

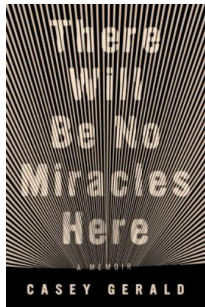


## Yale Club of Washington, DC's Black History Month Book Recommendations

(NOTE: This List will continue to be updated, and we welcome members' recommendations! If you would like to recommend a book by an African American Author, please reach out to [caroline\\_drees@yahoo.com](mailto:caroline_drees@yahoo.com))

### Selections by Yale Authors

	<p><b><u>The Sum of Us</u>, by Heather McGhee '01</b></p> <p><b>NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • LONGLISTED FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD •</b> One of today's most insightful and influential thinkers offers a powerful exploration of inequality and the lesson that generations of Americans have failed to learn: Racism has a cost for everyone—not just for people of color.</p> <p><b>ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: <i>Time</i>, <i>The Washington Post</i>, <i>BookRiot</i>, <i>Library Journal</i> • SHORTLISTED FOR THE PORCHLIGHT BUSINESS BOOK AWARD • LONGLISTED FOR THE ANDREW CARNEGIE MEDAL (Source: <a href="#">Penguin Random House</a>)</b></p>
	<p><b><u>The Secret Lives of Church Ladies</u>, by Deesha Philyaw '93</b></p> <p><b><i>"The Secret Lives of Church Ladies</i> heralds the arrival of Deesha Philyaw. Her debut collection revels in the beautiful mess of life, depicting generations of Black women navigating love, sex, death, family, and faith through the sanctuary and structures of the church. In a veritable showcase of narratives, each of Philyaw's stories explores these complex drives and the ways they resonate deeply within the community of her characters and the universal well of human experience."</b> - <a href="#">National Book Foundation</a></p>

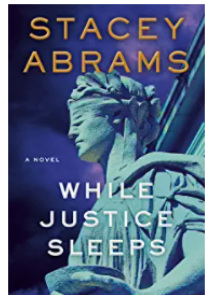


**There Will Be No Miracles Here, by Casey Gerald '09**

**NAMED A BEST BOOK OF 2018 BY *NPR* AND *THE NEW YORK TIMES*  
A *PBS NEWSHOUR*–*NEW YORK TIMES* BOOK CLUB PICK**

**"Stunningly original ... By breaking every rule of the ... genre, [Gerald has] created something unique and sublime: a beautiful chronicle of a life as yet unfinished ... a shining and sincere miracle of a book." –NPR**

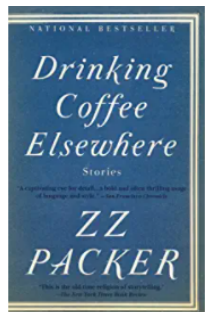
**"Casey Gerald's book is urgent, mesmeric, soaring, desperately serious, wounded and, at times, slyly, brilliantly comic. The world he creates is vivid, the invocation of the personal and the political sharp and knowing. The style is flawless, the pace perfectly judged. Electrifying." – Colm Tóibín**



**While Justice Sleeps, by Stacey Abrams YLS '99**

**"*While Justice Sleeps* is a mesmerizing legal thriller that does the rare thing: It uses the novel to get at the truth. Stacey Abrams is a powerful new voice in fiction."—Michael Connelly**

**"Glossy, gritty, breathlessly suspenseful, effortlessly authentic, and altogether wonderful. Why am I not surprised?"—Lee Child**



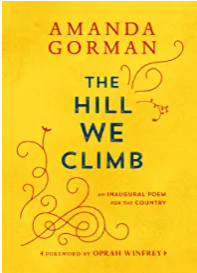
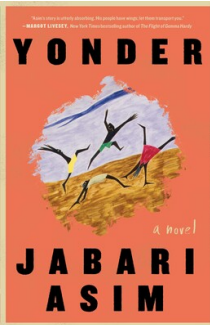
**Drinking Coffee Elsewhere, by ZZ Packer '94**

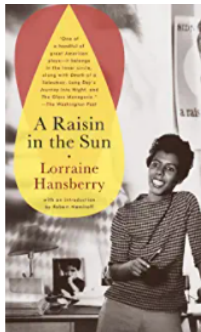
**"This is the old-time religion of storytelling, although Packer's prose supplies plenty of the edge and energy we expect from contemporary fiction."—The New York Times Book Review**

**"ZZ Packer writes a short story with more complexity and kindness than most people can muster in their creaking 500-page novels. It is the kind of brilliance for narrative that should make her peers envious and her readers very, very grateful."—Zadie Smith, New York Times bestselling author of *Swing Time***



