

Beasts Of No Nation Uzodinma Iweala

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Beasts of No Nation - Uzodinma Iweala 2005-11-08

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.

The Gifted Passage - Stephen D. Houston 2018-01-01

In this thought-provoking book, preeminent scholar Stephen Houston turns his attention to the crucial role of young males in Classic Maya society, drawing on evidence from art, writing, and material culture. *The Gifted Passage* establishes that adolescent men in Maya art were the subjects and makers of hieroglyphics, painted ceramics, and murals, in works that helped to shape and reflect masculinity in Maya civilization. The political volatility of the Classic Maya period gave male adolescents valuable status as potential heirs, and many of the most precious surviving ceramics likely celebrated their coming-of-age rituals. The ardent hope was that youths would grow into effective kings and noblemen, capable of leadership in battle and service in royal courts. Aiming to shift mainstream conceptions of the Maya, Houston argues that adolescent men were not simply present in images and texts, but central to both.

A Long Way Gone - Ishmael Beah 2007-02-13

In a heart-wrenching, candid autobiography, a human rights activist offers a firsthand account of war from the perspective of a former child

soldier, detailing the violent civil war that wracked his native Sierra Leone and the government forces that transformed a gentle young boy into a killer as a member of the army. 75,000 first printing.

Sozaboy - Ken Saro-Wiwa 1994

"Sozaboy describes the fortunes of a young naive recruit in the Nigerian Civil War: from the first proud days of recruitment to the disillusionment, confusion and horror that follows. The author's use of 'rotten English'—a mixture of Nigerian pidgin English, broken English and idiomatic English—makes this a unique and powerful novel"—Back cover.

Unconfessed - Yvette Christiansë 2007

Child Soldiers in the Western Imagination - David M Rosen
2015-10-12

When we hear the term “child soldiers,” most Americans imagine innocent victims roped into bloody conflicts in distant war-torn lands like Sudan and Sierra Leone. Yet our own history is filled with examples of children involved in warfare—from adolescent prisoner of war Andrew Jackson to Civil War drummer boys—who were once viewed as symbols of national pride rather than signs of human degradation. In this daring new study, anthropologist David M. Rosen investigates why our cultural perception of the child soldier has changed so radically over the past two centuries. *Child Soldiers in the Western Imagination* reveals how Western conceptions of childhood as a uniquely vulnerable and innocent state are a relatively recent invention. Furthermore, Rosen offers an illuminating history of how human rights organizations drew upon these sentiments to create the very term “child soldier,” which they presented as the embodiment of war’s human cost. Filled with shocking historical accounts and facts—and revealing the reasons why one cannot spell “infantry” without “infant”—*Child Soldiers in the Western Imagination* seeks to shake us out of our pervasive historical amnesia. It challenges us to stop looking at child soldiers through a biased set of idealized assumptions about childhood, so that we can better address the realities of adolescents and pre-adolescents in combat. Presenting informative facts while examining fictional representations of the child soldier in

popular culture, this book is both eye-opening and thought-provoking.

Beasts of No Nation - Uzodinma Iweala 2009-10-13

“Remarkable. . . . Iweala never wavers from a gripping, pulsing narrative voice. . . . He captures the horror of ethnic violence in all its brutality and the vulnerability of youth in all its innocence.” —Entertainment Weekly (A) The harrowing, utterly original debut novel by Uzodinma Iweala about the life of a child soldier in a war-torn African country As civil war rages in an unnamed West-African nation, Agu, the school-aged protagonist of this stunning novel, is recruited into a unit of guerilla fighters. 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 continues to spin further downward into inexplicable brutality, primal fear, and loss of selfhood. In a powerful, strikingly original voice, Uzodinma Iweala leads the reader through the random travels, betrayals, and violence that mark Agu’s new community. Electrifying and engrossing, *Beasts of No Nation* announces the arrival of an extraordinary writer.

Ancestor Stones - Aminatta Forna 2011-05-02

Abie follows the arc of a letter from London back to Africa to a coffee plantation that now could be hers if she wants it. Standing among the ruined groves she strains to hear the sound of the past, but the layers of years are too many. Thus begins the gathering of her family's history through the tales of her aunts - four women born to four different wives of a wealthy plantation owner, her grandfather. Asana, Mariama, Hawa and Serah: theirs is the story of a nation, a family and four women's attempts to alter the course of her own destiny.

