



SUMMER READING LIST 2026

FATHER'S DAY GIFTS

London Falling

{4.65 Stars}

by Patrick Radden Keefe

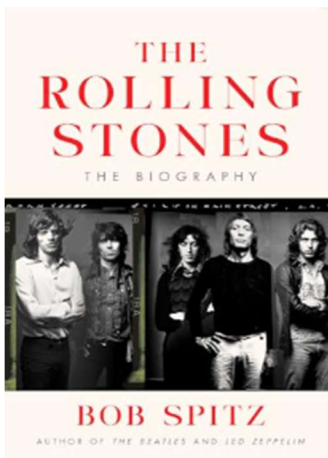


In the early morning hours of November 29th, 2019, a young man named Zac Brettler jumped from a balcony overlooking the Thames near MI6 headquarters, but to his grieving parents, Rachelle and Matthew, the official verdict of suicide never quite added up. Only after his death did they discover that Zac had been living a secret life under a fictitious alter-ego, entangled with a slippery London businessman and a murderous gangster known as "Indian Dave," moving through a glamorous and dangerous underworld of dirty money and corruption that his family never knew existed. In *London Falling*, Patrick Radden Keefe chronicles the Brettlers' relentless quest for answers with breathtaking reporting, peeling back layers of mystery to expose the seedy truths beneath London's glittering surface, while crafting an intimate, deeply poignant portrait of parents determined to understand not just how their son died, but who he really was.

The Rolling Stones

{4.50 Stars}

by Bob Spitz

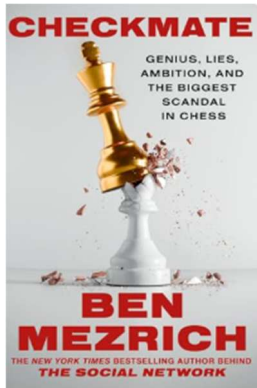


All great music is a threat. Bob Spitz brings five decades of experience in rock 'n' roll to a sweeping reexamination of one of popular music's greatest stories, correcting the record on the conventional narrative while connecting readers to a creative force whose power shows no signs of fading over sixty years on. At its heart, this is the story of two boys — Mick and Keith — and their unique, fraught, alchemical bond, never broken despite decades of tension, dark corners, and a surprising number of deaths along the way. Whether Jagger and Richards squeezed their heroes for every drop of inspiration or simply found magic no one else could, their connection to their music and to each other puts them in a category of one, where they very much remain.

Checkmate: Genius, Lies, Ambition, and the Biggest Scandal in Chess

{4.25}

by Ben Mezrich

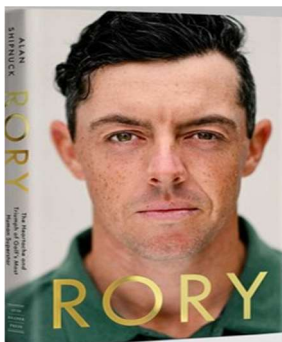


From bestselling author Ben Mezrich, *Checkmate* tells the true story of the biggest scandal in modern chess: when nineteen-year-old American prodigy Hans Niemann defeated world champion Magnus Carlsen in 2022, Carlsen accused him of cheating, triggering a global media firestorm and a high-stakes investigation by Chess.com. More than a cheating scandal, the book explores a teenager's ruthless climb to the top, a reclusive genius defending his legacy, and a centuries-old game transformed into a billion-dollar industry by streaming, sponsorships, and Silicon Valley — all told with exclusive access to the central figures.

Rory The Heartache and Triumph of Golf's Most Human Superstar

{4.2}

by Alan Shipnuck

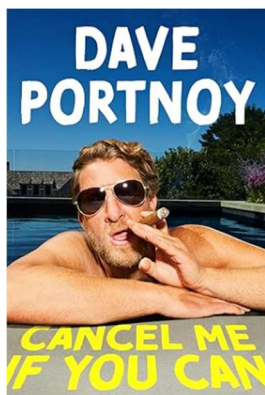


Rory McIlroy contains multitudes. Drawing on thirty years on the golf beat, Alan Shipnuck traces McIlroy's evolution from a young phenom in war-torn Northern Ireland to a game-changing force on and off the golf course, capturing every heartbreak and triumph with thrilling immediacy and unparalleled access. From his 2025 Masters victory that completed the career Grand Slam, to tabloid romance, bitter business disputes, and divisive politicking, Shipnuck goes deep into the personal history of golf's most vulnerable superstar, a man of deep complexity and contradictions. at a time when the spotlight on Rory has never been brighter.

