

Black History Month Reading Recommendations | Libraries

02/22/2023

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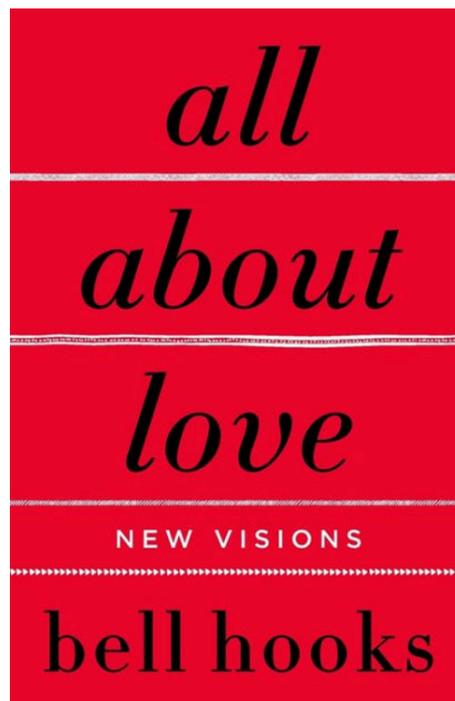
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Black History Month Reading Recommendations

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Enrich your education with books by Black authors available to check out from USU Libraries. The following list is a mix of print and eBook, fiction and non-fiction, and all available in our collection. All descriptions from publishers.

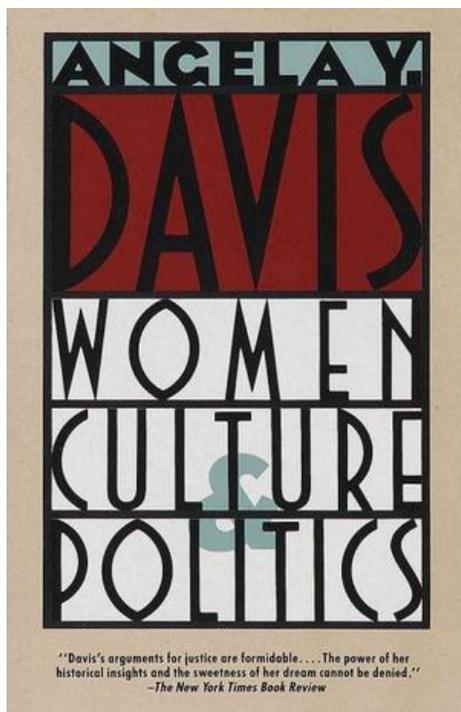
Non-Fiction



***All About Love* by bell hooks**

A New York Times bestseller and enduring classic, *All About Love* is the acclaimed first volume in feminist icon bell hooks' "Love Song to the Nation" trilogy. *All About Love* reveals what causes a polarized society, and how to heal the divisions that cause suffering. Here is the truth about love, and inspiration to help us instill caring, compassion, and strength in our homes, schools, and workplaces.

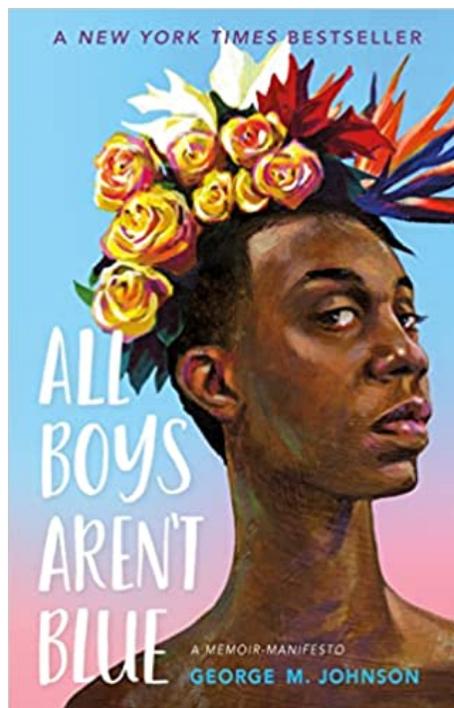
[Ebook available through Overdrive/Libby.](#)



***Women, Culture, and Politics* by Angela Y. Davis**

A collection of speeches and writings by political activist Angela Davis which address the political and social changes of the past decade as they are concerned with the struggle for racial, sexual, and economic equality.