The Decameron Project - The New York Times 2020-11-10

A stunning collection of short stories originally commissioned by The New York Times Magazine as the COVID-19 pandemic swept the world, from twenty-nine authors including Margaret Atwood, Tommy Orange,

Edwidge Danticat, this year's National Book Award winner Charles Yu, and more. When reality is surreal, only fiction can make sense of it. In 1353, Giovanni Boccaccio wrote *The Decameron*: one hundred nested tales told by a group of young men and women passing the time at a villa outside Florence while waiting out the gruesome Black Death, a plague that killed more than 25 million people. Some of the stories are silly, some are bawdy, some are like fables. In March 2020, the editors of *The New York Times Magazine* created *The Decameron Project*, an anthology with a simple, time-spanning goal: to gather a collection of stories written as our current pandemic first swept the globe. How might new fiction from some of the finest writers working today help us memorialize and understand the unimaginable? And what could be learned about how this crisis will affect the art of fiction? These twenty-nine new stories, from authors including Margaret Atwood, Tommy Orange, Edwidge Danticat, Charles Yu, Rachel Kushner, Colm Toibin, and David Mitchell vary widely in texture and tone. Their work will be remembered as a historical tribute to a time and place unlike any other in our lifetimes, and will offer perspective and solace to the reader now and in a future where COVID-19 is, hopefully, just a memory. Table of Contents: "Preface" by Caitlin Roper "Introduction" by Rivka Galchen "Recognition" by Victor LaValle "A Blue Sky Like This" by Mona Awad "The Walk" by Kamila Shamsie "Tales from the LA River" by Colm Tóibín "Clinical Notes" by Liz Moore "The Team" by Tommy Orange "The Rock" by Leila Slimani "Impatient Griselda" by Margaret Atwood "Under the Magnolia" by Yiyun Li "Outside" by Etgar Keret "Keepsakes" by Andrew O'Hagan "The Girl with the Big Red Suitcase" by Rachel Kushner "The Morningside" by Téa Obreht "Screen Time" by Alejandro Zambra "How We Used to Play" by Dinaw Mengestu "Line 19 Woodstock/Glisan" by Karen Russell "If Wishes Was Horses" by David Mitchell "Systems" by Charles Yu "The Perfect Travel Buddy" by Paolo Giordano "An Obliging Robber" by Mia Couto "Sleep" by Uzodinma Iweala "Prudent Girls" by Rivers Solomon "That Time at My Brother's Wedding" by Laila Lalami "A Time of Death, The Death of Time" by Julián Fuks "The Cellar" by Dina Nayeri "Origin Story" by Matthew Baker "To the Wall" by Esi Edugyan

"Barcelona: Open City" by John Wray "One Thing" by Edwidge Danticat
The Black Period - Hafizah Augustus Geter 2022-09-20
 An acclaimed poet reclaims her origin story as the queer daughter of a Muslim Nigerian immigrant and a Black American visual artist in this groundbreaking memoir, combining lyrical prose, biting criticism, and haunting visuals. "Hafizah Augustus Geter is a genuine artist, not bound by genre or form. Her only loyalty is the harrowing beauty of the truth."—Tayari Jones, author of *An American Marriage* "I say, 'the Black Period,' and mean 'home' in all its shapeshifting ways." In *The Black Period*, Hafizah creates a space for the beauty of Blackness, Islam, disability, and queerness to flourish, celebrating the many layers of her existence that America has time and again sought to erase. At nineteen, she lost her mother to a sudden stroke. Weeks later, her father became so heartsick that he needed a triple bypass. By her thirties, she was constantly in pain, pinballing between physical therapy appointments, her grief, and the grind that is the American Dream. Hafizah realized she'd spent years internalizing the narratives that white supremacy had fed her about herself. Suddenly, she says, I was standing at the cliff of my own life, remembering. Recalling her parents' lessons on the art of Black revision, and mixing history, political analysis, and cultural criticism, alongside stunning original artwork created by her father, renowned artist Tyrone Geter, Hafizah maps out her own narrative, weaving between a childhood populated with Southern and Nigerian relatives; her days in a small Catholic school; a loving but tragically short relationship with her mother; and the feelings of joy and community that the Black Lives Matter protests engendered in her as an adult. All throughout, she forms a new personal and collective history, addressing the systems of inequity that make life difficult for non-able-bodied persons, queer people, and communities of color while capturing a world brimming with potential, art, music, hope, and love. A unique combination of gripping memoir and Afrofuturist thought, in *The Black Period*, Hafizah manages to sidestep shame, confront disability, embrace forgiveness, and emerge from the erasures America imposes to exist proudly and unabashedly as herself.

