

## Adult Nonfiction

### Journalism & Publishing

#### **The Primetimer Guide to Streaming TV: The Best Shows, Movies and Specials on Netflix, Hulu, Prime Video, HBO Max, Disney+, Peacock, Paramount+, Apple TV+ and Other Popular Streamers.**

Ed. by Aaron Barnhart.

2022. 400p. Quindaro, paper, \$19.99 (9781946248114); e-book, \$9.99 (9781946248121). 006.7876.

Streaming TV has all but replaced traditional cable, and this guide will help readers figure out what services are right for them and what to watch. The first part begins with a history of streaming TV, then breaks down the benefits of major services, smaller services like PBS Passport, and free channels like Tubi. The bulk of the book contains an alphabetical list of over 1000 shows, from *3rd Rock from the Sun* to *Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist*, with information on where to stream them, brief credits, a synopsis, any awards won, and occasional commentary from Primetimer Forums and "Pairs Well With" recommendations. The third part consists of curated lists of recommended shows, from "Global Dramas," "Dark Comedies," "Shows That Lightly Compel Us to Contemplate Our Mortality," "True Crime," and "If You Like . . ." (*Bridgerton*, *Game of Thrones*, etc.). The book ends with lists of recommended shows by streaming service and an index of names. Though the information may become dated quickly, this is a robust resource for those who feel lost in the sea of available streaming services. —*Susan Maguire*

#### **To Tell the Truth: My Life as a Foreign Correspondent.**

By Lewis M. Simons.

Nov. 2022. 288p. Rowman & Littlefield, \$35 (9781538173169); e-book, \$33 (9781538173176). 070.4.

It is a privilege to read the stories of a professional journalist present at so many hugely significant events in Asia over the decades. Simons followed the journalistic ethics of observing and reporting but never participating in events. He now presents a memoir that covers war, political corruption, dictatorships, and just about every man-made and natural catastrophe you can think of across the southern and eastern expanse of Asia. Over a long career, Simons reported from Indochina, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Japan, and China, with a few postings in the U.S. as well. Simons has many lessons to teach and much wisdom to impart to journalists, including to be objective and leave the commentary to others; the facts will speak for themselves. That said, this supremely well-written and thoroughly captivating narrative is much more than "just the facts" reporting. Simons is a wonderful storyteller and this is an invaluable chronicle of the experiences of a foreign correspondent. It is also

a boon for readers interested in the complex relationships between Asia and the U.S. from the 1960s through the 2010s. —*James Pekoll*  
**YA/C:** *Although gritty in spots, this could be a great primer for YAs on modern U.S.-Asian relations. JP.*

### Philosophy & Psychology

#### **The Age of Resilience: Reimagining Existence on a Rewilding Earth.**

By Jeremy Rifkin.

Nov. 2022. 304p. St. Martin's, \$29.99 (9781250093547); e-book, \$14.99 (9781250093554). 155.2.

These are awfully tough times for earthlings. Catastrophic climate change, life-threatening viruses, and habitat destruction are some of many present-day threats. Economic and social theorist Rifkin (*The Green New Deal*, 2019) proposes that we adopt a new worldview without delay. He advocates a transformation from the "Age of Progress" that worships efficiency and generates overconsumption to a preferred "Age of Resilience" epitomized by adaptability, conservation, and empathy. His discussion incorporates economics, ecology, science, technology, history, planetary health, and public policy. The writing can be dry, but some parts bloom, including a segment about soil. Most of us underappreciate dirt; Rifkin notes that it takes 500 years to replenish just one inch of topsoil. Another strong section, "We Are Each an Ecosystem," delves into the astonishing human microbiome. Rifkin's message here is familiar but remains urgent. Our planet is getting pounded, and we are complicit in the despoiling. Humans, like all organisms, can never be detached from nature; an endangered biosphere has severe consequences. We must aspire to become something greater than we've been, diligent caretakers of our home, Earth. —*Tony Miksanek*

#### **Living for Pleasure: An Epicurean Guide to Life.**

By Emily A. Austin.

Nov. 2022. 256p. Oxford, paper, \$18.95 (9780197558324). 100.

