



Curated by our librarians, this Best of 2025 list includes some of the worthiest books published this year. Our list includes both critically acclaimed literary picks, readers' favorites, and award-nominated reads. We strive to offer options across cultures and continents, encouraging a broad approach to reading.

Best of 2025 | Fiction

Among Friends | Hal Ebbott | Friendship/Families | FICTION Ebbott
The Antidote | Karen Russell | Family Satire/Surrealism | FICTION Russell
Atmosphere: A Love Story | Taylor Jenkins Reid | Space Program Romance | FICTION Reid
Audition | Katie Kitamura | Psychological/Identity | FICTION Kitamura
Broken Country | Clare Leslie Hall | Suspense/Rural Noir | FICTION Hall
Buckeye | Patrick Ryan | Family/Midwestern | FICTION Ryan
The Buffalo Hunter Hunter | Stephen Graham Jones | Indigenous Diary/Vampire | FICTION Jones
Bug Hollow | Michelle Huneven | Family Saga/Grief | FICTION Huneven
The Case of the Missing Maid | Rob Osler | Mystery/Historical Chicago | MYSTERY Osler
Code Noir: Fictions | Canisia Lubrin | Linked Fictions/Postcolonial | FICTION Lubrin
The Colony | Annika Norlin | Community/Island Life | FICTION Norlin
The Correspondent | Virginia Evans | Family Memories/Forgiveness | FICTION Evans
Culpability | Bruce Holsinger | Suspense/AI Ethics | FICTION Holsinger
Cursed Daughters | Oyinkan Braithwaite | Domestic/Folkloric Curse | FICTION Braithwaite
The Director | Daniel Kehlmann | Film/Germany 1930s | FICTION Kehlmann
Dream Count | Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie | Women's Lives/Nigeria | FICTION Adichie
The Emperor of Gladness | Ocean Vuong | Coming-of-Age/Poet's Life | FICTION Vuong
Ending | Maria Reva | Wartime/Linked Tales | FICTION Reva
Flashlight | Susan Choi | Writers/Relationship | FICTION Choi
Flesh | David Szalay | Urban Morality/Class | FICTION Szalay
Fox | Joyce Carol Oates | Missing Person/Boarding School | FICTION Oates
A Guardian and a Thief | Megha Majumdar | Immigrate Experience/America | FICTION Majumdar
Heart the Lover | Lily King | College Triangle / Lifelong Reverberations | FICTION King
The Impossible Fortune | Richard Osman | Mystery/Amateur Sleuth | MYSTERY Osman
Indian Country | Shobha Rao | Small Town/Racism | FICTION Rao
The Jackal's Mistress | Chris Bohjalian | Historical/Civil War | FICTION Bohjalian
Katabasis | R.F. Kuang | Underworld/Mythical | SciFic - SCIFIC KUA
Knife Skills for Beginners | Orlando Murrin | Mystery/Cooking | MYSTERY Murrin
The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny | Kiran Desai | Cultural Divides/Romance | FICTION Desai
Maggie; Or, A Man and a Woman Walk into a Bar | Katie Yee | Linked Vignette/Bar Life | SCIFIC YEE
Moderation | Elaine Castillo | Virtual Reality/Relationships | FICTION Castillo
My Friends | Fredrik Backman | Friendship Saga | FICTION Backman
North Sun: Or, the Voyage of the Whaleship Esther | Ethan Rutherford | Maritime/Whaling | FICTION Rutherford
Old School Indian | Aaron John Curtis | Indigenous Culture/Healing Journey | FICTION Curtis
Palaver | Bryan Washington | Queer Relationship/Urban | FICTION Washington

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The River is Waiting | Wally Lamb | Prison/Redemption | FICTION Lamb
Ruth Run | Elizabeth Kaufman | Crime/Cybercrime | FICTION Kaufman
Shadow Ticket | Thomas Pynchon | Cold Case/Hollywood Noir | FICTION Pynchon
So Far Gone | Jess Walter | Kidnapping/Fathers & Daughters | FICTION Walter
Some Bright Nowhere | Ann Packer | Family Secrets/Mothers & Daughters | FICTION Packer
Strange Pictures | Uketsu | Mystery/Japanese | MYSTERY Uketsu
Tilt | Emma Pattee | Disaster/Earthquakes | FICTION Pattee
The True True Story of Raja the Gullible (& His Mother) | Rabih Alameddine | Tragic/Comic | FICTION Alameddine
Twice | Mitch Albom | Second Chances/Regrets | FICTION Albom
Twist | Colum McCann | Tech Infrastructure/Human Condition | FICTION McCann
The Vanishing World | Sayaka Murata | Reproductive Ethics | FICTION Murata
The Wayfinder | Adam Johnson | Historical/Island Cultures | FICTION Johnson
We Do Not Part | Han Kang | Korea/Jeju Massacre | FICTION Han
What We Can Know | Ian McEwan | Tech Impacts/Knowledge | FICTION McEwan
Wild Dark Shore | Charlotte McConaghy | Suspense/Climate/Antarctica | FICTION McConaghy