Print copy available through the Merrill-Cazier Library.

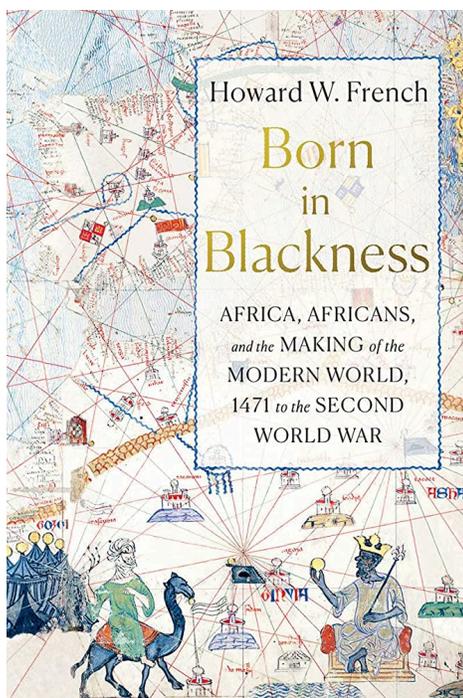


***All Boys Aren't Blue: A Memoir-Manifesto* by George M. Johnson**

In a series of personal essays, prominent journalist and LGBTQIA activist George M. Johnson explores his childhood and adolescence growing up as a gay black man.

Print copy available through USU Eastern

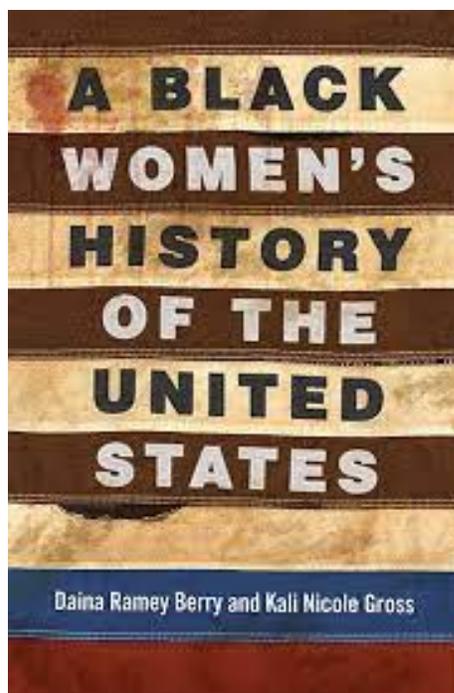
Print copy coming soon to the Merrill-Cazier Library



***Born in Blackness: Africa, Africans, and the making of the modern world, 1471 to the Second World War* by Howard W. French**

Revealing the central yet intentionally obliterated role of Africa in the creation of modernity, *Born in Blackness* vitally reframes our understanding of world history. In a sweeping narrative that traverses 600 years, one that eloquently weaves precise historical detail with poignant personal reportage, Pulitzer Prize finalist Howard W. French retells the story of medieval and emerging Africa, demonstrating how the economic ascendancy of Europe, the anchoring of democracy in America, and the fulfillment of so-called Enlightenment ideals all grew out of Europe's dehumanizing engagement with the "darkest" continent.

