

Narratives of Race, Ethnicity, Culture

Lakota woman by Mary Crow Dog

Barefoot heart: Stories of a migrant child by Elva Trevino Hart

Raise up a child: Human development in an African American family by Edith Hudley

Paper daughter: A memoir by M. Elaine Mar (growing up Chinese American and working class in Colorado)

The color of water: A black man's tribute to his white mother by James McBride

Makes me wanna holler: A young black man in America by Nathan McCall

Down these mean streets by Piri Thomas (growing up Puerto Rican in NYC)

When I was Puerto Rican: A memoir by Esmeralda Santiago

The language of blood: A memoir by Jane Jeong Trenka (Korean adoptee raised by German American family in Minnesota)

Bad boys: Public schools in the making of black masculinity by Ann Arnett Ferguson

Always running: La vida loca: Gang days in L.A. by Luis Rodriguez

Monique and the mango rains: Two years with a midwife in Mali by Kris Holloway (cross-cultural experience; friendship btwn.. Peace Corps volunteer and midwife)

A yellow raft in blue water by Michael Dorris (three generations of Native American women)

The bluest eye by Toni Morrison (year in the life of a young African American girl)

Places left unfinished at the time of creation by John Phillip Santos (growing up Mexican American in Texas)

The house on mango street by Sandra Cisneros (growing up Mexican American)

How the Garcia girls lost their accents by Julia Alvarez (adjusting to life in US for four sisters from the Dominican Republic)

Breath, eyes, memory by Edwidge Danticat (coming-of-age for Haitian girl who comes to US at age 12)

The woman warrior: Memoirs of a girlhood among ghosts by Maxine Hong Kingston (growing up Chinese American in California)

Crossing into America: The new literature of immigration by Mendoza and Shankar (editors)(collection of short stories and memoirs of immigration experience)

Narratives of Poverty

Falling through the cracks: AIDS and the urban poor by Victor Ayala

Don't call us out of name: The untold lives of women and girls in poor America by Lisa Dodson

Making ends meet: How single mothers survive welfare and low-wage work by Kathy Edin and Laura Lein

More than bread: Ethnography of a soup kitchen by Irene Glasser

There are no children here: The story of two boys growing up in the other America by Alex Kotlowitz

Amazing Grace: The lives of children and the conscience of a nation by Jonathan Kozol

Mothering inner-city children by Katherine Brown Rosier

Third and Indiana: A novel by Steve Lopez (growing up in the "badlands" section of Philadelphia)

Narratives of Homelessness

No place to be: Voices of homeless children by Judith Berck

Knowing where the fountains are: Stories and stark realities of homeless youth by Kevin Cwayna

Rachel and her children: Homeless families in America by Jonathan Kozol

Tell them who I am: The lives of homeless women by Elliot Liebow

The mole people: Life in the tunnels beneath New York City by Jennifer Toth
Checkerboard square: Culture and resistance in a homeless community by David Wagner

Narratives of Foster Care, Child Welfare, Family Violence, Justice System

True notebooks by Mark Salzman (memoir of writer doing writing class in youth detention facility; complex portraits of gang members)

The woman who walked into doors by Roddy Doyle

Black and Blue: A novel by Anna Quindlen

The heart knows something different: Teenage voices from the foster care system by Al Desetta

Turning stones: My days and nights with children at risk: A caseworker's story by Marc Parent

Tender Mercies: Inside the world of a child abuse investigator by Keith Richard

Life on the outside: The prison odyssey of Elaine Bartlett by Jennifer Gonnerman (challenges of re-entry for one woman and her family; effects of mandatory sentencing)

Hope's boy: A memoir by Andrew Bridge (memoir of growing up in foster care)

The glass castle: A memoir by Jeanette Walls (memoir of resilience, poverty, and family systems)

Bastard out of carolina by Dorothy Allison (child sexual abuse, poverty, rural community)

Flight by Sherman Alexie (Native American youth in foster care)

Narratives of Health, Mental Health, Addiction, and Disability

Imperfect Birds by Anne Lamott (novel about family's struggle with addiction)

Beautiful boy: A father's journey through his son's addiction by David Sheff (memoir)

TWEAK: Growing up on methamphetamines by Nic Sheff (memoir by son)

Broken: My story of addiction and redemption by William Cope Moyers (memoir by son of PBS journalist Bill Moyers)

Mommy doesn't drink here anymore by Rachael Brownell (memoir of recovery)

It will never happen to me by Claudia Black (memoir of growing up with alcoholism/adult children of alcoholics)

Smashed: Story of a drunken girlhood by Karen Zailckas (memoir of college-age drinking)

Drinking: A love story by Caroline Knapp (memoir)

Blackout girl: Growing up and drying out in America by Jennifer Storm (memoir of drug and alcohol addiction and recovery)

Love sick by Sue Silverman (memoir of sex and love addiction)

The spirit catches you and you fall down: A Hmong child, her American doctors, and the collision of two cultures by Anne Fadiman

The boy who was raised as a dog and other stories from a child psychiatrist's notebook: What traumatized children can teach us about loss, love and healing by Bruce Perry

An unquiet mind: A memoir of moods and madness by Kay Redfield Jamison (a psychiatrist's memoir of her struggle with bipolar disorder and how she has helped others)

The man who mistook his wife for a hat and other clinical tales by Oliver Sacks

Look me in the eye: My life with Asperger's by John Elder Robison

The curious incident of the dog in the night-time by Mark Haddon (novel about adolescent with Asperger's)

Daughter of the queen of sheba by Jacki Lyden (growing up with a mother who had bipolar disorder)

My stroke of insight by Jill Bolte Taylor (memoir of neuroscientist who suffered a stroke)

Touching the rock: An experience of blindness by John Hull

Deaf adult speaks out by Leo Jacobs

A loss for words: The story of deafness in a family by Lou Ann Walker (memoir of “hearing” child of deaf parents)
Animaldreams by Barbara Kingsolver (caring for father with Alzheimer’s)
Icy Sparks by Gwyn Hyman Rubio (growing up with Tourette’s syndrome)
The Soloist: A lost dream, an unlikely friendship, and the redemptive power of music by Steve Lopez
Transforming madness: New life for people living with mental illness by Jay Neugeboren
Too late to die young: Nearly true tales from a life by Harriet McBryde Johnson (memoir of political action, disability rights)
Bed number ten by Sue Baier and Mary Schomaker (story of woman in hospital for long-term care)

Narratives of LGBT and Gender Identity

Stranger at the gate: To be gay and Christian in America by Mel White
Rubyfruit jungle by Rita Mae Brown (novel of coming-of-age as lesbian)
Middlesex: A novel by Jeffrey Eugenides (intersexed person in three generations of Greek family)
Stone butch blues by Leslie Feinberg (novel of transgendered experience, religion, class)

Narratives of Aging

As we are now by May Sarton (novel about one woman’s life in a nursing home)
A Reckoning by May Sarton (novel about a woman who receives a terminal diagnosis reviews her life)
Another country: Navigating the emotional terrain of our elders by Mary Pipher
Elder rage or take my father away...please! by Jacqueline Marcell
Number our days: A triumph of continuity and culture among Jewish old people in an urban ghetto by Barbara Myerhoff
Remind me who I am again by Linda Grant (memoir of adult daughter caring for mother with dementia)