Cancel Me if You Can - Release date: June 30, 2026

TBD

by David Portnoy



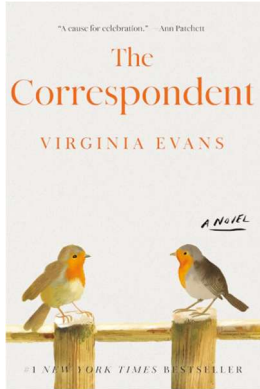
Dave Portnoy is a gambler. Starting in 2004 with a four-page broadsheet newspaper passed out across Boston, Portnoy built Barstool Sports into a nine-figure media empire by giving fans something raw, local, and unapologetic. He has failed publicly and personally. He has launched into sports betting, made enemies across the internet, and could not care less. Why? Because he already knows what it's like to lose everything and start over. In *Cancel Me If You Can*, Portnoy lays it all out, the hard work, the luck, the poisonous relationships behind the curtain, and the nerve it took to get here. This is not a memoir or a business book, it is another bet on himself.

FICTION

The Correspondent

By Virginia Evans

{4.51 Stars}

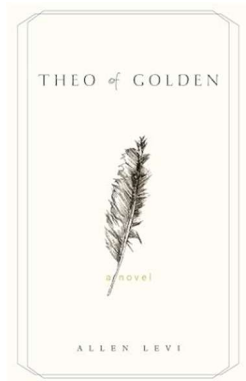


In her bestselling debut novel, Virginia Evans introduces Sybil Van Antwerp, a retired lawyer in her 70s whose wit, wounds, and hard won wisdom unspool entirely through her letters and emails. Sybil's story unfolds through correspondence with family, friends, and the occasional stranger. *The Correspondent* is a quietly powerful story about grief, forgiveness, and the unexpected possibility of love later in life. Part page-turner, part emotional gut-punch, this word of mouth phenomenon proves that the most extraordinary stories are sometimes found in the most ordinary exchanges.

Theo of Golden

By Allen Levi

{4.55 Stars}

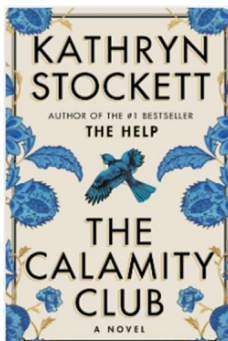


When a pleasant but mysterious stranger named Theo arrives in the southern city of Golden one spring, questions follow him everywhere. Who is he, and why is he here? A chance visit to a coffee shop displaying 92 framed pencil portraits sets him on a quiet mission: purchasing each one and returning it to its rightful owner. What unfolds is a beautifully crafted story about the stories we carry, the friendships we least expect, and the extraordinary ripple effect of anonymous kindness on an ordinary life.

The Calamity Club

by Kathryn Stockett

{4.55}

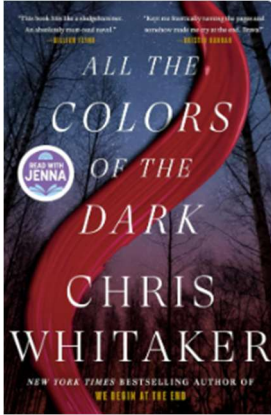


Set in 1933 Oxford, Mississippi, where Prohibition is fading and the Great Depression is squeezing everyone, *The Calamity Club* follows three unforgettable women — spirited orphan Meg, outspoken Birdie, and fierce, fire-driven Charlie — whose unlikely paths converge in an audacious plan to reclaim their lives and dignity. Together they form a sisterhood that will be tested by a world rife with hypocrisy and danger, in a novel that blends laughter, tears, and triumphant resilience. From Kathryn Stockett, beloved author of *The Help*, this is a heartfelt, hilarious celebration of female friendship and the calamities that spark new beginnings.