Finance & Development, December 2011 - International Monetary Fund. External Relations Dept. 2011-12-07

Africa's Middle-Class Motor finds growing evidence that a recent resurgence in the continent's economic well-being has staying power. In his overview article, Harvard professor Calestous Juma says the emphasis for too long has been on eradicating poverty through aid rather than promoting prosperity through improved infrastructure, education, entrepreneurship, and trade. That is now changing: there is a growing emphasis on policies that produce a middle class. The new African middle class may not have the buying power of a Western middle class but it demands enough goods and services to support stronger economic growth, which, as IMF African Department head Antoinette Sayeh points out, in turn helps the poorest members of society. Oxford University economist Paul Collier discusses a crucial component of Africa's needed infrastructure: railways. It is a continent eminently suited to rail, development of which has been held back more by political than economic reasons. But even as sub-Saharan Africa thrives, its largest and most important economy, South Africa, has had an anemic performance in recent years. We also profile Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Nigeria's colorful economic czar. "Picture This" mines current trends to predict what Africa will look like a half century from now and "Data Spotlight" looks at increased regional trade in Africa. Elsewhere, Cornell Professor Eswar Prasad, examines a global role reversal in which emerging, not advanced, economies are displaying resilience in the face of the global economic crisis. The University of Queensland's John Quiggin, who wrote *Zombie Economics*, examines whether it makes sense in many cases to sell public enterprises. Economists Raghuram Rajan of the University of Chicago and Rodney Ramcharan of the U.S. Federal Reserve find clues to current asset booms and busts in the behavior of U.S. farmland prices a century ago.

Black Moses - Alain Mabanckou 2017-03-23

It's 1970, and in the People's Republic of Congo a Marxist-Leninist revolution is ushering in a new age. But at the orphanage on the outskirts of Pointe-Noire where young Moses has grown up, the

revolution has only strengthened the reign of Dieudonn Ngoulmoumako, the orphanage's corrupt director. So Moses escapes to Pointe-Noire, where he finds a home first with a larcenous band of Congolese Merry Men and then among the Zairian prostitutes of the Trois-Cents quarter. But the authorities won't leave Moses in peace, and intervene to chase both the Merry Men and the Trois-Cents girls out of town. All this injustice pushes poor Moses over the edge. Could he really be the Robin Hood of the Congo? Or is he just losing his marbles? Vivid, exuberant and heartwarming, *Black Moses* is a vital new extension of Alain Mabanckou's extraordinary, interlinked body of work dedicated to his native Congo, and confirms his status as one of our great storytellers. [A Study Guide for Uzodinma Iweala's "Beasts of No Nation"](#) - Gale, Cengage Learning 2016

A Study Guide for Uzodinma Iweala's "Beasts of No Nation," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Literary Newsmakers for Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Literary Newsmakers for Students* for all of your research needs.

In-between Fact and Fiction. Representing the Traumatization of Child Soldiers in Uzodinma Iweala's "Beasts of No Nation" and Emmanuel "Jal's Warchild" - Anne-Karen Fischer 2017-12-18

Examination Thesis from the year 2017 in the subject English - Literature, Works, grade: 1,0, University of Constance

(Anglistik/Amerikanistik), language: English, abstract: Although the use of children in warfare is not a recent issue, child soldiering has received increasing attention throughout the past two decades. This trend led to a rapid increase of literary works that deal with the topic of child soldiers, both fictional and autobiographical. The topic of child soldiers often goes hand in hand with the topic of trauma and traumatization. Repeated exposure to overwhelming danger and life-threatening experiences can leave children with severe mental ill-health such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and personality changes. Literary works draw attention to the relationship between child soldiers and trauma as well as to the

difficult relationship between trauma and representability in this context. This analysis attempts to contribute to the literary research of how trauma is represented in child soldier literature and to increase awareness of this topic on an academic level. As this analysis is meant to make a small contribution to the literary research on child soldier literature, it merely focuses on two narrations: Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation* (2006) and Emmanuel Jal's *Warchild* (2009). These two books were chosen based on the great differences of both the narrations and the authors' background. *Beasts of No Nation* (BoNN) tells a fictional story, whereas *Warchild* is an autobiography. Uzodinma Iweala is an African American writer with Nigerian roots and BoNN can be seen as a postmodern novel as it uses various postmodern and experimental narrative techniques. Emmanuel Jal (Jal), in contrast, was born and raised in Sudan and fought as a child soldier. *Warchild* is an autobiography about his life as a child soldier, before and afterwards. It mostly uses traditional narrative forms to recount Jal's experiences. Based on these differences, the two books can serve as good examples of how trauma can be represented in child soldier literature...

The Unknown Terrorist - Richard Flanagan 2008-02-19

From the internationally acclaimed author of *Gould's Book of Fish* comes an astonishing new novel, a riveting portrayal of a society driven by fear. What would you do if you turned on the television and saw you were the most wanted terrorist in the country? Gina Davies is about to find out when, after a night spent with an attractive stranger, she becomes a prime suspect in the investigation of an attempted terrorist attack. In *The Unknown Terrorist*, one of the most brilliant writers working in the English language today turns his attention to the most timely of subjects — what our leaders tell us about the threats against us, and how we cope with living in fear. Chilling, impossible to put down, and all too familiar, *The Unknown Terrorist* is a relentless tour de force that paints a devastating picture of a contemporary society gone haywire, where the ceaseless drumbeat of terror alert levels, newsbreaks, and fear of the unknown pushes a nation ever closer to the breaking point.