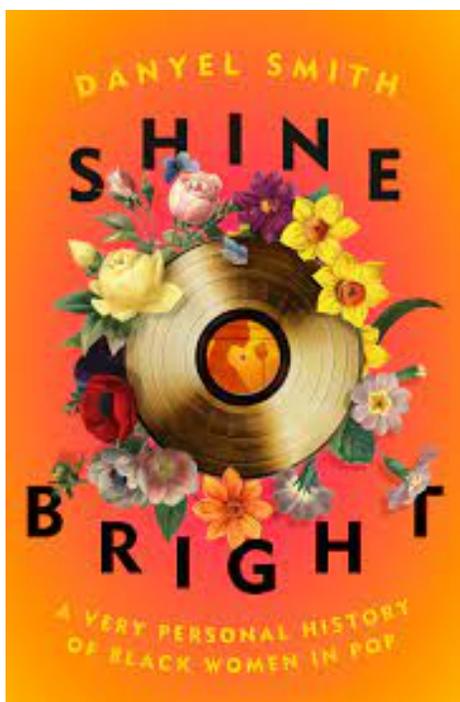
[Print Copy Available through Merrill-Cazier Library](#)



***A Black Women's History of the United States* by Daina Ramey Berry and Kali Nicole Gross**

An empowering and intersectional history that centers the stories of African American women across 400+ years, showing how they are—and have always been—instrumental in shaping our country.

[Ebook available online](#)

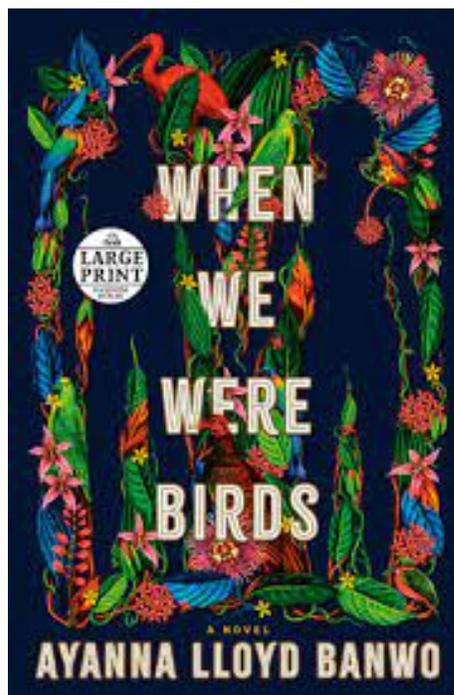


***Shine Bright: A Very Personal History of Black Women in Pop* by Danyel Smith**

American pop music is arguably this country's greatest cultural contribution to the world, and its singular voice and virtuosity were created by a shining thread of Black women geniuses stretching back to the country's founding. This is their surprising, heartbreaking, soaring story.

[Print copy available through the Merrill Cazier-Library](#)

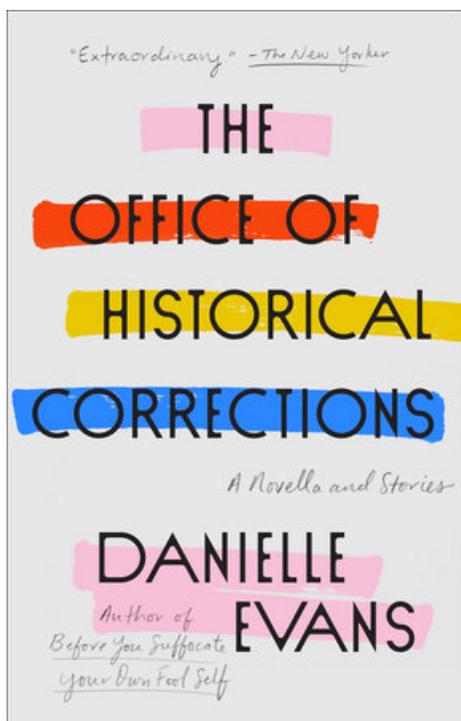
Fiction



***When We Were Birds* by Ayanna Lloyd Banwo**

A mythic love story set in Trinidad, Ayanna Lloyd Banwo's radiant debut is a masterwork of lush imagination and exuberant storytelling—a spellbinding and hopeful novel about inheritance, loss, and love's seismic power to heal.