All the Colors of the Dark

{4.24}

by Chris Whitaker

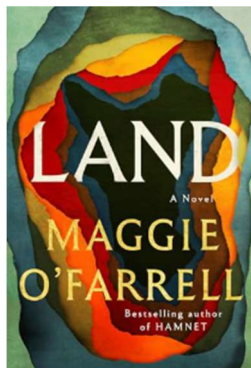


In the waning days of the Vietnam War, as Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier trade blows in the ring, something far darker is unfolding in the quiet town of Monta Clare, Missouri, where young girls have begun to vanish without a trace. A local boy named Patch becomes an unlikely savior when he rescues the daughter of a prominent family, yet the act carries consequences that ripple through everyone who cares for him, blurring the line between heroism and heartbreak as they chase answers that threaten to tear them apart. Weaving together the threads of a disappearance mystery, a serial killer thriller, and a tender love story, Chris Whitaker crafts a gripping tale that explores the darkness hiding beneath obsession and the fierce, fragile power of hope.

Land

{4.50}

by Maggie O'Farrell

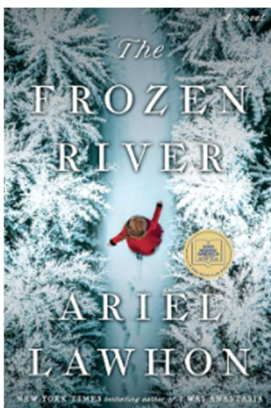


On a windswept Irish peninsula in 1865, Tomás and his young son Liam are working on the great Ordnance Survey project to map a country still scarred by the Great Hunger, until a mysterious encounter in a copse sends Tomás spiraling and leaves ten-year-old Liam alone to finish the work and find his way home. *Land* is a spellbinding story of separation, longing, recovery, and survival, and the enduring truth that when it comes to both land and history, nothing ever truly disappears.

The Frozen River

{4.37}

by Ariel Lawhon



In Maine in 1789, midwife and healer Martha Ballard is summoned to examine a man found entombed in the frozen Kennebec River, and what she discovers sets off a scandal that will upend her entire community. Martha had already documented in her diary an alleged rape committed by two of the town's most respected gentlemen, one of whom now lies dead in the ice, and when a local physician overrules her findings and declares the death an accident, she is left to investigate the murder alone. Clever, layered, and subversive, Ariel Lawhon's *The Frozen River* is a thrilling and tender portrait of an unsung heroine who refused to accept anything less than justice based on the remarkable true story of Martha Ballard, an 18th century midwife whose courage and meticulous record-keeping preserved a truth that history nearly forgot.

Sharp Force

Patricia Cornwell

{4.10}

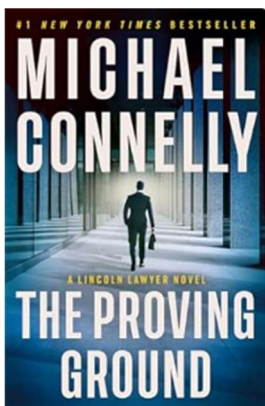


A serial killer known as the Phantom Slasher has terrorized Northern Virginia for six months, appearing and vanishing without a trace - disabling victims' WiFi, attacking them in their beds, and leaving no leads for those desperately pursuing him. When Dr. Kay Scarpetta is jolted awake on her birthday to learn the Slasher has struck again on Mercy Island, leaving two victims and, for the first time, one survivor, the case takes a chilling turn. Witnesses report a ghostly figure in black levitating through the fog near each crime scene. An apparition with a technical explanation so unsettling it has caught the attention of the CIA and the White House. Now it's up to Scarpetta to stop the Phantom Slasher before they vanish again, leaving nothing behind but blood.

The Proving Ground

By Michael Connelly

{4.53}

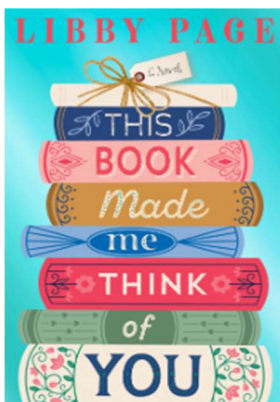


When a sixteen-year-old boy is encouraged by an AI chatbot to kill his ex-girlfriend, Mickey Haller, the Lincoln Lawyer, steps out of criminal court for the first time to take on a civil lawsuit that he treats as nothing less than a murder trial, determined to prove the tech company behind it knew exactly how dangerous its creation was. Teaming up with journalist Jack McEvoy, whose deep understanding of AI's looming power proves invaluable, Haller uncovers a whistleblower in hiding just as the tech titans behind the chatbot begin using their vast resources to buy or bully their way out of accountability. With billions of dollars and countless lives hanging in the balance, what unfolds is an all-or-nothing courtroom battle that could change everything.