[Music Through the Floor](#) - Eric Puchner 2007-07-24

With *Music Through the Floor*, Pushcart Prize winner and former Wallace Stegner Fellow Eric Puchner makes an extraordinary debut: a collection of nine unforgettable stories -- strikingly original, fiercely funny, and quietly heartbreaking -- portraying a group of cultural misfits attempting to navigate mainstream America. Lost, teetering on the edge of normalcy, Puchner's characters seek to define themselves in a frequently absurd and hostile world -- a world that threatens to make outcasts of us all. Caught up in loneliness or solitude, they can't quite hear the music of their own lives. In "Children of God," a young loner becomes the caretaker and companion for two mentally retarded men, seeking solace in their outsider status. "Essay #3: Leda and the Swan" is told in the forlorn, be-nighted, and tragically funny voice of a high school girl who longs more than anything to be loved. In "Mission," an idealistic ESL teacher is faced with the inscrutable wrath of one of his immigrant students. And in the unsettling "Child's Play," Puchner explores the price of nonconformity by following a pack of boys wreaking havoc on Halloween. Writing from an impressive range of perspectives -- men and women, children and adults, immigrants and tourists -- Puchner deftly exposes the dark, tender undersides of his characters with arresting beauty and precision. Here are people fumbling for identity in a depersonalized world, captured in moments that are hilarious, shocking, and transcendent -- sometimes all at once. Unfailingly true, surprisingly moving, and impossible to forget, these nine stories mark the arrival of a brilliant young writer and one of our most promising literary voices.

What Is the What - Dave Eggers 2009-02-24

What Is the What is the story of Valentino Achak Deng, a refugee in war-ravaged southern Sudan who flees from his village in the mid-1980s and becomes one of the so-called Lost Boys. Valentino's travels bring him in contact with enemy soldiers, with liberation rebels, with hyenas and lions, with disease and starvation, and with deadly murahaleen (militias on horseback)—the same sort who currently terrorize Darfur. Eventually Deng is resettled in the United States with almost 4000 other young Sudanese men, and a very different struggle begins. Based closely on true experiences, *What Is the What* is heartbreaking and arresting, filled

with adventure, suspense, tragedy, and, finally, triumph.

Our Kind of People - Uzodinma Iweala 2012-07-10

In 2005, Uzodinma Iweala stunned readers and critics alike with *Beasts of No Nation*, his debut novel about child soldiers in West Africa. Now his return to his native continent has produced *Our Kind of People*, a nonfiction account of the AIDS crisis that is every bit as startling and original. Iweala embarks on a remarkable journey in his native Nigeria, meeting individuals and communities that are struggling daily to understand both the impact and meaning of the disease. He speaks with people from all walks of life—the ill and the healthy, doctors, nurses, truck drivers, sex workers, shopkeepers, students, parents, and children. Their testimonies are by turns uplifting, alarming, humorous, and surprising, and always unflinchingly candid. Beautifully written and heartbreakingly honest, *Our Kind of People* goes behind the headlines of an unprecedented epidemic to show the real lives it affects, illuminating the scope of the crisis and a continent's valiant struggle.

The Librarian - Mikhail Elizarov 2015-02-10

If Ryu Murakami had written *War and Peace* As the introduction to this book will tell you, the books by Gromov, obscure and long forgotten propaganda author of the Soviet era, have such an effect on their readers that they suddenly enjoy supernatural powers. Understandably, their readers need to keep accessing these books at all cost and gather into groups around book-bearers, or, as they're called, librarians. Alexei, until now a loser, comes to collect an uncle's inheritance and unexpectedly becomes a librarian. He tells his extraordinary, unbelievable story.

Spiritual Literacy - Frederic Brussat 1998-08-05

A treasury of inspirational readings, accompanied by personal reflections and meditations, features works by Helen Keller, Barbara Kingsolver, Thomas Aquinas, and others on such themes as nature, relationships, creativity, and work

Pink Sari Revolution: A Tale of Women and Power in India - Amana Fontanella-Khan 2013

Describes the Pink Gang, an Indian women's grassroots vigilante group, 20,000-members strong, who fight for women's rights throughout the

country and highlights the stories of the women they have helped and the tactics they used. 10,000 first printing.

Love Falls On Us - Robbie Corey-Boulet 2019-07-15

In 2009 Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill became a top global news story. Two years later Hillary Clinton declared "Gay rights are human rights and human rights are gay rights," but still today there is little consensus on how to advance those rights beyond the U.S. and Europe. The fact is that international LGBT activism and allies have created winners and losers. In Africa those who easily identify with the identities of the global movement find support, funding and care. Those whose sexualities don't align so neatly don't. In this faithful and moving investigation, award winning journalist Robbie Corey-Boulet shows that LGBT liberation does not look the same in Africa as it does in the United States or Europe. At a time when there is a groundswell of interest in LGBT life in Africa and attempts at reversing LGBT rights across much of the 'developed' world Corey-Boulet lays bare past failures. To the extent that there exists a right way to engage on LGBT issues in Africa—and, indeed, worldwide—*Love Falls on Us* is for those looking to learn what it is.