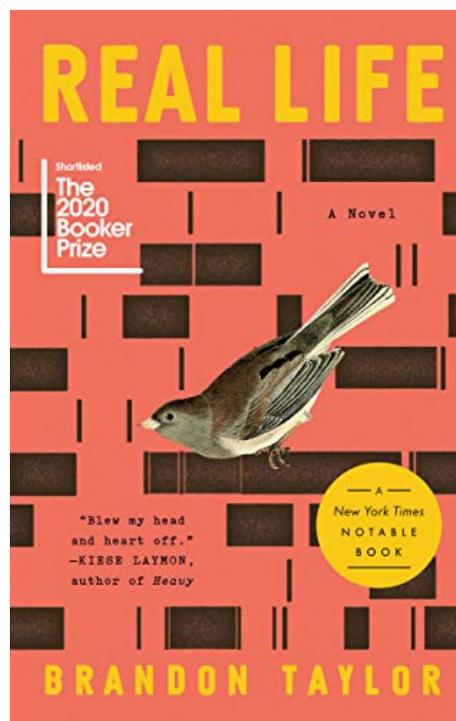
[Ebook available online](#)



***The Office of Historical Corrections* by Danielle Evans**

Danielle Evans is widely acclaimed for her blisteringly smart voice and X-ray insights into complex human relationships. With *The Office of Historical Corrections*, Evans zooms in on particular moments and relationships in her characters' lives in a way that allows them to speak to larger issues of race, culture, and history. She introduces us to Black and multiracial characters who are experiencing the universal confusions of lust and love, and getting walloped by grief—all while exploring how history haunts us, personally and collectively. Ultimately, she provokes us to think about the truths of American history—about who gets to tell them, and the cost of setting the record straight.

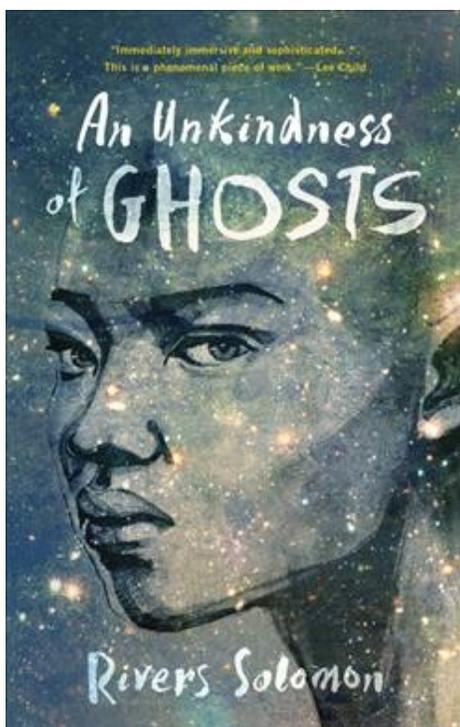
[Ebook available online](#)



***Real Life* by Brandon Taylor**

Almost everything about Wallace is at odds with the Midwestern university town where he is working uneasily toward a biochem degree. An introverted young man from Alabama, black and queer, he has left behind his family without escaping the long shadows of his childhood. For reasons of self-preservation, Wallace has enforced a wary distance even within his own circle of friends—some dating each other, some dating women, some feigning straightness. But over the course of a late-summer weekend, a series of confrontations with colleagues, and an unexpected encounter with an ostensibly straight, white classmate, conspire to fracture his defenses while exposing long-hidden currents of hostility and desire within their community.