This Book Made Me Think of You

by Libby Page

{4.36}



When Tilly Nightingale gets a call that her late husband Joe has left her a birthday gift at her local bookshop, five months after his death, she is completely blindsided. The gift is twelve carefully chosen books, one for each month of her first year without him, each one nudging her toward a new adventure. As Tilly travels the world and vlogs her journey, her story takes on a life of its own, drawing a devoted following along for the ride. With the help of Alfie, the warm-hearted bookshop owner, and the people who love her most, Tilly begins to wonder if a year of books might just teach her how to love again.

The Bones at Point No Point

{4.23}

by D.D. Black



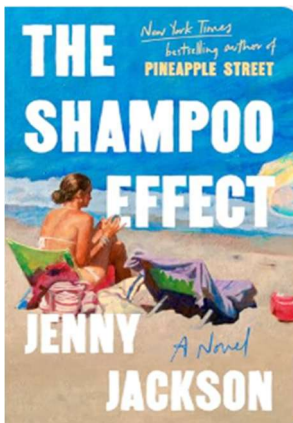
How do you catch a killer who's already behind bars?

Thomas Austin was once a star NYPD detective who put away the psychopathic Holiday Baby Butcher. Now he is retired to a small beach town, running a café and grieving the wife he lost just a year ago. When a mysterious bag of bones washes up on a nearby beach, Austin is dragged back into law enforcement for one last job, chasing what appears to be a copycat killer - except the closer he gets, the more unsettling the similarities become. Now Austin must confront the darkness of his past to hunt a killer as twisted as any America has ever seen, and when the truth finally reveals itself, it is a twist so shocking it threatens everything he has left, including his life.

The Shampoo Effect

{4.11}

by Jenny Jackson

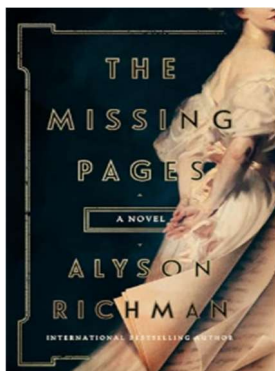


When Caroline Lash arrives in the small coastal town of Greenhead, Massachusetts, she falls for Van Whittaker and finds herself entangled with his tight-knit circle of lifelong friends - his beautiful ex Bailey, snobbish Augusta, and no-nonsense Fran - who spend their days drinking on houseboats, sunbathing, and playing the same games they always have. But when Bailey discovers she's pregnant with Van's baby, Caroline is cast out of the group, and what she does next, driven by fury and heartbreak, exposes long-buried secrets and throws the entire town into chaos. Dazzlingly funny and deliciously sharp, *The Shampoo Effect* is a novel about love, money, sex, and friendship, and a group of old friends finally being forced to grow up.

The Missing Pages

{4.10}

by Alyson Richman

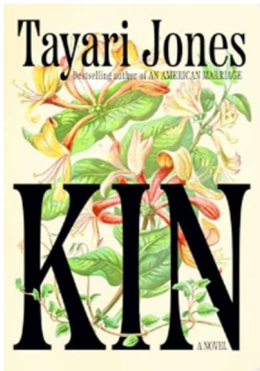


From international bestselling author Alyson Richman, this novel weaves together a love story, a ghost story, and an elegy to the healing power of books — beginning when young Harry Widener boards the Titanic with a priceless volume he's just acquired in London, never to be seen again after the disaster, prompting his mother to build Harvard's iconic Harry Widener Memorial Library in his honor. Decades later, Violet Hutchins, a Harvard sophomore processing her own grief while working as a page at the library, begins to wonder if Harry's ghost is reaching out through mysteriously falling books and pages opening on their own — eager to share the missing pieces of his story from beyond the grave.

