

January 16, 2025 Nexus by Yuval Noah Harari 2024

Nexus looks through the long lens of human history to consider how the flow of information has shaped us, and our world. Taking us from the Stone Age, through the canonization of the Bible, early modern witch-hunts, Stalinism, Nazism, and the resurgence of populism today, Yuval Noah Harari asks us to consider the complex relationship between information and truth, bureaucracy and mythology, wisdom and power. He explores how different societies and political systems throughout history have wielded information to achieve their goals, for good and ill. And he addresses the urgent choices we face as non-human intelligence threatens our very existence. (528 pages)

February 20, 2025 All the President's Men by Carl Bernstein, Bob Woodward by 1974

The story of the most famous American political scandal of the 20th century. Written by Washington Post reporters Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, the book follows in exacting detail their investigation into the Watergate Hotel break-in and subsequent coverup of that crime. The case began with a story on an unusual burglary attempt at the Democratic National Headquarters in the summer of 1972. It eventually evolved into an investigation that would topple President Richard Nixon. (480 pages)

March 20, 2025 Blood and Thunder by Hampton Sides 2006

An Epic of the American West is a narrative history of the turbulent period from the 1800s to the 1860s, the "settling" of the American West. It frames the transformation of America into a transcontinental power through the life story of Christopher "Kit" Carson, a larger-than-life frontiersman, guide, and army officer who assisted the conquest every step of the way. (460 pages)

April 17, 2025 Caste by Isabel Wilkerson 2020

A 2020 historical and narrative nonfiction work about the nature of inequality in the United States, India, and Nazi Germany. Caste describes the United States from the arrival of the first enslaved people in 1619 to the current Covid-19 pandemic to explain the nature and consequences of inequality. Wilkerson has also taught journalism at many colleges and universities, including Princeton and Emory. (544 pages)

May 15, 2025 Red Notice by Bill Browder 2015

Bill Browder's journey from Chicago to Moscow unraveled a web of corruption. As a financier, he challenged the powerful, leading to exile. In 2007, millions vanished, and his lawyer, Sergei Magnitsky, paid with his life. Browder vowed justice, embarking on an unrelenting crusade. 'Red Notice': a financial caper, a political thriller, a quest against insurmountable odds. (380 pages)

June 19, 2025 Prequel by Rachel Maddow 2023

The book traces the spread of Nazi propaganda throughout the US in the lead-up to World War II. Maddow draws parallels between the interwar period and the present day, showing that today's far-right movement has a "prequel." In the years before World War II, pro-Nazi US citizens disseminated antisemitic and authoritarian beliefs throughout the country, forming paramilitary cells and planning insurrections of the US government. In the deeply researched Prequel, Maddow follows the story of these citizens, including federal elected officials who supported the Nazi regime, and the other US citizens who fought against them. Maddow brings her extensive experience as a broadcast journalist to the work, weaving a complex story together from decades of evidence. (416 pages)

July 17, 2025 Framed: Astonishing Stories of Wrongful Convictions by John Grisham

John Grisham is known worldwide for his bestselling novels, but it's his real-life passion for justice that led to his work with Jim McCloskey of Centurion Ministries, the first organization dedicated to exonerating innocent people who have been wrongly convicted. Together they offer an inside look at the many injustices in our criminal justice system. (346 pages)

August 21, 2025 Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder by Salman Rushdie

On the morning of August 12, 2022, Salman Rushdie was standing onstage at the Chautauqua Institution, preparing to give a lecture on the importance of keeping writers safe from harm, when a man in black—black clothes, black mask—rushed down the aisle toward him, wielding a knife. (209 pages)

September 18, 2025 The Demon of Unrest by Erik Larson 2024

It follows the tumultuous months between Abraham Lincoln's election as president in late 1860 and the start of the American Civil War in April the following year. As Lincoln moved closer to taking office, a crisis erupted at the federal outpost Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. The conflict over that fort, enmeshed deeply with The Challenging Nature of Honor, became more dangerous by the day, while the South's drive toward secession led to The Problem of Loyalty Amid Civil Conflict. Meanwhile, Larson keeps the focus on the day-to-day successes and mistakes of the people living amid this dramatic backdrop, constantly exploring The Human Stories Behind Historic Events. (560 pages)

October 16, 2025 The Wide Wide Sea by Hampton Sides 2024

On July 12th, 1776, Captain James Cook, already lionized as the greatest explorer in British history, set off on his third voyage in his ship the HMS Resolution. Two-and-a-half years later, on a beach on the island of Hawaii, Cook was killed in a conflict with native Hawaiians. How did Cook, who was unique among captains for his respect for Indigenous peoples and cultures, come to that fatal moment? (408 pages)

November 20, 2025 1776 by David McCullough 2006

1776 is a biography of the American Revolutionary War written by historian David McCullough. Though the Revolutionary War did not officially end until the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783, the text follows George Washington, King George III, Nathanael Greene, Henry Knox, and other key figures as it examines crucial military events. (338 pages)

December 18, 2025 Brave New World by Aldous Huxley 1932

A haunting prophecy of a future marked by genetic engineering, social conditioning, and widespread pharmacological manipulation. Huxley, a multifaceted genius and astute critic of mechanization, crafted a narrative that remains a poignant cautionary tale. In today's world, saturated with mass media, advanced technology, and the pervasive power of elites, the novel's relevance endures, urging us to reflect on our humanity. (268 pages)