

RECOMMENDED NEXT READS

"Dina Nayeri's powerful writing confronts issues that are key to the refugee experience."

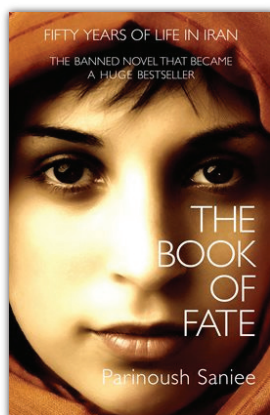
— Viet Thanh Nguyen, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sympathizer* and *The Refugees*

The Ungrateful Refugee explores the refugee experience from flight to resettlement and everything in between. Weaving her own story around those of other asylum seekers from around the globe, Dina Nayeri paints a portrait of immigration with a nuanced humanity that the overarching national conversation often lacks. Here, we've explored unifying themes running throughout her book, and selected additional recommendations around each.

View the full collection here: <https://www.hoopladigital.com/collection/7201>

MIDDLE EASTERN ORIGINS

In the West, while we are familiar with a few Middle Eastern writers, there continues to be a vast gap between the talent having fiction published from that area and the number of titles that make it into the mainstream. Just this year, Jokha Alharthi's *Celestial Bodies** became the first book by an Arabic author to win the Man Booker International Prize, and the first book by a female Omani author to be translated into English. As we anticipate developments like Alharthi's success turning the tide toward a wave of Middle Eastern fiction making its way West, let's take a peek at great titles available in hoopla's catalog right now—with no holds or waits!



THE BOOK OF FATE

A bestselling novel in Iran, despite being banned twice by the government, *The Book of Fate* follows a teenage girl in pre-revolutionary Iran through five turbulent decades, from before the 1979 revolution, through the Islamic Republic, and up to the present in this powerful story of friendship, passion, and hope.

MOON BROW

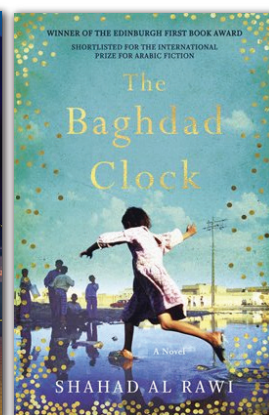
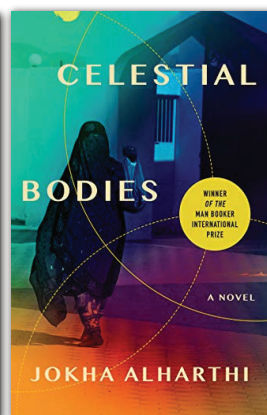
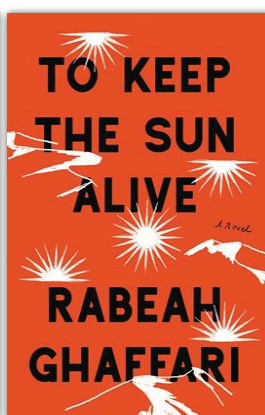
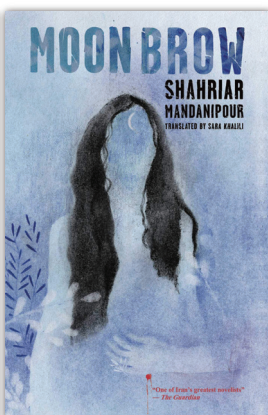
From "one of Iran's most important living fiction writers" (*The Guardian*) comes a fantastically imaginative story of love and war narrated by two angel scribes perched on the shoulders of a shell-shocked Iranian soldier who's searching for the mysterious woman haunting his dreams. Steeped in Persian folklore and contemporary Middle East history, *Moon Brow* is an unforgettable epic.

TO KEEP THE SUN ALIVE

"More than the Iranian revolution, it's a meditation on the nature of stories—the way they shape our lives and the power they have to not only enrich, but sustain us."

