

# *LiisBeth*

**PRESENTS**

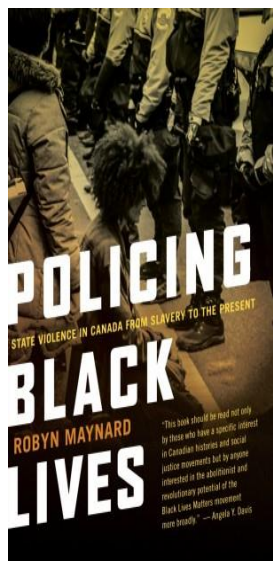


PUBLISHED JUNE 20, 2020

## **ANTI-BLACK RACISM READING LIST**

[WWW.LIISBETH.COM](http://WWW.LIISBETH.COM)

## On anti-Black racism in Canada



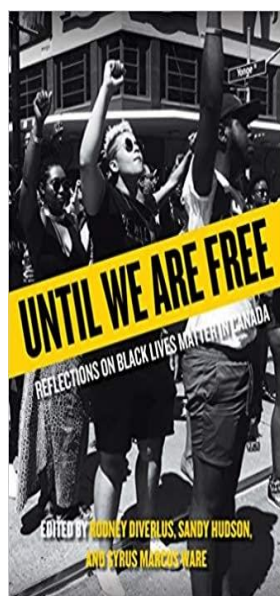
### *Policing Black Lives by Robyn Maynard*

Policing Black Lives is a comprehensive account of nearly four hundred years of state-sanctioned surveillance, criminalization and punishment of Black lives in Canada, perpetuated through systems of unemployment, racial profiling, law enforcement violence, incarceration, immigration detention, among others.

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*Lana Pesch and Francesca DaCosta commit to read.*



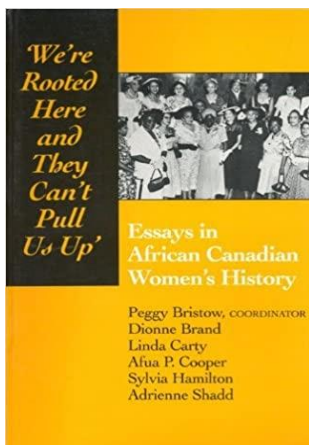
### *Until We Are Free: Reflections on Black Lives Matter in Canada*

Authors: Rodney Diverlus, Sandy Hudson, and Syrus Marcus Ware  
Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement that took flight in the States in 2012, *Until We Are Free* documents and discusses some of the most important issues facing the Black community in Canada. It describes the latest developments in Canadian Black activism, organizing efforts through social media, Black-Indigenous alliances, and more.

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*Petra Kassün-Mutch commits to read.*



## ***"We're Rooted Here and They Can't Pull Us Up": Essays in African Canadian Women's History***

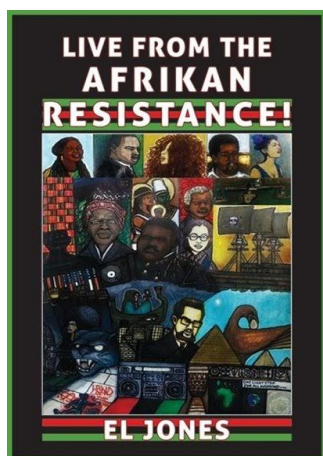
Edited by Peggy Bristow

From early slaves, Loyalists and modern immigrants in Nova Scotia, the lives of Black women in Buxton and Chatham, Ontario, and the relations between Black women and the Canadian state, the six essays collected in *We're Rooted Here and They Can't Pull Us Up* explore three hundred years of Black women in Canada.

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***Margaret Webb commits to read.***

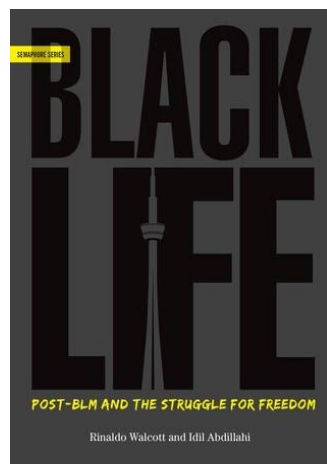


## ***Live from the Afrikan Resistance! By El Jones***

*Live from the Afrikan Resistance!* is the first collection of spoken word poetry by Halifax's fifth Poet Laureate, El Jones. The poems are inspired by and stem from the political culture of African Nova Scotia and explore historical themes and analyze contemporary issues such as racism, poverty and violence.