## Selections by Non-Yale Authors

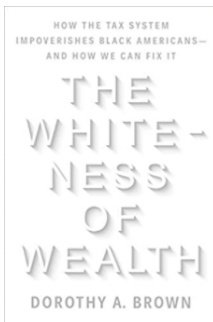
	<p><b><u>The Hill We Climb</u></b>, by Amanda Gorman</p> <p>“At 22, Gorman [was] the youngest inaugural poet ever in the United States. She joins a small group of poets who have been recruited to help mark a presidential inauguration, among them <a href="#">Robert Frost</a>, <a href="#">Maya Angelou</a>, <a href="#">Miller Williams</a>, <a href="#">Elizabeth Alexander</a> and <a href="#">Richard Blanco</a>.</p> <p>“But none of her predecessors faced the challenge that Gorman did. She set out to write a poem that would inspire hope and foster a sense of collective purpose, at a moment when Americans are reeling from a deadly pandemic, political violence and partisan division.” (Source: <a href="#">New York Times</a>)</p>
	<p><b><u>Yonder</u></b>, by Jabari Asim</p> <p>“In an elegant work of monumental imagination that will reorient how we think of the legacy of America’s shameful past, Jabari Asim presents a beautiful, powerful, and elegiac novel that examines intimacy and longing in the quarters while asking a vital question: What would happen if an enslaved person risked everything for love?” (Source: <a href="#">Simon and Schuster</a>)</p> <p>“[M]ajestic...Asim demonstrates all a novel can be: soaring and grounded, personal and epic, thrilling and quiet. A wonder-filled novel about the power of words and stories to bring hope to the most difficult situations.” —<i>Kirkus</i> (starred review)</p> <p>“Asim delivers a searing and redemptive story of slavery and survival...At once intimate and majestic, the prose marries a gripping narrative with an unforgettable exploration of the power of stories, language, and hope. With a bold vision, Asim demonstrates his remarkable gifts.” —<i>Publishers Weekly</i> (starred review)</p>



**A Raisin in the Sun, by Lorraine Hansberry**

When it was first produced in 1959, *A Raisin in the Sun* was awarded the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for that season and hailed as a watershed in American drama. A pioneering work by an African-American playwright, the play was a radically new representation of black life.

"A play that changed American theater forever."--The New York Times.



**The Whiteness of Wealth, Dorothy Brown**

"A groundbreaking exposé of racism in the American taxation system from a law professor and expert on tax policy."

"NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR AND *FORTUNE* •

"Important reading for those who want to understand how inequality is built into the bedrock of American society, and what a more equitable future might look like."—Ibram X. Kendi, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *How to Be an Antiracist*" (Source: [Penguin Random House](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com))

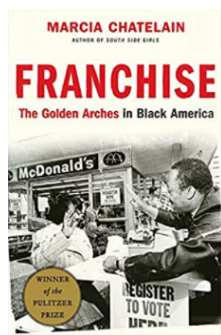


**So You Want to Talk About Race, by Ijeoma Oluo**

"In this #1 *New York Times* bestseller, Ijeoma Oluo offers a revelatory examination of race in America

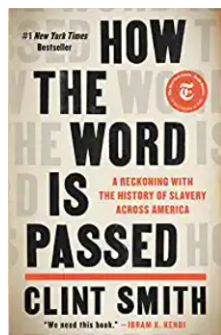
"Protests against racial injustice and white supremacy have galvanized millions around the world. The stakes for transformative conversations about race could not be higher. Still, the task ahead seems daunting, and it's hard to know where to start. How do you tell your boss her jokes are racist? Why did your sister-in-law hang up on you when you had questions about police reform? How do you explain white privilege to your white, privileged friend?

"In *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Ijeoma Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from police brutality and cultural appropriation to the model minority myth in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race, and about how racism infects every aspect of American life." (Source: [Seal Press](https://www.sealpress.com))



**Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America, by Marcia Chatelain**

Winner of a 2021 Pulitzer Prize, and described by the Pulitzer Committee as, “A nuanced account of the complicated role the fast-food industry plays in African-American communities, a portrait of race and capitalism that masterfully illustrates how the fight for civil rights has been intertwined with the fate of Black businesses.”



**How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America, by Clint Smith III**

- #1 *New York Times* bestseller
- A *New York Times* 10 Best Books of 2021
- A *Time* 10 Best Nonfiction Books of 2021
- Named a Best Book of 2021 by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Economist*, *Smithsonian*, *Esquire*, *Entropy*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, WBEZ's Nerdette Podcast, *TeenVogue*, *GoodReads*, *SheReads*, *BookPage*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus*, *Fathom Magazine*, the New York Public Library, and the Chicago Public Library
- One of GQ's 50 Best Books of Literary Journalism of the 21st Century
- Longlisted for the *National Book Award*
- *Los Angeles Times*, Best Nonfiction Gift
- One of President Obama's Favorite Books of 2021

Beginning in his hometown of New Orleans, Clint Smith leads the reader on an unforgettable tour of monuments and landmarks—those that are honest about the past and those that are not—that offer an intergenerational story of how slavery has been central in shaping our nation's collective history, and ourselves. (Source: [Little, Brown and Co](#))