[Print copy available through the Merrill-Cazier Library](#)

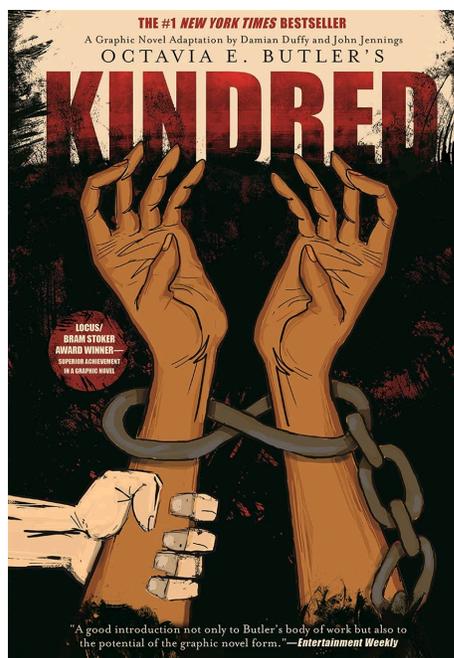


***An Unkindness of Ghosts* by Rivers Solomon**

Aster has little to offer folks in the way of rebuttal when they call her ogre and freak. She's used to the names; she only wishes there was more truth to them. If she were truly a monster, she'd be powerful enough to tear down the walls around her until nothing remains of her world.

Aster lives in the lowdeck slums of the HSS *Matilda*, a space vessel organized much like the antebellum South. For generations, *Matilda* has ferried the last of humanity to a mythical Promised Land. On its way, the ship's leaders have imposed harsh moral restrictions and deep indignities on dark-skinned sharecroppers like Aster. Embroiled in a grudge with a brutal overseer, Aster learns there may be a way to improve her lot—if she's willing to sow the seeds of civil war.

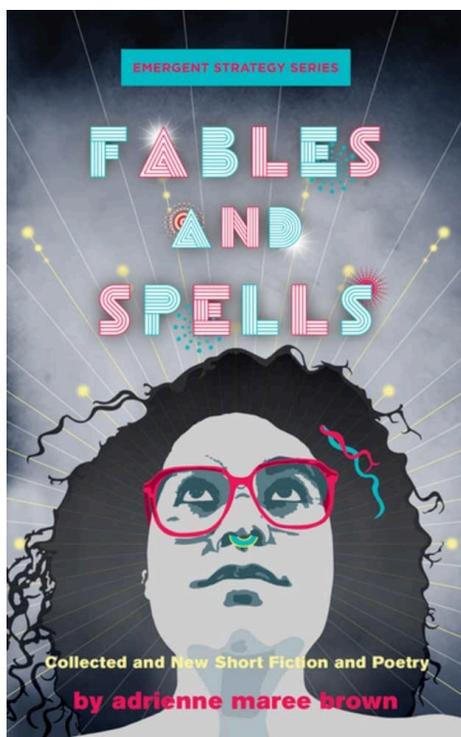
[Print copy available through the Merrill-Cazier Library](#)



***Kindred* by Octavia E. Butler; a graphic novel adaptation by Damian Duffy and John Jennings**

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 20th century. Butler's most celebrated, critically acclaimed work tells the story of Dana, a young black woman who is suddenly and inexplicably transported from her home in 1970s California to the pre-Civil War South. As she time-travels between worlds, one in which she is a free woman and one where she is part of her own complicated familial history on a southern plantation, she becomes frighteningly entangled in the lives of Rufus, a conflicted white slaveholder and one of Dana's own ancestors, and the many people who are enslaved by him.

[Ebook available online](#)



***Fables and Spells: Collected and New Short Fiction and Poetry* by adriennemaree brown**

Fables and Spells is a vibrant selection of visionary works, both previously published and brand new. Included here is brown's most beloved story, "The River," as well as the two sequel tales of her Water Trio. The remaining sixty-seven pieces explore moments of beauty, conflict, and transformation that also weave deep, radical lessons. With narrative "fables" of speculative fiction and "spells" that play with the lines between poetry, instruction, song, and chant, Fables and Spells demonstrates how good writing can engage the present while providing expansive visions of the possible worlds humans can build.

[Ebook available online](#)