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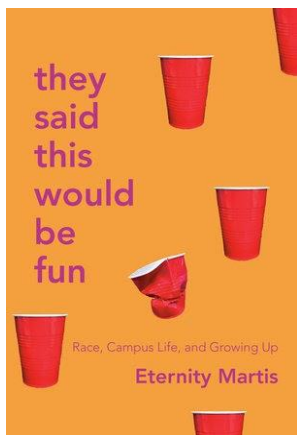
## ***BlackLife: Post-BLM and the Struggle for Freedom by Rinaldo Walcott and Idil Abdillahi***

In *BlackLife*, Abdillahi and Walcott navigate local history and contemporary culture, exploring new avenues into potential new lives and a more livable reality of Black life.

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***Meral Jamal commits to read.***



## ***They Said This Would Be Fun: Race, Campus Life, and Growing Up by Eternity Martis***

Through personal accounts of her time as an undergraduate student at Western University, Martis talks about being one of the few students of colour and its impact on the way she experienced campus life. From encounters with white students at blackface parties, racial slurs and unwanted labels, Martis talks about finding herself and finding strength in other women of colour.

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***Margaret Webb and Meral Jamal commit to read.***



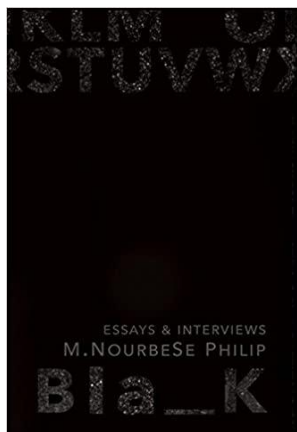
## ***Things Are Good Now by Djamila Ibrahim***

*Things Are Good Now* shares the stories of men, women and children who left their homes, moving countries and continents in search of a better life, and the physical, emotional and spiritual struggles that came with it. Spanning East Africa, the Middle East, the United States, and Canada, Ibrahim documents the migrant experience and how it shapes the relationships migrants have with their homes, with other people, and with themselves.

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***Jack Jackson commits to read.***



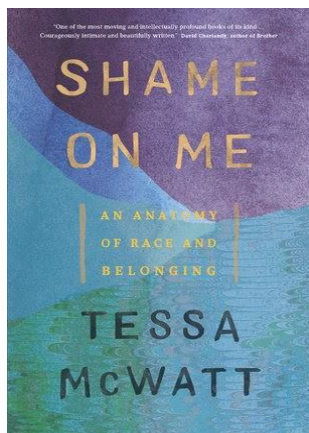
## ***Blank: Essays and Interviews by M. NourbeSe Philip***

*Blank* is a collection of previously out-of-print essays and new works. In it, Philip explores the idea of repetition and the role it plays in race, art, politics and the multicultural nation.

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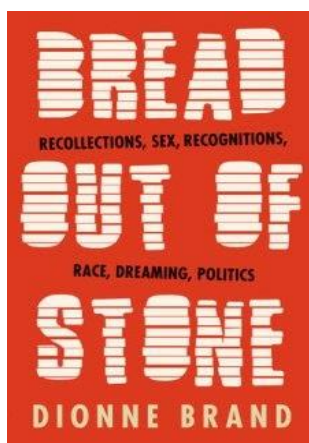
## ***Shame on Me: An Anatomy of Race and Belonging by Tessa McWatt***

In *Shame on Me*, McWatt explores race, history and identity in a supposedly "post-racial" world where shade-ism, fear of blackness, identity politics and call-out culture creates a sense of confusion about where one belongs.

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*Geraldine Cahill and Jack Jackson commit to read.*



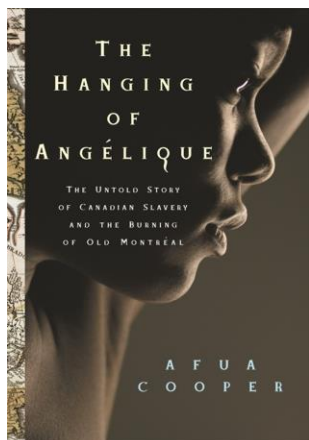
## ***Bread Out Of Stone: Recollections on Sex, Recognitions, Race, Dreaming and Politics by Dionne Brand***

*Bread Out of Stone* is a personal, poetic account of anti-black racism in Canada, politics, activism, capitalism and immigration, among other things. Essays like "Bathurst" are a reflection on and recollection of Black Toronto, navigating the history of Black activism in the city.

