Adult Fiction Titles

Leslye Penelope. The Monsters We Defy. c2022
In this heist tale and historical fantasy set during the summer of 1925, along Washington, DC’s “Black Broadway,” a malevolent entity has begun preying on residents. Clara Johnson, 23, is determined to discover what’s going on in her community by using her ability to talk to spirits.

Margaret Wilkerson Sexton. On the Rooftop. c2022
In 1950s San Francisco, three sisters work to fulfill their mother’s dream for their stardom as singing group The Salvations, the talk of Jazz-era Fillmore. But all around Fillmore, white men in suits are approaching neighborhood property owners with offers. And now the sisters will have to confront the parts of their lives that threaten to splinter—the community, The Salvations, and even their family.

Louise Hare. Miss Aldridge Regrets. c2022
Part Agatha Christie-esque murder mystery and part historical romance, this novel from British writer Hare centers on Lena Aldridge, a mixed-race twenty-six-year-old aboard the Queen Mary in 1936 on her way to New York. At a time unforgiving of her true racial heritage, she passes for white and gets entangled with her table-mates, a wealthy white family of New Yorkers who begin dying off.

Wanda M. Morris. Anywhere You Run. c2022
In this thriller, two sisters run away in different directions from Jim Crow Mississippi—Violet after she kills a white man who attacked her and Marigold because she’s unmarried and pregnant. But someone sinister is tracking them both.

Mecca Jamilah Sullivan. Big Girl. c2022
Growing up in gentrifying Harlem during the 1980s and 90s, a young girl is impacted by other people’s judgments on her weight.

Jocelyn Nicole Johnson. My Monticello. c2021
The characters in this story collection traverse Virginia’s landscapes, still stained by some of America’s most heinous acts, in pursuit of a place to call home.

Afia Atakora. Conjure Women. c2020
Moving back and forth in time between the years before and after the Civil War, this novel tells the story of a plantation midwife and healer, the families she cares for, and the mysteries and secrets she knows about the plantation owner’s daughter.

Adult Non-Fiction Titles

Miles, Tiya. All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley’s Sack, a Black Family Keepsake. c2021
Traces the history of a treasured cloth keepsake known as Ashley’s Sack that was passed down from a Black slave to her descendants, to its current location in the Smithsonian.

Terry, Bryant. Black Food: Stories, Art, and Recipes from Across the African Diaspora. c2021
James Beard Award-winning chef Bryant Terry reveals the depth of Black culinary creativity and the breadth of the African diaspora by compiling recipes, essays, artwork, and poetry from more than 100 Black cultural figures.

Angelou, Maya. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. c1969
Growing up black in the American South, a young girl overcomes her suffering by learning that love for herself, the kindness of others, and her own strong spirit, allows her to be free instead of imprisoned.

Blyden, Prof. Nemata, et al. The Black History Book. c2021
Captures the rich history of Black culture in an easy-to-follow, encyclopedic format. For readers of all levels.

Nikole Hannah-Jones et al., eds. The 1619 Project: a New Origin Story. c2021
Our national narrative is more accurately told if we begin not on July 4, 1776, but in late August of 1619, when a ship arrived in Jamestown bearing a cargo of 20 to 30 enslaved people from Africa.

A chorus of 80 extraordinary voices tell the epic story of the 400-year history of African Americans from 1619 to the present.