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## RECOMMENDED NEXT READS *Libertie*

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The #1 Indie Next Pick for April!

A March LibraryReads Selection

**"This *pièce de résistance* is so immaculately orchestrated that each character, each setting, and each sentence sings." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred and boxed review**

Kaitlyn Greenidge, the critically acclaimed author of *We Love You, Charlie Freeman*, returns with an unforgettable story rich in history and poetic beauty, inspired by the life of one of the first Black female doctors in the US. This coming-of-age

tale of *Libertie* Sampson, the daughter of a freeborn Black woman, explores the meaning of freedom, as relevant today as it was in the late 1860s.

View the full collection here: <https://www.hoopladigital.com/collection/12573>



### HISTORICAL BLACK FICTION

There is much to be read about the history of slavery in the United States and that of the Reconstruction era. This deep wound in our nation's past has left a lasting impression on our nation today. Greenidge weaves much of this very history into her latest novel. This collection features other amazing stories of historical fiction that have come before *Libertie* to share with the generations of today what slavery was like and what hardships were endured in a not-so-distant yesterday.

#### **THE KNOWN WORLD** BY EDWARD P. JONES

**"The *Known World* is a great novel, one that may eventually be placed with the best of American Literature."**

—*San Diego Union-Tribune*

*The Known World* seamlessly weaves the lives of the freed and the enslaved—and allows all of us a deeper understanding of the enduring multidimensional world created by the institution of slavery.

#### **CHASING THE NORTH STAR** BY ROBERT MORGAN

**"A powerful, gripping, and unrelenting tale of wilderness survival under the most dire of circumstances in the pursuit of freedom: another outstanding work of historical fiction from Morgan." —*Kirkus Reviews***

Bristling with breathtaking adventure, *Chasing the North Star* is deftly grounded in historical fact yet always gripping and poignant. The story follows Jonah and Angel through the close calls and narrow escapes of a fearsome world. It is a celebration of the power of the human spirit to persevere in the face of great adversity.

#### **KINDRED** BY OCTAVIA BUTLER

Instant #1 *New York Times* Bestseller

Winner of the 2018 Eisner Award for Best Adaptation from Another Medium

More than 35 years after its release, *Kindred* continues to draw in new readers with its deep exploration of the violence and loss of humanity caused by slavery in the United States, and its complex and lasting impact on the present day. Adapted by celebrated academics and comics artists Damian Duffy and John Jennings, this graphic novel powerfully renders Butler's mysterious and moving story, which spans racial and gender divides in the antebellum South through the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **PASSING** BY NELLA LARSEN

Restless Classics presents the ninetieth anniversary edition of an undersung gem of the Harlem Renaissance: Nella Larsen's *Passing*,



a captivating and prescient exploration of identity, sexuality, self-invention, class, and race set amidst the pealing boisterousness of the Jazz Age.

#### **THE GOOD LORD BIRD** BY JAMES MCBRIDE

Winner of the National Book Award for Fiction

Now a Showtime limited series starring Ethan Hawke and Daveed Diggs

An absorbing mixture of history and imagination, and with McBride's meticulous eye for detail and character, *The Good Lord Bird* is both a rousing adventure and a moving exploration of identity and survival.

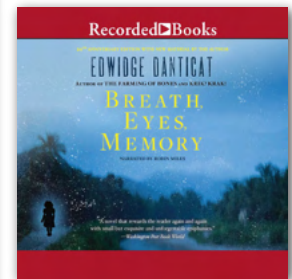
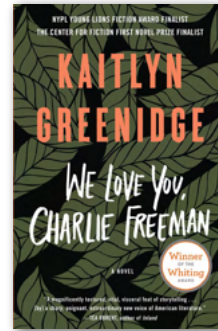
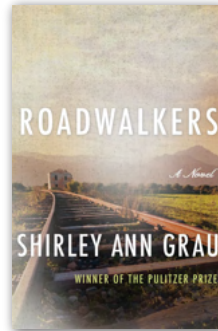
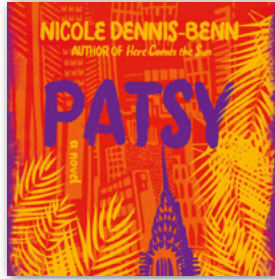
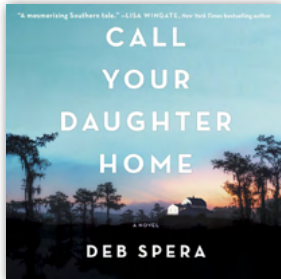
#### **THE INVENTION OF WINGS** BY SUE MONK KIDD

From the celebrated author of *The Secret Life of Bees*, a magnificent novel about two unforgettable American women. Sue Monk Kidd presents a masterpiece of hope, daring, the quest for freedom, and the desire to have a voice in the world. This exquisitely written novel is a triumph of storytelling that looks with unswerving eyes at a devastating wound in American history, through women whose struggles for liberation, empowerment, and expression will leave no reader unmoved.