Best of 2025 | Nonfiction

1929: Inside the Crash That Shaped Modern America | Andrew Ross Sorkin | Economics/U.S. History | 338.54 SOR
A Flower Traveled in My Blood: A Stolen Generation | Haley Cohen Gilliland | Hist/Indigenous Rights | 362.87 COH
A Marriage at Sea: Love, Obsession, and Shipwreck | Sophie Elmhirst | Survival Tale/Marriage | 910.91 ELM
Abundance: The American Dream | Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson | Economics/Current Affairs | 330.973 KLE
Aflame: Learning from Silence | Pico Iyer | Essays/Philosophy | 204.2 IYE
Air-Borne: The Hidden History of the Life We Breathe | Carl Zimmer | Science/Diseases | 614.44 ZIM
The Aviator and the Showman: Amelia Earhart | Laurie Gwen Shapiro | Biography/Aviation | 629.13 SHA
Beast in the Clouds: The Mythical Giant Panda | Nathalia Holt | History/Exploration | 910 HOL
The Book of Flaco: The World's Most Famous Bird | David Gessner | Nature/Owls | 591.75 GES
Book of Lives | Margaret Atwood | Memoir/Author | Biography 920 Atwood
Careless People: A Cautionary Tale | Sarah Wynn-Williams | Memoir/Social Media | 302.32 WYN
The CIA Book Club | Charlie English | History/Espionage | 327.127 ENG
The Coming Wave | Mustafa Suleyman | Technology/AI | 338.476 SUL
Dead and Alive: Essays | Zadie Smith | Essays/Culture | 306 SMI
The Devil Reached Toward the Sky | Garrett M. Graff | History/Atomic | 940.54 GRA
Empire of AI: Sam Altman's AI | Karen Hao | Technology/AI | 006.3 HAO
Everything is Tuberculosis: Our Deadliest Infection | John Green | Science/Diseases | 616.91 GRE
The Haves and Have-Yachts: Dispatches on the Ultrarich | Evan Osnos | Economics/Trends | 361 OSN
How Countries Go Broke | Ray Dalio | Economics/Cycles | 650.1 DAL
The Idaho Four: An American Tragedy | James Patterson & Vicky Ward | Criminal Justice/Murder | 364.155 PAT
If Anyone Builds It, Everyone Dies | Eliezer Yudkowsky & Nate Soares | Technology/AI | 006.3 YUD
It's Only Drowning: A True Story of Learning to Surf | David Litt | Memoir/Life Changes | 797.32 LIT

Best of 2025 | Nonfiction, continued ...

Is a River Alive? Longing for Nature in the Age of Crisis | Robert Macfarlane | Nature/Hum Ecology | 577.64 MAC
Joyride: A Memoir | Susan Orlean | Memoir/Author | Biography 920 Orlean
King of Kings: The Iranian Revolution | Scott Anderson | Biography/Iranian History | 955.05 AND
Lorne: The Man Who Invented Saturday Night Live | Susan Morrison | Bio/Pop Culture | BIOGRAPHY 920 Michaels
Mark Twain: The Improbably Life of Samuel Clemens | Ron Chernow | Biography/Author | BIOGRAPHY 920 Twain
Medicine River: Legacy of Indian Boarding Schools | Mary Annette Pember | Hist/Indigenous Schools | 977 PEM
Memorial Days: A Memoir | Geraldine Brooks | Memoir/Author | Biography 920 Brooks
Mother Mary Comes to Me | Arundhati Roy | Memoir/Cultural Divides | 823.914 ROY
Murderland: In the Time of Serial Killers | Caroline Fraser | Criminal Justice/Serial Killers | 364.152 FRA
No More Tears: Secrets of Johnson & Johnson | Gardiner Harris | Business/Investigative | 338 HAR
Nobody's Girl: Fighting for Justice | Virginia Giuffre | Memoir/Sexual Abuse | 362.764 GIU
Paper Girl: A Memoir of Home and Family | Beth Macy | Memoir/Midwest | 305.562 MAC
Rehab: An American Scandal | Shoshana Walter | Business/Drug Rehab | 362.293 WAL
The River's Daughter: A Memoir | Bridget Crocker | Memoir/River Rafting | 797.121 CRO
The Season | Helen Garner | Sports/Australian Football | 796.33 GAR
Somebody Is Walking on Your Grave | Mariana Enriquez | Travel/Trends | 808.88 ENR
Source Code: My Beginnings | Bill Gates | Memoir/Tech History | BIOGRAPHY 920 Gates
Strangers in the Land: Story of the Chinese in America | Michael Luo | History/Chinese American | 305.895 LUO
Tequila Wars: José Cuervo and the Bloody Struggle | Ted Genoways | History/Mexico | 663.5 GEN
Things in Nature Merely Grow: A Memoir | Yiyun Li | Memoir/Mental Health | 813.6 LI
The Thinking Machine: Nvidia | Stephen Witt | Technology/Microchips | 006.3 WIT
True Nature: The pilgrimage of Peter Matthiessen | Lance Richardson | Bio/Author | BIOGRAPHY 920 Matthiessen
Vagabond: A Memoir | Tim Curry | Memoir/Pop Culture | BIOGRAPHY 920 Curry
We The People: A History of the U.S. Constitution | Jill Lepore | History/Law | 342.73 LEP
We Survived the Night | Julian Brave NoiseCat | Memoir/Indigenous History | 970 NOI
When It All Burns: Fighting Fire in a Transformed World | Jordan Thomas | Env/Fire Science | 634.96 THO
Wildfire Days: A Woman, A Hotshot | Kelly Ramsey | Memoir/Fire Fighting | 363.379 RAM
The Zorg: A Tale of Greed and Murder | Siddharth Kara | History/Seafaring, Slavery | 306.362 KAR

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