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*Meral Jamal commits to read.*



## ***The Hanging of Angelique: The Untold Story of Canadian Slavery and the Burning of Old Montreal by Afua Cooper***

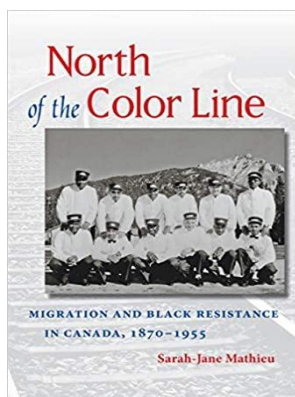
*The Hanging Of Angelique* shares the life and story of Marie-Joseph Angélique, a slave woman convicted of starting a fire that destroyed a large part of Montréal in the 1700s.

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*Margaret Webb and Francesca DaCosta commit to read.*

## ***North of the Colour Line: Migration and Black Resistance in Canada, 1870-1955 by Sarah-Jane Mathieu***



In *North of the Colour Line*, Mathieu documents the politics of immigration through the stories and histories of the estimated 5,000 blacks, both African Americans and West Indians, who immigrated to Canada after the end of Reconstruction in the United State, continuing to work and organize as railway porters.

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***Francesca DaCosta commits to read.***

## ***Black Writers Matter***

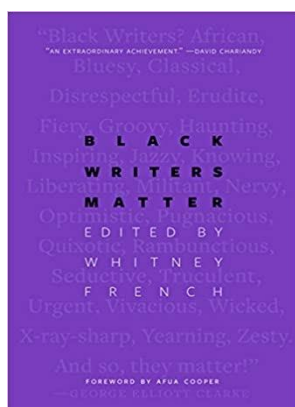
Edited by Whitney French

*Black Writers Matter* is an anthology of African-Canadian writing that brings together established writers and newcomers on the literary scene to tackle contemporary and current issues, documenting the everyday lives of the black community in Canada.

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***Petra Kassün-Mutch commits to read.***

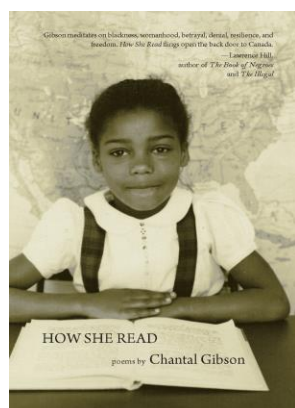


## ***How She Read by Chantal Gibson***

Gibson's *How She Read* is a poetry collection that takes a closer look at historical artefacts like photographs and paintings, among other things, to shed light on the representation and misrepresentation of black women in Western culture while navigating black girlhood, womanhood, sisterhood, daughterhood; loss, belonging, being and becoming.

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# LiisBeth

## ***WANT TO SEE THE FEMINIST ECONOMY GROW?***

*It takes many hours to put a list like this together—  
and months of reading to decide what should go on  
the list in the first place!*

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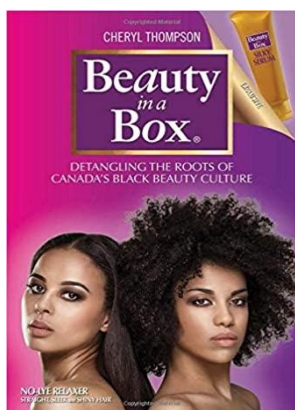
## *Other Side of the Game by Amanda Parris*

In *Other Side of the Game*, Parris turns the spotlight on the Black women who organize communities, support their incarcerated loved ones, and battle institutions, living each day by a ride-or-die philosophy, strengthening their voices and demanding to be heard.

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Purchase Link through Better World Books: N/A

*Petra Kassün-Mutch commits to read.*

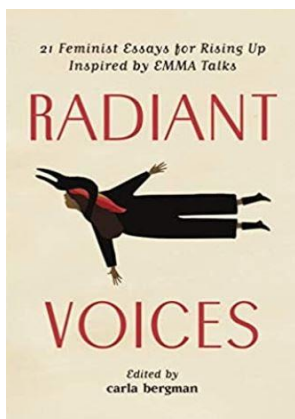


## *Beauty in a Box: Detangling the Roots of Canada's Black Beauty Culture by Cheryl Thompson*

*Beauty in a Box* widens our understanding of the politics of black hair. The book analyzes advertisements and articles from media—newspapers, advertisements, television, and other sources—that focus on black communities in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, and Calgary.