The Boy Who Runs - John Brant 2016-08-16

In the tradition of Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation* by way of Christopher McDougall's *Born to Run*, this is the inspirational true story of the Ugandan boy soldier who became a world-renowned runner, then found his calling as director of a world-renowned African children's charity. "Julius can't remember who first saw the men. He heard no warning sounds—no dog barking or twig snapping. Until this point, events had moved too swiftly for Julius to be afraid, but now panic seized him. In another instant, he realized that his old life was finished." Thus begins the extraordinary odyssey of Julius Achon, a journey that takes a barefoot twelve-year-old boy from a village in northern Uganda to the rebel camp of the notorious Lord's Resistance Army, where he was made a boy soldier, and then, miraculously, to a career as one of the world's foremost middle-distance runners. But when a devastating tragedy prevents Julius from pursuing the gold at the 2004 Olympic Games in

Athens, he is once again set adrift and forced to forge a new path for himself, finally finding his true calling as an internationally recognized humanitarian. Today, Julius is the director of the Achon Uganda Children's Fund, a charity whose mission is to improve the quality of life in rural Uganda through access to healthcare, education, and athletics. While pursuing his destiny, Julius encounters a range of unforgettable characters who variously befriend and betray him: the demonic Joseph Kony, a "world-class warlord"; John Cook, a brilliant and eccentric U.S. track coach; Jim Fee, an American businessman who helps Julius build a state-of-the-art medical center deep in the Ugandan bush; and finally Kristina, Julius's mother, whose own tragic journey forms the pivot for this spellbinding narrative of love, loss, suffering, and redemption. Written by award-winning sportswriter John Brant, *The Boy Who Runs* is an empowering tale of obstacles overcome, challenges met, and light wrested from darkness. It's a story about forging your true path and finding your higher purpose—even when the road ahead bends in unexpected directions. Advance praise for *The Boy Who Runs* "Brant proves again why he is one of our best sportswriters, masterfully weaving a compelling narrative of an African country at war, along with the transformation of a young man from athlete to humanitarian. . . . [Achon's] life story is a shining example of the Olympic spirit."—Booklist (starred review) "Fantastic . . . Brant does a beautiful job of chronicling the tension. . . . Indeed, his work is first-rate throughout the book, and it makes for a read-in-one-sitting story."—Publishers Weekly (starred review) "Inspiring . . . Achon's difficult journey as an athlete and humanitarian reveals how sport can provide a valuable avenue of hope for those seeking to rise above tragic circumstances."—Library Journal "This is an astonishing story about an amazing athlete who outruns not only the grinding poverty and deprivation of the Ugandan bush but brutal war and imminent death, then dedicates himself to saving his family and friends. This man has the heart of a lion. I couldn't put this book down."—John L. Parker, Jr., author of *Once a Runner* "An instant classic . . . John Brant has given us an epic, moving, and ultimately hopeful story about the power of sport and friendship to transcend

boundaries and make the world a better place."—Daniel Coyle, author of *The Talent Code*

Beasts of No Nation - Uzodinma Iweala 2015-09-10

Agu is just a boy when war arrives at his village. His mother and sister are rescued by the UN, while he and his father remain to fight the rebels. 'Run!' shouts his father when the rebels arrive. And Agu does run. Straight into the rebels' path. In a vivid, sparkling voice, Agu tells the story of what happens to him next. His story is shocking and painful, and completely unforgettable. *Beasts of No Nation* gives us an extraordinary portrait of the chaos and violence of war. It is a gripping and remarkable debut.

The Devoted: A Novel - Blair Hurley 2018-08-21

A spellbinding confession of what it means to abandon one life for another, *The Devoted* asks what it takes, and what you'll sacrifice, to find enlightenment. Nicole Hennessy's life revolves around her Zen practice at the Boston Zendo, seeking solace in the tenets of Buddhism to the chagrin of her Irish Catholic family. After a decade of grueling spiritual practice under her Master's tutelage, living on a shoestring budget as a shop clerk, Nicole has become dangerously entangled with her mentor. As Nicole confronts her past—a drug-fueled year spent fleeing her family's loaded silences and guilt-laden "Our Fathers"—and reinvents herself in New York City, her Master's intoxicating voice pursues her, an electrifying whisper on the other end of the phone. Somehow, he knows everything. In deft, soaring prose that bristles with psychological and erotic tension, Blair Hurley crafts a thrilling exploration of Nicole's ecstatic quest for spirituality.