KIN

by Tayari Jones

{4.32 Stars}

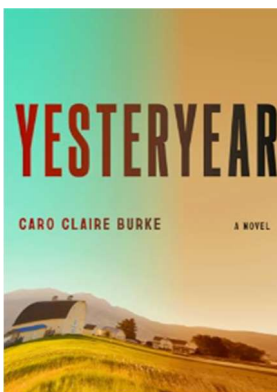


Vernice and Annie grew up side by side in Honeysuckle, Louisiana - two motherless daughters bound by friendship and the particular ache of absence. But their paths couldn't be more different: Vernice, steadied by a fierce and loving aunt, leaves for Spelman College and builds a life among a sisterhood of powerful women, while Annie, abandoned by a mother she can't stop searching for, sets off on a journey that pulls her through peril, adventure, and a battle for her very life. Rich, exuberant, and emotionally unforgettable, *Kin* is a sweeping novel about mothers and daughters, friendship and sisterhood, and what it means to be a woman in the American South.

Yesteryear The Heartache and Triumph of Golf's Most Human Superstar

by Caro Claire Burke

{4.01}



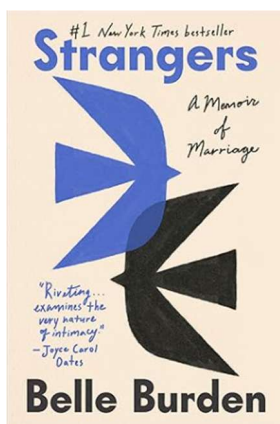
In *Yesteryear*, Natalie Heller Mills has built the perfect life: a charming farmhouse, a handsome husband, six beautiful children, and eight million followers who tune in daily to watch her live the ultimate traditional lifestyle, blissfully unaware of the nannies, producers, and industrial appliances carefully hidden behind the curated facade. Natalie wakes up one morning to find her familiar world suddenly, terrifyingly real - fires instead of electricity, dirty children, a husband who actually knows how to farm, and fingers raw from hauling wood and washing clothes by hand. She is forced to confront the possibility that she has somehow landed in 1855, with no Instagram, no escape hatch, and no idea whether she is the victim of an elaborate hoax, a ruthless reality show, or something far more sinister. Darkly funny, gripping, and razor-sharp, this sensational debut is a wildly original look at tradition, faith, fame, and the carefully constructed performance of modern womanhood and what happens when the curtain comes crashing down.

NON-FICTION & BIOGRAPHIES

Strangers: A Memoir of Marriage

{4.33 Stars}

by Belle Burden

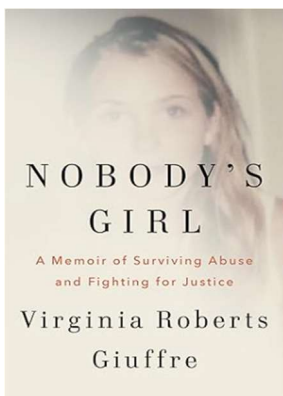


In March 2020, Belle Burden was riding out the early days of the pandemic with her family on Martha's Vineyard when her husband of twenty years walked out without warning or explanation, exiting their life together like an actor shrugging off a costume. In *Strangers*, Burden revisits her marriage with unflinching honesty, searching for clues she missed while reckoning with her own family history and the unspoken rules she would absorb about how a woman is expected to behave in the face of betrayal. What emerges is a stunning and compulsively readable memoir about transformation and the story of how "Belle the Good" gave way to someone braver, someone who refused to give up on love, and found her voice in the wreckage.

Nobody's Girl: A Memoir of Surviving Abuse and Fighting for Justice

{4.54 Stars}

by Virginia Roberts Giuffre

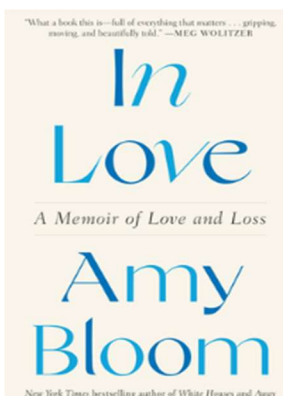


The world knows Virginia Roberts Giuffre as Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell's most outspoken victim. She is the woman whose courage helped send both abusers to prison and whose photograph with Prince Andrew catalyzed his fall from grace. Her full story, in her own words, has never been told until now. Written in the years before her death in April 2025, *Nobody's Girl* is an unsparing account of the molestation she suffered as a child, her trafficking at the hands of Epstein and Maxwell, her daring escape at nineteen, and the remarkable courage it took to rebuild her life and fight for other victims. Equal parts intimate and fierce, it is a powerful testament to an unshakable will and a legacy preserved forever on the page.