—Rachel León, *Chicago Review of Books*

"In her lush and atmospheric debut, author Rabeah Ghaffari sketches a complex portrait of a country on the brink of revolution



and explores the poignant ways political unrest can bind or tear families apart." —*Kirkus Reviews*

CELESTIAL BODIES

"...ambitious, intense...examines the radical changes in Oman over the past century. With exhilarating results, Alharthi throws the reader into the midst of a tangled family drama in which unrequited love, murder, suicide, and adultery seem the rule rather than the exception...The novel rewards readers willing to assemble the pieces of Alharthi's puzzle into a whole, and is all the more satisfying for the complexity of its tale." —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

**Celestial Bodies* will be published in digital formats—and arrive on hoopla!—on October 15th, 2019.

THE BAGHDAD CLOCK

Shortlisted for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction
#1 Bestseller in Iraq, Dubai, and UAE Baghdad

"Shahad Al Rawi brings us into the city of Baghdad in the middle of the Gulf War, where people continue to go about their lives despite the war that is eroding their homes. The story centers on two girls in an air raid shelter and the friendship that blossoms around the stories they tell each other in this book filled with resilience and life."

— *World Literature Today*

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TO BE DISPLACED

Synonyms for displace: dislocate, disturb. The period of transition of displaced people triggers many emotions, fears, and memories—they are dislocated from one place to another, and disturbed of their normal rhythms, routines, sights, and sounds. It is characterized by uncertainty, and these novels explore that period of unknown through the lens of diverse cultures.



A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF HEAVEN

In the tight-knit community known as Heaven, a ramshackle slum hidden between high-rises in Bangalore, five girls on the cusp of womanhood forge an unbreakable bond. Muslim, Christian, and Hindu; queer and straight; whatever they have, they share. Full of life and love, they are determined to transcend their surroundings.

"Faced with bigotry and bulldozers, these girls know exactly what to do...These are girls who save the world."

—Minal Hajratwala, award-winning author of *Leaving India*

WE NEED NEW NAMES

Winner of the PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Fiction
Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize

Despite being a small girl of only ten years old, Darling faces violence daily in her home country of Zimbabwe. This is the unflinching and powerful story of her journey to America: the reality Darling faces upon arrival speaks to the struggle immigrants grapple with when leaving one home to build another in a foreign land.

THE GRINGO CHAMPION

A thrillingly inventive story about crossing borders that the *LA Review of Books* called "one of the must-read books of 2017."

The Gringo Champion is a migrant's story of deracination, loneliness, fear, and finally love, told in a sparkling, innovative prose. It's *Million Dollar Baby* meets *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*: a story of hope that is as topical as it is timeless.

WHAT IS THE WHAT

This epic novel is based on the life of Valentino Achak Deng,

who, along with thousands of other children, was forced to leave his village in Sudan at the age of seven and trek hundreds of miles by foot, pursued by militias, government bombers, and wild animals, crossing the deserts of three countries to find freedom. When he finally resettles in the United States, he finds a life full of promise, heartache, and new challenges.

"Told with humor, humanity, and bottomless compassion for his subject...It is impossible to read this book and not be humbled, enlightened, transformed." —Khaled Hosseini, author of *The Kite Runner*

THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST

New York Times Bestseller Adapted for Film
Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize

Once living the American dream as a Pakistani immigrant in New York, after the devastating events of 9/11, Changez feels a shift in perception by the city and people that welcomed him before. Back in Lahore, where he grew up, Changez meets an American stranger at a café. There his story unfolds to this stranger and his own identity shifts, unearthing allegiances more fundamental than money, power, and maybe even love.

WHEN THE MOON IS LOW

"A must-read saga about borders, barriers, and the resolve of one courageous mother fighting to cross over." — *O, the Oprah Magazine*

When her beloved husband is murdered, Fereiba takes her three children and flees Afghanistan in hopes of reaching safety with her sister in England. The story of her dangerous journey across Europe, and the impossible decisions she must make along the way, is one of survival. Her quest for freedom and the love for her family makes this an emotional page-turner.

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EMPOWERED WOMEN

In our Spotlight book, we learn of Dina Nayeri's own personal journey to America from Iran during the revolution. Nayeri was empowered to write *The Ungrateful Refugee* in response to the changes she saw in the world after her daughter was born in 2015. The following recommendations are inspiring stories of other women who found their own sense of empowerment amidst difficult circumstances and how they overcame trouble in the face of cultural differences, terror, and oppression.



IT WOULD BE NIGHT IN CARACAS

Told with gripping intensity, *It Would Be Night in Caracas* chronicles one woman's desperate battle to survive amid the dangerous, sometimes deadly, turbulence of modern Venezuela—while at the same time grieving the recent death of her mother—and the lengths she must go to secure her future.