Greek sage Epicurus' (341–270 BCE) philosophy stressed the importance of enjoying the pleasures of life. Cicero and Seneca, among other detractors, interpreted Epicureanism as mere hedonism. But, as Austin argues, Epicurus' emphasis was on a life of continued pleasure, free from anxiety. He measured ethics with happiness and asked whether delaying instant gratification was worth future happiness. The greatest pleasure an individual could obtain, according to Epicurus, was tranquility. Followers of Epicureanism should possess enough money to be secure and maintain strong, meaning-

ful friendships. Fear of death is anathema to a pleasurable existence; reflecting on pleasant memories provides the antidote. Desires are good as long as they aren't unnatural or damaging. Austin breaks down the ideologies of the renowned thinker, contrasts them with thoughts from philosophers who followed him, and applies Epicureanism to the present. Examining the tenets of Epicureanism in fine detail, Austin provides the audience with her insightful interpretations throughout and offers a kindred spirit to all readers who seek the finer things in life. —*Philip Zozzaro*

#### **Very Superstitious: 100 Superstitions from around the World.**

By Willow Winsham.

2022. 224p. Welbeck, \$16.95 (9781802795011). 130.

Even the most rational individuals will occasionally display some form of superstition. Step on a crack, walk under a ladder, spill some salt—these simple actions seem to push an internal response. Witchcraft historian Winsham highlights 100 of these beliefs. Some are common, like the bad luck of breaking a mirror, while some are more obscure, like the many meanings behind walking backwards. Each superstition has a page of explanation that sometimes gives cultural framing, sometimes describes how a specific event is differently interpreted over time, and sometimes just shows that the practice is unexplained. Each has a colorful, poster-like illustration. But be assured, this is a casual, fun look at superstitions, with little real religious or anthropological context given to the commentary. Rather than a source for research, this will serve to settle bets and lightly inform. This is an easy, enjoyable romp, suitable for circulating collections. —*Danise Hoover*

### Religion

#### **Astrotopia: The Dangerous Religion of the Corporate Space Race.**

By Mary-Jane Rubenstein.

Dec. 2022. 224p. illus. Univ. of Chicago, \$24 (9780226821122). 215.

To many, the current corporate space race signals the dawn of a cosmic renaissance that will eventually lead to humans colonizing new worlds. Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, and Richard Branson, multibillionaires all, ushered in this "Newspace" age, in which "public and private interests are both cooperating and competing." Settling on the moon or Mars or mining asteroids may ostensibly

#### **YA Recommendations**

Adult titles recommended for teens are marked with the following symbols: **YA**, for books of general YA interest; **YA/C**, for books with particular curricular value; and **YA/S**, for books that will appeal most to teens with a special interest in a specific subject.



# High-Demand Hot List

Look for reviews of these high-demand titles in forthcoming issues of *Booklist*.

The trend for big debuts continues as we get further into 2023, while well-known authors are also topping the list of books with big print runs. Good thing the Hot List is here to help you get your collection development on! —*Susan Maguire*

**City of Dreams.** By Don Winslow. Morrow, \$29.99 (9780062851239). Apr.

In the follow-up to *City on Fire* (2021), a widowed mob underboss heads to Hollywood to control the shake-down of those making a movie based on the New England crime war, only to find the alluring leading lady has secrets she's desperate to keep.

**The Five Sorrowful Mysteries of Andy Africa.** By Stephen Buoro. Bloomsbury, \$28 (9781635577778). Apr.

The trials of a 15-year-old boy in northern Nigeria—hanging out with friends, contemplating questions of mathematics and Black power, and falling in love with a white girl—provide a window onto contemporary African life in this distinctive debut novel.

**Happy Place.** By Emily Henry. Berkley, \$27 (9780593441275). Apr.

Harriet and Wynn are the perfect couple, except that they broke up six months ago and didn't tell anyone, so they must keep up a happy facade on their friends' annual getaway in Maine in the latest from romance star Henry.

**Homecoming.** By Kate Morton. Mariner, \$29.99 (9780063020894). Apr.

Readers love Morton's ability to marry divergent timelines, and in her newest, a present-day reporter in Sydney finds a book that connects her family to a 1959 cold case murder.

**House of Cotton.** By Monica Brashears. Flatiron, \$27.99 (9781250851918). Apr.

In this breakout Black Southern gothic debut, 19-year-old Mag-

olia is broke and haunted, until a mysterious man named Cotton offers her a new life.

