN 9780871403131  
From early feminism to Tarot cards, reluctant polyamory to motherhood to drug use, this complex writer is compassionately portrayed. Biography Jackson

**[Valiant Ambition: George Washington, Benedict Arnold, and the Fate of the American Revolution](#)** by Nathaniel Philbrick  
(Viking/Penguin Random House) ISBN 9780525426783  
The grueling course of the Revolutionary War tested its generals harshly, leading one of them to abandon the cause. 973.382 PHI

## POETRY

**[Cannibal](#)** by Safiya Sinclair (University of Nebraska Press) ISBN 9780803290631  
Sharp observations on our off-kilter world will spark your emotions while engaging your mind. 811 Sin

**[The Rain in Portugal: Poems](#)** by Billy Collins (Random House/Penguin Random House) ISBN 9780679644064  
Dealing with ordinary life, death, and language, this collection is thoughtful, witty, and lyrical. [Not owned by library at this time.]

*Annotations from American Library Association <https://www.rusaupdate.org/awards/notable-books-list>*

Lincoln City Libraries – Lincoln, Nebraska – [lincolnlibraries.org](http://lincolnlibraries.org)  
Bethany Branch BooksTalk September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 & Gere Branch BooksTalk October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 & other presentations