"Sainz Borgo renders the psychological and emotional toll of government collapse with both nuance and authority, thrusting the reader into Adelaida's struggle for existence and the stark choices before her...A propulsively written, harrowing story, as desperate as it is timely." —*Kirkus Reviews*

It Would Be Night in Caracas will be published and available on hoopla October 15th, 2019.

THE BRIGHTEST SUN

"This expansive debut from Benson follows the lives of five women over two generations that interconnect in extraordinary circumstances...Benson's depiction of motherhood across circumstances will please readers interested in stories about forging homes in other cultures." —*Publishers Weekly*

"This engrossing narrative offers the experience of engaging and empathizing with cultural differences deeper than unfamiliar customs. It can transport you to Kenya and present the doors of kinship." —Mary Catherine Bateson, author of *Composing a Life*

THE THIRD DAUGHTER

Well-researched novel inspired by true events, *The Third Daughter* brings to light a time in history when sex trafficking of young women from Russia to South America was prevalent. This heart-wrenching story of exploitation and hope tells of a dark

time in Jewish history and gives a voice to those women who had none.

"...an important and unforgettable story of exploitation and empowerment that will leave you both shaken and inspired." —Pam Jenoff, author of *New York Times* bestseller *The Orphan's Tale*

A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS

With heart-wrenching power and suspense, author Khaled Hosseini shows how a woman's love for her family can move her to shocking and heroic acts of self-sacrifice, and that in the end it is love, or even the memory of love, that is often the key to survival. Set in Afghanistan, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is a haunting, heartbreaking, compelling story of an unforgiving time, an unlikely friendship, and an indestructible love.

"[Hosseini] has taken the last 33 years of that country's tumultuous history of war and oppression and told it on an intimate scale, through the lives of two women." —*The New York Times*

IF I HAD TWO LIVES

An inspiring meditation on love, loss, and the presence of a past that never dies, this novel explores the ancient question: do we value the people in our lives because of who they are, or because of what we need them to be?

"An engrossing tale of a Vietnamese woman without a country and the double life of an immigrant who must return to the place she fled to confront her memories." —*International Examiner*

"...one of those rare novels that will linger in the mind and memory long after the book itself is finished..." —*Midwest Book Review*

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AMERICAN ARRIVALS

While immigrants find themselves seeking refuge in places all over the world for various reasons, this particular collection introduces immigrants arriving in America and their experiences as they navigate their new country, a new culture, and the inner conflict between assimilation and sentimentality for their previous lives and lands.



THE LEAVERS

Finalist for the National Book Award for Fiction
Past hoopla Book Club Spotlight Selection

Set in New York and China, *The Leavers* is a vivid examination of borders and belonging. It is a moving story of how a boy comes into his own when everything he loves is taken away, and how a mother learns to live with the mistakes of the past.

"...a vivid fictional exploration of what it means to belong and what it feels like when you don't...an unsparing portrait of the resilience and grit it takes to risk everything to break free of tradition and start over in a foreign land."—*O, The Oprah Magazine* (Favorite Books of 2017)

AMERICAN STREET

A National Book Award Finalist and *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year

American Street is an evocative and powerful coming-of-age story, in which Pushcart-nominated author Ibi Zoboi draws on her own experience as a young Haitian immigrant, infusing this lyrical exploration of America with magical realism and vodou culture.

THE SYMPATHIZER

Winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

The Sympathizer is all at once a blistering exploration of identity and America, a gripping espionage novel, and a powerful story of love and friendship.

"A layered immigrant tale told in the wry, confessional voice of a 'man of two minds'—and two countries, Vietnam and the United States."—Pulitzer Prize Citation

AMERICA FOR BEGINNERS

A funny, poignant, and insightful debut novel that explores the complexities of family, immigration, prejudice, and the American Dream through meaningful and unlikely friendships forged in unusual circumstances.

"...a humorous and heartfelt excursion into the promise that America represents, to both natives and immigrants, and an emotional examination of what that promise means in practice."—*Booklist*

THE NAMESAKE

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author comes a story of one Indian family from Calcutta and their transition to Cambridge, Massachusetts. The couple's struggles with assimilation become more prominent when they are deciding what to name their new American-born son. This story of identity for both the first and second-generation immigrants is "Dazzling...An intimate, closely observed family portrait."—*The New York Times*

**The Namesake* will be available on hoopla in eBook from October 1 - December 31, 2019.

PATSY

Expertly evoking the jittery streets of New York and the languid rhythms of Jamaica, *Patsy* weaves between the lives of Patsy and Tru in vignettes spanning more than a decade as mother and daughter ultimately find a way back to one another.