Dear Mr. You - Mary-Louise Parker 2015-11-10

This book "renders the singular arc of a woman's life through letters Mary-Louise Parker composes to the men, real and hypothetical, who have informed the person she is today. Beginning with the grandfather she never knew, the letters range from a missive to the beloved priest from her childhood to remembrances of former lovers to an homage to a firefighter she encountered to a heartfelt communication with the uncle of the infant daughter she adopted"--

Notes from a Public Typewriter - Michael Gustafson 2018-03-27

A collection of confessional, hilarious, heartbreaking notes written anonymously on a public typewriter for fans of PostSecret and Other People's Love Letters. When Michael Gustafson and his wife Hilary opened Literati Bookstore in Ann Arbor, Michigan, they put out a typewriter for anyone to use. They had no idea what to expect. Would people ask metaphysical questions? Write mean things? Pour their souls onto the page? Yes, no, and did they ever. Every day, people of all ages sit down at the public typewriter. Children perch atop grandparents' knees, both sets of hands hovering above the metal keys: I LOVE YOU. Others walk in alone on Friday nights and confess their hopes: I will find someone someday. And some leave funny asides for the next person who sits down: I dislike people, misanthropes, irony, and ellipses ... and lists too. In NOTES FROM A PUBLIC TYPEWRITER Michael and designer Oliver Uberti have combined their favorite notes with essays and photos to create an ode to community and the written word that will surprise, delight, and inspire.

Runaway Genres - Yogita Goyal 2019-10-29

Argues that the slave narrative is a new world literary genre In *Runaway Genres*, Yogita Goyal tracks the emergence of slavery as the defining template through which current forms of human rights abuses are understood. The post-black satire of Paul Beatty and Mat Johnson, modern slave narratives from Sudan to Sierra Leone, and the new Afropolitan diaspora of writers like Teju Cole and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie all are woven into Goyal's argument for the slave narrative as a new world literary genre, exploring the full complexity of this new ethical globalism. From the humanitarian spectacles of Kony 2012 and #BringBackOurGirls through gothic literature, *Runaway Genres* unravels, for instance, how and why the African child soldier has now appeared as the afterlife of the Atlantic slave. Goyal argues that in order to fathom forms of freedom and bondage today—from unlawful detention to sex trafficking to the refugee crisis to genocide—we must turn to contemporary literature, which reveals how the literary forms used to tell these stories derive from the antebellum genre of the slave narrative.

Exploring the ethics and aesthetics of globalism, the book presents alternative conceptions of human rights, showing that the revival and proliferation of slave narratives offers not just an occasion to revisit the Atlantic past, but also for re-narrating the global present. In reassessing these legacies and their ongoing relation to race and the human, *Runaway Genres* creates a new map with which to navigate contemporary black diaspora literature.

Mysterious Skin - Scott Heim 2009-03-17

"Wrenching . . . powerfully sensuous." — New York Times "As searing and unforgettable as an electric shock." —Kirkus Reviews At the age of eight Brian Lackey is found bleeding under the crawl space of his house, having endured something so traumatic that he cannot remember an entire five-hour period of time. During the following years he slowly recalls details from that night, but these fragments are not enough to explain what happened to him, and he begins to believe that he may have been the victim of an alien encounter. Neil McCormick is fully aware of the events from that summer of 1981. Wise beyond his years, curious about his developing sexuality, Neil found what he perceived to be love and guidance from his baseball coach. Now, ten years later, he is a teenage hustler, unaware of the dangerous path his life is taking. His recklessness is governed by idealized memories of his coach, memories that unexpectedly change when Brian comes to Neil for help and, ultimately, the truth.

Birdie - Tracey Lindberg 2015-05-26

Monkey Beach meets Green Grass, Running Water meets The Beachcombers in this wise and funny novel by a debut Cree author Birdie is a darkly comic and moving first novel about the universal experience of recovering from wounds of the past, informed by the lore and knowledge of Cree traditions. Bernice Meetoos, a Cree woman, leaves her home in Northern Alberta following tragedy and travels to Gibsons, BC. She is on something of a vision quest, seeking to understand the messages from *The Frugal Gourmet* (one of the only television shows available on CBC North) that come to her in her dreams. She is also driven by the leftover teenaged desire to meet Pat Johns, who played

Jesse on The Beachcombers, because he is, as she says, a working, healthy Indian man. Bernice heads for Molly's Reach to find answers but they are not the ones she expected. With the arrival in Gibsons of her Auntie Val and her cousin Skinny Freda, Bernice finds the strength to face the past and draw the lessons from her dreams that she was never fully taught in life. Part road trip, dream quest and travelogue, the novel touches on the universality of women's experience, regardless of culture or race.