In Love: A Memoir of Love and Loss

{4.26}

by Amy Bloom

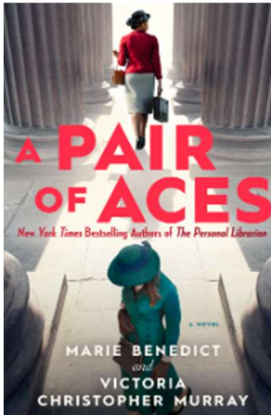


When Amy Bloom began noticing troubling changes in her husband Brian - an early retirement, withdrawal from friends, a growing distance she couldn't bridge - an MRI confirmed what they could no longer ignore: Brian had Alzheimer's disease. Determined to die on his feet rather than live on his knees, Brian and Amy made the unimaginably painful decision to travel to Dignitas in Switzerland, where he could end his life with dignity and peace. Written with Bloom's trademark wit and candor, *In Love* is a heartbreaking and boundary defying memoir about a beautiful marriage, a courageous farewell, and one woman's struggle to find her way forward in the face of profound loss.

A Pair of Aces

{4.24}

by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray

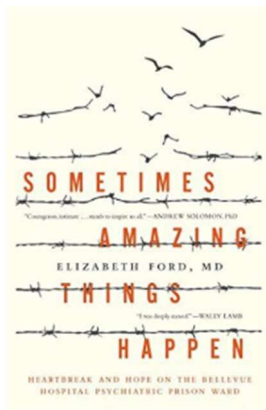


A gripping tale of two trailblazing women on opposite sides of the law, this novel from the New York Times bestselling authors of *The Personal Librarian* follows Eunice Carter, Manhattan's first Black female prosecutor, and Polly Adler, the city's most notorious madam. They join forces to take down Lucky Luciano, the powerful head of New York City's five largest organized crime families. Where other prosecutors had failed by targeting Luciano's traditional criminal enterprises, Eunice sees an angle no one else has considered: his grip on prostitution. It is through Polly, whose high-class brothel empire has finally been pushed too far by Luciano's dangerous overreach, that she finds her unlikely partner. Together, the two women bridge a vast social divide and risk their lives to quietly assemble evidence piece by piece, building a network of women witnesses right under Luciano's nose and ultimately igniting the most sensational trial New York City has ever seen.

Sometimes Amazing Things Happen: Heartbreak and Hope on the Bellevue Psychiatric Prison Ward

{3.99}

by Elizabeth Fort



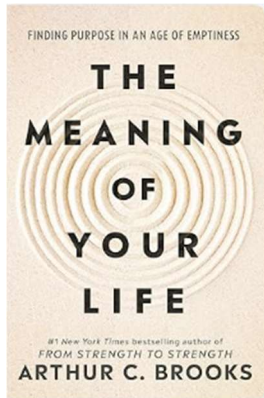
When Elizabeth Ford discovered her calling in psychiatry, she threw herself into caring for one of the most vulnerable and overlooked populations imaginable: the severely mentally ill inmates of New York's jails, sent to the Bellevue Hospital Prison Ward when they were too sick to be held anywhere else. Broken, without resources, and often unpredictable, these men also awakened in Ford a boundless compassion that made her a better doctor, a better mother, and a better person. In this revelatory and deeply compassionate memoir, Ford shares her struggle to balance marriage, motherhood, and an emotionally exhausting workload while maintaining the empathy essential to her practice, all while illuminating, with humor and grace, the profound failings of our mental health, justice, and prison systems.

SELF-HELP, MENTAL HEALTH & RELATIONSHIPS

The Meaning of Your Life

by Arthur C. Brooks

{4.38 Stars}



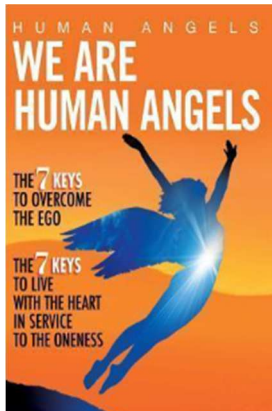
Your life does have meaning – and you can find it.

In *The Meaning of Your Life*, social scientist and happiness expert Arthur Brooks tackles a question that has never felt more urgent: “what is the meaning of my life?”. As modern society and technology rewire our brains, a growing sense of emptiness, especially among young people, is making genuine purpose harder to find than ever. With compassion and evidence-based strategies, Brooks provides a practical roadmap for rediscovering meaning, offering tools to rewire your thinking and a new vocabulary for your deepest desires. The question “what is the meaning of my life?” is not unanswerable, and this book is your essential guide for the journey.