CONTINUED ➞

## MOTHER & DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIPS

Libertie has always known that her mother would like her to follow in her footsteps and become a doctor so they can practice together. However, Libertie has no desire to be a doctor. Throughout the novel, Libertie struggles to find herself amid the pressures of her mother's oppressive dream. These exceptional novels also explore the complexity of mother-daughter relationships.



### **CALL YOUR DAUGHTER HOME** BY DEB SPERA

Three Southern women seemingly have nothing in common, yet as they unite to stand up to the terrible injustices that have long plagued their small town, they find strength in the bond that ties women together. Told in the pitch-perfect voices of Gertrude, Retta, and Annie, *Call Your Daughter Home* is an audacious, timeless story about the power of family, deep-buried secrets, and the ferocity of motherhood.

### **PATSY** BY NICOLE DENNIS-BENN

**Best Books of 2019: Washington Post • O, The Oprah Magazine • Time • NPR • People • BuzzFeed**

A beautifully layered portrait of motherhood, immigration, and the sacrifices we make in the name of love from award-winning novelist Nicole Dennis-Benn.

### **ROADWALKERS** BY SHIRLEY ANN GRAU

Told from the perspective of both mother and daughter, *Roadwalkers* is the story of a special bond forged by savage history, and a tale of extraordinary loyalty and sacrifice. From a National Book Award finalist and Pulitzer Prize winner, it is "a bold novel [that] seduces us with its vigorous prose, enthalls us with its narrative—and disquiets us with its defiance of our expectations".

—*New York Times Book Review*

### **WE LOVE YOU, CHARLIE FREEMAN** BY KAITLYN GREENIDGE

**"A vivid and poignant coming-of-age story that is also an important exploration of family, race, and history."**  
— *Kirkus Reviews*

What appears to be a story of mothers and daughters, of sisterhood put to the test, of adolescent love and grown-up misconduct, and of history's long reach becomes a provocative and compelling exploration of America's failure to find a language to talk about race.

### **BREATH, EYES, MEMORY** BY EDWIDGE DANTICAT

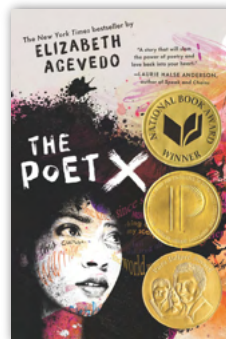
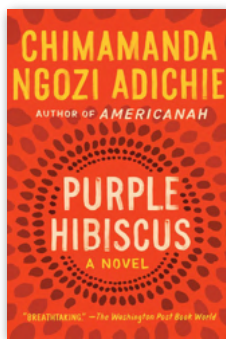
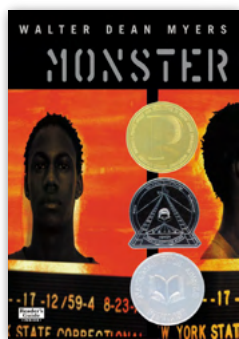
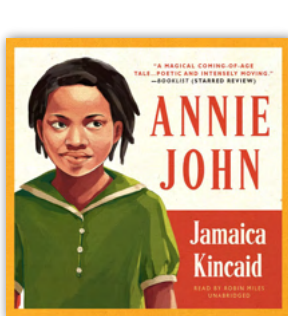
**"A distinctive new voice with a sensitive insight into Haitian culture distinguishes this graceful debut novel...In simple, lyrical prose enriched by an elegiac tone and piquant observations, [Danticat] makes Sophie's confusion and guilt, her difficult assimilation into American culture and her eventual emotional liberation palpably clear."** — *Publishers Weekly*

At an astonishingly young age, Edwidge Danticat has become one of our most celebrated new novelists, a writer who evokes the wonder, terror, and heartache of her native Haiti—and the enduring strength of Haiti's women—with a vibrant imagery and narrative grace that bear witness to her people's suffering and courage.



## COMING OF AGE

*Libertie* recounts the coming of age of the title character, a free Black girl in New York who grows up with a strong sense of female power, in awe of her mother's gifts but uncertain of her own path. The protagonists in these great titles face similar struggles to discover who they are against a backdrop of racism, colorism, classism, and sexism.



### **ANNIE JOHN** BY SHILPI SOMAYA GOWDA

*"So touching and familiar it could be happening to any of us...and that's exactly the book's strength, its wisdom, its truth."* — *New York Times Book Review*

A classic coming-of-age story in the tradition of *The Catcher in the Rye* and *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. *Annie John* focuses on a universal, tragic, and often comic theme: the loss of childhood. Annie's voice, urgent, demanding to be heard, is one that will not soon be forgotten.