Song for Night - Chris Abani 2007-09-01

"A devastating portrait of a boy holding onto the shreds of his innocence during a war that deliberately, remorselessly works to yank it away."—Los Angeles Times Part Inferno, part Paradise Lost, part Sunjata epic, *Song for Night* is the story of a West African boy soldier's terrifying yet oddly beautiful journey through a nightmare landscape of brutal war in search of his lost platoon. The mute protagonist—his vocal cords cut to lower the risk of detection by the enemy—writes in a ghostly voice about his fellow minesweepers, the things he's witnessed, and the things he's done, each chapter headed by a line of the sign language these children invented. This "immersive and dreamlike" novella (Publishers Weekly, starred review) by a PEN/Hemingway Award winner is unlike anything else written about an African war. "Not since Jerzy Kosinski's *The Painted Bird* or Agota Kristof's *Notebook Trilogy* has there been such a harrowing novel about what it's like to be a young person in a war. That Chris Abani is able to find humanity, mercy, and even, yes, forgiveness, amid such devastation is something of a miracle."—Rebecca Brown, author of *The End of Youth* "Impressive and fast-paced...narrated with such dry and lucid precision that it brings to mind *Babel*, Hemingway, McCarthy."—Esquire

Allah is Not Obligated - Ahmadou Kourouma 2011-06-01

ALLAH IS NOT OBLIGED TO BE FAIR ABOUT ALL THE THINGS HE DOES HERE ON EARTH. These are the words of the boy soldier Birahima in the final masterpiece by one of Africa's most celebrated writers, Ahmadou Kourouma. When ten-year-old Birahima's mother dies, he leaves his native village in the Ivory Coast, accompanied by the sorcerer

and cook Yacouba, to search for his aunt Mahan. Crossing the border into Liberia, they are seized by rebels and forced into military service. Birahima is given a Kalashnikov, minimal rations of food, a small supply of dope and a tiny wage. Fighting in a chaotic civil war alongside many other boys, Birahima sees death, torture, dismemberment and madness but somehow manages to retain his own sanity. Raw and unforgettable, despairing yet filled with laughter, *Allah Is Not Obligated* reveals the ways in which children's innocence and youth are compromised by war.

The Collected Poems of Kenneth Koch - Kenneth Koch 2012-07-25

Kenneth Koch has been called "one of our greatest poets" by John Ashbery, and "a national treasure" in the 2000 National Book Award Finalist Citation. Now, for the first time, all of the poems in his ten collections—from *Sun Out*, poems of the 1950s, to *Thank You*, published in 1962, to *A Possible World*, published in 2002, the year of the poet's death—are gathered in one volume. Celebrating the pleasures of friendship, art, and love, the poetry of Kenneth Koch has been dazzling readers for fifty years. Charter member—along with Frank O'Hara, John Ashbery, and James Schuyler—of the New York School of poets, avant-garde playwright and fiction writer, pioneer teacher of writing to children, Koch gave us some of the most exciting and aesthetically daring poems of his generation. These poems take sensuous delight in the life of the mind and the heart, often at the same time: "O what a physical effect it has on me / To dive forever into the light blue sea / Of your acquaintance!" ("In Love with You"). Here is Koch's early work: love poems like "The Circus" and "To Marina" and such well-remembered comic masterpieces as "Fresh Air," "Some General Instructions," and "The Boiling Water" ("A serious moment for the water is when it boils"). And here are the brilliant later poems—"One Train May Hide Another," the deliciously autobiographical address in *New Addresses*, and the stately elegy "Bel Canto"—poems that, beneath a surface of lightness and wit, speak with passion, depth, and seriousness to all the most important moments in one's existence. Charles Simic wrote in *The New York Review of Books* that, for Koch, poetry "has to be constantly saved from itself. The idea is to do something with language that has never been

done before." In the ten exuberant, hilarious, and heartbreaking books of poems collected here, Kenneth Koch does exactly that.

The Night Trilogy - Elie Wiesel 2008-04-15

Three works deal with a concentration camp survivor, a hostage holder in Palestine, and a recovering accident victim.

Fruit of the Lemon - Andrea Levy 2011-03-03

A unique novel full of humour, wit and passion from Andrea Levy, critically acclaimed author of the Orange Prize winning *SMALL ISLAND* and the Man Booker shortlisted *THE LONG SONG*. Faith Jackson fixes herself up with a great job in TV and the perfect flatshare. But neither is that perfect - and nor are her relations with her overbearing, though always loving family. Furious and perplexed when her parents announce their intention to retire back home to Jamaica, Faith makes her own journey there, where she is immediately welcomed by her Aunt Coral, keeper of a rich cargo of family history. Through the weave of her aunt's storytelling a cast of characters unfolds stretching back to Cuba and Panama, Harlem and Scotland, a story that passes through London and sweeps through continents.

Waiting for an Angel - Helon Habila 2004

His tenacious placidity shattered in the wake of local violence, Lomba, a young journalist living under military rule in Lagos, Nigeria, witnesses such horrifying events as his roommate's brutal attack by soldiers, his lover's forced marriage, and his neighbor's riot-inducing demonstration. A first novel. Reprint. 10,000 first printing.