We are Human Angels

by Human Angels

{4.09}



Are you a human angel?

If you have always felt out of place, overwhelmed by your sensitivity, or quietly certain that you were born for a greater purpose, *We Are Human Angels* was written for you. Across fourteen transformative chapters divided into two parts, “The 7 Keys to Overcome the Ego” and “The 7 Keys to Live with the Heart in Service to the Oneness”, this course guides you step by step toward understanding your true nature, managing your intensity, and using your gifts in service to others. What you once carried as a burden, you will come to recognize as your wings — and this global phenomenon, now translated into numerous languages entirely through the passionate word of mouth of its readers, will show you how.

Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at the Table

{4.31}

by Louie Giglio

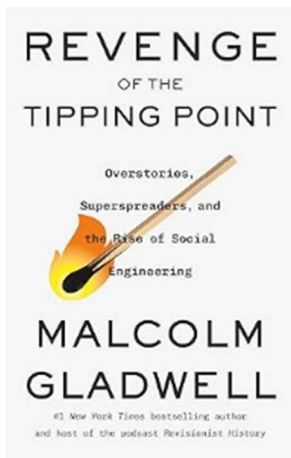


In *Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table*, bestselling pastor Louie Giglio offers a practical and deeply personal guide to winning the battle that rages in the mind: the relentless stream of fear, worry, anxiety, insecurity, and self-doubt that can quietly take hold and crowd out peace. Giglio reveals how to recognize the lies that take root in our thinking, how to resist them, and how to reclaim the mental and spiritual space that negativity so easily occupies. For anyone who has ever felt overwhelmed by destructive thoughts or trapped by their own inner landscape, this book offers both biblical grounding and practical tools to find encouragement, hope, and strength in even the most challenging circumstances and to experience the freedom that comes from choosing truth over the Enemy's lies.

Revenge of the Tipping Point

{4.02}

by Malcolm Gladwell

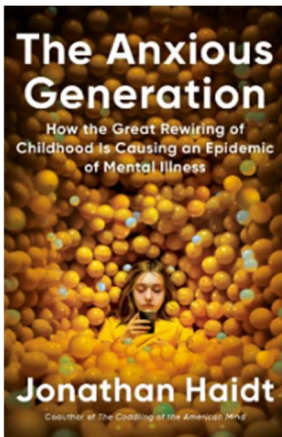


Twenty-five years after *The Tipping Point* changed the way we think about social change, Malcolm Gladwell returns to the subject with *Revenge of the Tipping Point*. This time he explores its darker side. Through a series of riveting stories spanning bank robbers in Los Angeles, a forgotten 1970s television show that quietly reshaped culture, and alternate histories of both COVID and the opioid crisis, Gladwell traces the rise of a troubling form of social engineering and asks why certain ideas, behaviors, and crises spread the way they do. With his trademark blend of storytelling and social science, he introduces new frameworks, including the concept of the Magic Third and its implications for racial harmony, that reframe contagion not just as a force for good, but as something we ignore at our peril. His most personal book yet, *Revenge of the Tipping Point* is a timely and provocative call to take seriously the invisible forces that shape our world.

The Anxious Generation

by Jonathan Haidt

{4.30}

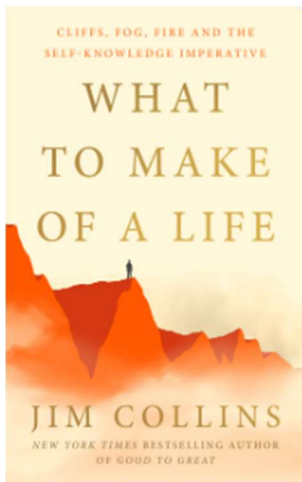


After more than a decade of relative stability, adolescent mental health took a dramatic turn for the worse in the early 2010s, with rates of depression, anxiety, self-harm, and suicide more than doubling across many countries. In *The Anxious Generation*, social psychologist Jonathan Haidt makes a compelling case for why this is happening. Drawing on extensive research, Haidt argues that the shift from a play-based childhood to a phone-based one has fundamentally rewired the way young people develop socially and neurologically, interfering with everything from sleep and attention to their capacity for connection and resilience. He examines why social media proves particularly damaging for girls, why boys are retreating from the real world into virtual ones, and how well-meaning but overprotective parenting compounded the crisis by stripping children of the independent exploration they need to grow. But Haidt doesn't stop at diagnosis - he offers a clear, actionable path forward, with concrete steps for parents, schools, tech companies, and governments to help restore a healthier, more humane childhood. For anyone raising, teaching, or caring about the next generation, this is essential reading.