### **MONSTER** BY WALTER DEAN MYERS

**\*also available as a graphic novel**

This *New York Times* bestselling novel from acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers tells the story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial. Presented as a screenplay of Steve's own imagination, and peppered with journal entries, the book shows how one single decision can change our whole lives.

### **PURPLE HIBISCUS** BY CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

In Nigeria, Kambili and her brother appear privileged. However, their father, a religious zealot, is tyrannical. When the siblings are sent to their aunt's near the university, they are happily exposed to a different world. A searing debut, *Purple Hibiscus* is an exquisite novel about the emotional turmoil of adolescence, the powerful bonds of family, and the bright promise of freedom.

### **THE POET X** BY ELIZABETH ACEVEDO

**Winner of the National Book Award for Young People's Literature**

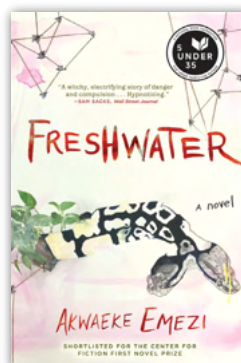
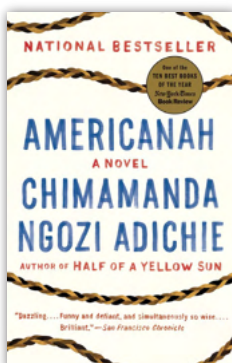
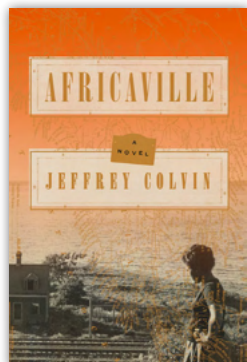
In this debut novel from renowned slam poet Elizabeth Acevedo, a young girl in Harlem discovers slam poetry as a way to understand her mother's religion and her own relationship to the world. *The Poet X* explores themes as diverse as growing up first-generation American, Latinx culture, sizeism, music, burgeoning sexuality, and the power of the written and spoken word.

### **THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD** BY ZORA NEALE HURSTON

One of the most important and enduring books of the twentieth century, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos found only in the writing of Zora Neale Hurston. The novel follows Janie Crawford as she wades through three turbulent marriages toward a state of financial and emotional independence.

## AFRICAN DIASPORA

The African Diaspora is the dispersal and resettlement of Africans to other nations, like the settlement of *Libertie's* family in New York and Emmanuel's family in Haiti. This list contains the enthralling stories of African-descended people who settled in Britain, Canada, and the United States. Despite being free from slavery, these characters are confined by the consequences of the past and the prejudices of the present.



### **AFRICAVILLE** BY JEFFREY COLVIN

This stunning debut is a richly woven tapestry set in a small Nova Scotia town settled by former slaves, which depicts several generations of one family bound together and torn apart by blood, faith, time, and fate. As it explores notions of identity, passing, cross-racial relationships, the importance of place, and the meaning of home, *Africaville* tells the larger story of the Black experience in parts of Canada and the United States.

### **AMERICANAH** BY CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

Kin is a time-traveling agent from the year 2142 who gets stuck in 1990s San Francisco after a botched mission. His rescue team shows up 18 later, after he's already built a life for himself, leaving Kin to deal with the circumstances of time travel and the consequences it brings.

### **DANCE OF THE JAKARANDA** BY PETER KIMANI

Set in the shadow of Kenya's independence from Great Britain, *Dance of the Jakaranda* reimagines the special circumstances that brought Black, brown, and white men together to lay the railroad that heralded the birth of the nation. The novel is firmly anchored in the African oral storytelling tradition, its language a dreamy, exalted, and earthy mix that creates new thresholds of identity, providing a fresh metaphor for race in contemporary Africa.

### **FRESHWATER** BY AKWAEKE EMEZI

An extraordinary debut novel, *Freshwater* explores the surreal experience of having a fractured self. It centers on a young Nigerian woman, Ada, who develops separate selves within her as a result of being born "with one foot on the other side." Unsettling, heart-wrenching, dark, and powerful, *Freshwater* is a sharp evocation of a rare way of experiencing the world, one that illuminates how we all construct our identities.

### **THIS LOVELY CITY** BY LOUISE HARE

In Hare's engrossing debut, a young Jamaican man's promising new life in post-World War II London threatens to unravel after he becomes a suspect in the death of a mixed-race infant. Toggling between 1948 and 1950, Hare's absorbing narrative builds a compelling portrait of immigrants struggling to belong to a country that needs but doesn't really want them. But even in the face of anger and fear, there is always hope.