Speak No Evil - Uzodinma Iweala 2018-03-06

Winner of the Gold Nautilus Award for Fiction | A Lambda Literary Award Finalist | A Barbara Gittings Literature Award Finalist | An Indie Next Pick | A Barnes and Noble Best Book of the Month | A Library Journal Best Book of the Year "A lovely slender volume that packs in entire worlds with complete mastery. *Speak No Evil* explains so much about our times and yet is never anything less than a scintillating, page-turning read."—Gary Shteyngart "A wrenching, tightly woven story about many kinds of love and many kinds of violence. *Speak No Evil* probes deeply but also with compassion the cruelties of a loving home. Iweala's

characters confront you in close-up, as viscerally, bodily alive as any in contemporary fiction."—Larissa MacFarquhar In the long-anticipated novel from the author of the critically acclaimed *Beasts of No Nation*, a revelation shared between two privileged teenagers from very different backgrounds sets off a chain of events with devastating consequences. On the surface, Niru leads a charmed life. Raised by two attentive parents in Washington, D.C., he's a top student and a track star at his prestigious private high school. Bound for Harvard in the fall, his prospects are bright. But Niru has a painful secret: he is queer—an abominable sin to his conservative Nigerian parents. No one knows except Meredith, his best friend, the daughter of prominent Washington insiders—and the one person who seems not to judge him. When his father accidentally discovers Niru is gay, the fallout is brutal and swift. Coping with troubles of her own, however, Meredith finds that she has little left emotionally to offer him. As the two friends struggle to reconcile their desires against the expectations and institutions that seek to define them, they find themselves speeding toward a future more violent and senseless than they can imagine. Neither will escape unscathed. In the tradition of Junot Diaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Americanah*, *Speak No Evil* explores what it means to be different in a fundamentally conformist society and how that difference plays out in our inner and outer struggles. It is a novel about the power of words and self-identification, about who gets to speak and who has the power to speak for other people. As heart-wrenching and timely as his breakout debut, *Beasts of No Nation*, Uzodinma Iweala's second novel cuts to the core of our humanity and leaves us reeling in its wake. One of *Bustle's* 35 Most Anticipated Fiction Books Of 2018 | One of *Paste's* 25 Most Anticipated Books of 2018 | One of *The Boston Globe's* 25 Books We Can't Wait to Read in 2018

Loteria - Mario Alberto Zambrano 2013-07-02

"A taut, fraught, look at tragedy, its aftermath, and the stories we tell ourselves to survive. With suspense, dread, and always the possibility for redemption, we watch as Zambrano flips the cards of chance and fate."

— Justin Torres, author of *We The Animals In Lotería*, the spellbinding literary debut by Mario Alberto Zambrano, a young girl tells the story of her family's tragic demise using a deck of cards of the eponymous Latin American game of chance. With her older sister Estrella in the ICU and her father in jail, eleven-year-old Luz Castillo has been taken into the custody of the state. Alone in her room, she retreats behind a wall of silence, writing in her journal and shuffling through a deck of lotería cards. Each of the cards' colorful images—mermaids, bottles, spiders, death, and stars—sparks a random memory. Pieced together, these snapshots bring into focus the joy and pain of the young girl's life, and the events that led to her present situation. But just as the story becomes clear, a breathtaking twist changes everything. By turns affecting and inspiring, *Lotería* is a powerful novel that reminds us of the importance of remembering, even when we are trying to forget. Beautiful images of lotería cards are featured throughout this intricate and haunting novel.

Our Kind of People - Uzodinma Iweala 2013-07-09

HIV/AIDS has been reported as one of the most destructive diseases in recent memory, tearing apart communities and ostracizing the afflicted. But the emphasis placed on death and despair hardly captures the many

and varied effects of the epidemic, or the stories of the extraordinary people who live and die under its watch. On a remarkable journey through his native Nigeria, Uzodinma Iweala opens our minds to these stories, speaking with people from all walks of life: the ill and the healthy, doctors, nurses, sex workers, students, parents, and children. Their testimonies are by turns uplifting, alarming, humorous, and always unflinchingly candid. At once a deeply personal exploration of life in the face of disease and an incisive critique of our ideas of health and happiness, *Our Kind of People* goes behind the headlines to illuminate the scope of the crisis and the real lives it affects.

Beasts of No Nation - Uzodinma Iweala 2005-01-01

Agu is just a boy when war arrives at his village. His mother and sister are rescued by the UN, while he and his father remain to fight the rebels. 'Run!' shouts his father when the rebels arrive. And Agu does run. Straight into the rebels' path. In a vivid, sparkling voice, Agu tells the story of what happens to him next. His story is shocking and painful, and completely unforgettable. *BEASTS OF NO NATION* gives us an extraordinary portrait of the chaos and violence of war. Unlike anything else we have read this year, it is a gripping and remarkable debut.