"...ingeniously humanizes and changes up the typical immigrant saga...a knowing, at times painfully funny novel about the disorienting relationship between selfhood and sacrifice."—*O, The Oprah Magazine*

SHORT STORIES & TRUE TALES

In *The Ungrateful Refugee*, Dina Nayeri tells her own true story as well as collecting the experiences of others, for a moving nonfiction compendium. Inspired by our Spotlight, here we've curated not only complementary nonfiction, but fictional short stories offering a similar level of insight into a wide range of different cultures and difficult transitional experiences.



HOMES

Finalist for the 2018 Governor General's Literary Award for Nonfiction

"In this scary moment in our collective history...*Homes* is essential reading."—Chuck Comeau of Simple Plan, on why he chose *Homes* to be a Canada Reads 2019 contender

Homes is Abu Bakr Al Rabeeah's account of the strange juxtapositions of growing up in a war zone: horrific, unimaginable events punctuated by normalcy—soccer, cousins, video games, friends. The remarkable true story of how a young boy emerged from the heart of conflict—and found safety in Canada—lived by Abu Bakr and transcribed by writer Winnie Yeung, this necessary book provides a window into understanding Syria.

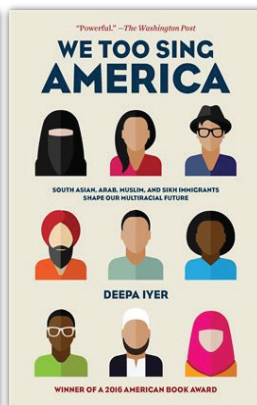
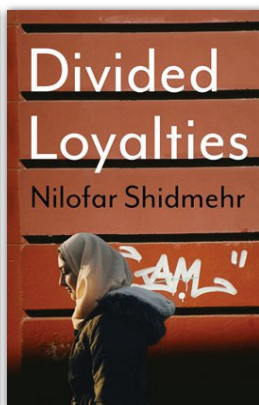
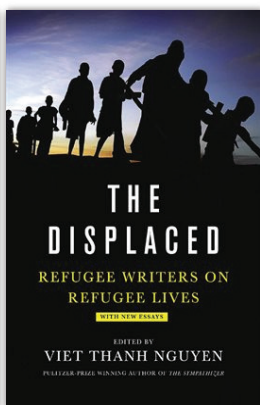
THE DISPLACED

Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sympathizer* Viet Thanh Nguyen called on 17 fellow refugee writers from across the globe to shed light on their experiences, and the result is *The Displaced*, a powerful dispatch from the individual lives behind current headlines.

DIVIDED LOYALTIES

"*Divided Loyalties* should be required reading."—Refinery29

Acclaimed poet Nilofar Shidmehr's debut story collection is an unflinching look at the lives of women in post-revolutionary Iran and the contemporary diaspora in Canada. With a style at once straightforward and nuanced, the author's insight into familial and romantic relationships is undeniable; Shidmehr has been compared to Dionne Brand and Pablo Neruda.



WE TOO SING AMERICA

Winner of the Before Columbus Foundation's American Book Award

We Too Sing America is nationally renowned racial justice advocate Deepa Ayer's illumination of the ongoing persecution of a range of American minorities. Reframing the discussion of race in America, Ayer "reaches into the complexities of the many cultures that make up South Asia" (*Publishers Weekly*) and provides ideas from the front lines of post-9/11 America.

USEFUL PHRASES FOR IMMIGRANTS

"The eight stories in this collection contain multitudes. Chai...grants each character with the gift of a gleaming voice, rendering them to be shaped by circumstances, while also transcending them...more than merely useful, this is essential reading and I'm honored to choose this book for the Bakwin Award."—Tayari Jones, author of *An American Marriage*, *Silver Sparrow*, *The Untelling*

Characterized by a lively and wise juxtaposition, May-lee Chai's stories explore a complex blend of cultures spanning China, the Chinese diaspora in America, and finally, the world at large. With luminous prose and sharp-eyed observations, Chai reveals her characters' hopes and fears, and our own.