What to Make of a Life

by Jim Collins

{4.00}



What to make of a life?

What does it take to build a deeply fulfilling life, to find your purpose, survive the fracture points that force you to start over, and keep your inner fire burning decade after decade? Driven by relentless curiosity, Jim Collins spent a decade studying these questions, analyzing the pivotal moments when life flips from clarity to confusion and examining the divergent paths taken by remarkable people at their most critical crossroads: rock musicians, public figures, suffragists, Olympic athletes, writers, scientists, and leaders. What emerges is a powerful framework for understanding how a life can be built, sustained, and constantly renewed, with Collins movingly sharing his own story for the first time to reveal how this project transformed him. Surprising, story-driven, and deeply researched, *What to Make of a Life* is an uplifting and convincing case that a richly fulfilled life is within reach of us all.

BUSINESS

The Art of Spending Money: Simple Choices for a Richer Life

{4.13}

by Morgan Housel

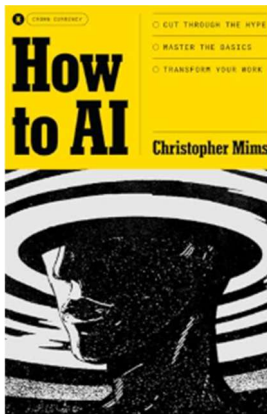


In *The Art of Spending Money*, award-winning author Morgan Housel, bestselling author of *The Psychology of Money* and *Same as Ever*, offers a refreshingly practical and psychologically grounded approach to wealth. Housel argues that money can and should buy happiness, but that most of us fail to unlock its potential by spending on the wrong things or avoiding investments in our own wellbeing. Rather than cookie-cutter financial advice, Housel explores the deeper complexities surrounding money: envy, identity, social aspiration, and insecurity. He provides tools to align expectations with income, avoid common spending traps, and embrace the radical idea that the fastest way to build wealth is by going slow.

How to AI: Cut Through the hype. Master the Basics. Transform Your Work.

{4.6}

by Christopher Mims



Far from something to fear, AI is simply software, remarkably capable in some areas, still limited in others. For workers willing to experiment and build expertise, it promises greater productivity, creativity, job security, and income. In *How to AI*, Wall Street Journal columnist Christopher Mims introduces readers to people already thriving at this frontier, from a freelance lawyer with a tireless AI assistant, to a small contractor automating bids that once consumed hundreds of hours, while also speaking directly to the millions who have lingered on the sidelines, unsure where to start or how to bring others along. Drawing on the wit and clarity that have earned his columns a devoted following, Mims distills his guidance into twenty-four eye-opening "laws". Among these laws, a notable one being that AI is an assistant not a replacement, that it cannot create finished products but excels at prototypes. Also, Mims indicates that the smartest move is to hand it your least favorite tasks. This book leaves readers with everything they need to embrace AI with confidence and purpose.

Your Next Five Moves: Master the Art of Business Strategy

{4.04}

by Alan Shipnuck

"Patrick is one of the most exciting thinkers I've had a chance to converse with."
-RAY DALIO, author of Principles: Life and Work

Your Next Five Moves

Master the Art of
Business Strategy



Patrick Bet-David
with Greg Dinkin

In *Your Next Five Moves*, Patrick Bet-David, founder of the wildly popular Valuetainment brand and one of today's most dynamic entrepreneurial thinkers, translates the strategic mindset of chess grandmasters and successful business leaders into a practical, actionable framework for anyone looking to think more clearly and achieve their most ambitious professional goals. Drawing on his own journey to becoming a successful CEO, Bet-David walks readers through how to gain clarity on what they truly want, build the right team around strong values, develop winning strategies for both good times and bad, and master the art of leverage and power in the boardroom. Whether you feel stuck, have lost your momentum, or are simply hungry to take your business to the next level, *Your Next Five Moves* offers the kind of sharp, no-nonsense guidance that serious executives, strategists, and entrepreneurs can put to work immediately.