**Mothered.** By Zoje Stage. Thomas & Mercer, \$16.99 (9781662506239). Mar.

A woman quarantining during the pandemic gets a horrifying new roommate—her mother—in this psychological thriller from the author of *Baby Teeth* (2018).

**Quietly Hostile.** By Samantha Irby. Vintage, \$17 (9780593315699). May.

In the follow-up to the best-selling *Wow, No Thank You* (2020), Irby's star has risen (red carpets, job offers), but she's still falling apart (bad teeth, diarrhea), and she hilariously chronicles it all in this essay collection.

**The Trackers.** By Charles Frazier. Ecco, \$29.99 (9780062948083). Apr.

From the author of *Cold Mountain* comes the tale of a Depression-era itinerant artist who finds himself on the trail of a runaway wife with a valuable painting, traveling from rural Wyoming to the streets of San Francisco.

**Victory City.** By Salman Rushdie. Random House, \$30 (9780593243398). Feb.

Rushdie's triumphant latest, his first since *Quichotte* (2019), mines Indian history and fantasy to spin an epic tale of a young girl who becomes the mouthpiece for a goddess who tells of the rise of a great city.

**Weyward.** By Emilia Hart. St. Martin's, \$27.99 (9781250280800). Mar.

This big-deal debut novel follows centuries of women with intuitive powers, in 2019, 1619, and 1942, exploring the ways they rise above society's treatment of them.

seem thrilling, perhaps even necessary for the future of our species and our planet. But as Rubenstein, professor of religion and science in society at Wesleyan University, argues, conquering the final frontier can also be perceived as pernicious, unjust, and following an ideology Trump referred to as "manifest destiny in the stars." Rubenstein connects Newspace and "astrosaviors" to mythology, imperialist Christianity, and capitalism. In the process, she underscores age-old tales of the privileged selling unobtainable dreams to the masses, of the wealthy transforming unspoiled nature into treasure chests of riches, and of the powerful promoting a story of "domination hidden under lofty religious language." *Astrotopia* is superb and will fascinate anyone curious about the current space fervor. —*George Kendall*

## The Chinese Myths: A Guide to the Gods and Legends.

By Tao Tao Liu.

Jan. 2023. 224p. illus. Thames & Hudson, \$25.95 (9780500252383). 299.511.

Oxford University Chinese literature scholar

Liu covers the history of Chinese mythology from early literary traditions to contemporary observances. After a historical overview, Liu points to the rise of early literacy, which tended to be practiced by the Confucianist scribal class that prioritized history over mythology; its classical era sources are described. He then focuses on origin and creation myths, especially Yin and Yang cosmic forces, the first gods, and classical-era demigods and heroes. Because China was largely an agricultural society, sacred rivers and mountains were important and are also featured. Social influences come into play for the remaining chapters: Buddhism, the Ming Dynasty, and Daoism. The appendix includes discussions on present-day temples and festivals. Sidebar information and blue illustrations dot the pages. A timeline, a further reading list, illustration citations, and an index complete the volume. The writing is authoritative and clear; sources of information are explained for scholars. Each myth is given thorough treatment while still engaging the reader, though the book is best read as a whole rather than used as a quick reference. —*Lesley Farmer*

## Forgive: Why Should I and How Can I? By Timothy Keller.

Nov. 2022. 272p. Viking, \$27 (9780525560746); e-book, \$15.99 (9780525560753). 248.

We've all heard and struggled with the adage "forgive and forget." Theologian, pastor, and best-selling author Keller's (*Hope in Times of Fear*, 2021) latest work tackles this often-thorny topic. While forgiving is defined simply as renouncing revenge and being open to reconciliation, Keller expands these components thoroughly, incorporating anecdotes alongside scriptural passages. Beginning with Jesus' parable of the unforgiving servant, Keller contrasts popular theories of forgiveness—nonconditional, transactional/earned, or the lack of it—with biblical forgiveness. After examining these and noting their difficulty and mixed success, Keller argues that they overlook the critical element to true forgiveness: the vertical dimension, meaning receiving forgiveness from God, which results in the ability to extend grace and forgiveness horizontally. Keller enlarges his investigation to consider the complexity of a God who is both wrathful and loving and our need to experience healing

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