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## *Radiant Voices: 21 Feminist Essays for Rising Up Inspired by EMMA Talks*

Editor: Carla Bergman

Through this collection of essays themes of oppression are illustrated but more importantly, the fierce resilience of BIPOC womxn across Turtle Island in their collective pursuit of anti-racism, anti-sexism and social justice. The recentring of the under-represented voices is what makes this book a must-read for all!

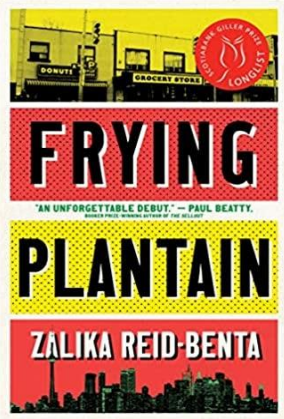
Note: Not strictly Black authorship -- mix of BIPOC authors

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*Champagne Thomson commits to read.*



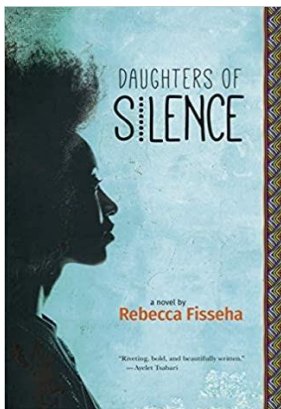


## *Frying Plantain by Zalika Reid-Benta*

*Frying Plantain* follows Kara Davis—a girl caught in the middle—through elementary school to her high school graduation, as she comes of age while caught between her Canadian nationality and Jamaican heritage.

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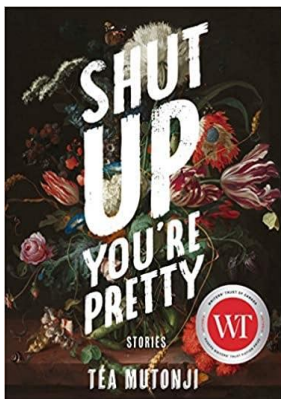


## *Daughters of Silence by Rebecca Fisseha*

Ash from the Eyjafjallajökull volcano fills the skies. Flights are grounded throughout Europe. Dessie, a cosmopolitan flight attendant from Canada, finds herself stranded in Addis Ababa — her birthplace. Grieving her mother's recent death, Dessie heads to see her grandfather, the Shaleqa — compelled as much by duty as her own will. But Dessie's conflicted past stands in her way.

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## *Shut Up You're Pretty by Tea Mutonji*

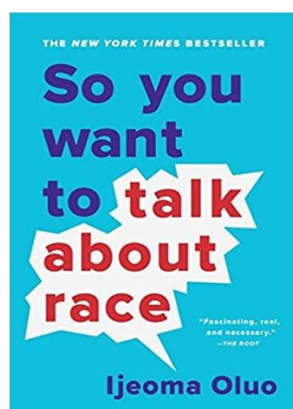
In Tea Mutonji's debut story collection, a woman contemplates her Congolese traditions during a family wedding, a teenage girl looks for happiness inside a pack of cigarettes, a mother reconnects with her daughter through their shared interest in fish, and a young woman decides to shave her head in the waiting room of an abortion clinic. These punchy, sharply observed stories blur the lines between longing and choosing, exploring the narrator's experience as an involuntary one.

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*Lana Pesch and Meral Jamal commit to read.*

## On anti-Black racism in America

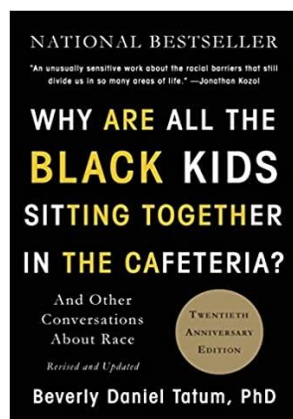


### *So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo*

In *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Ijeoma Oluo engages with readers from all backgrounds in conversations about intersectionality and affirmative action, among other things, shedding light on the impact of racism on every aspect of American life and culture.

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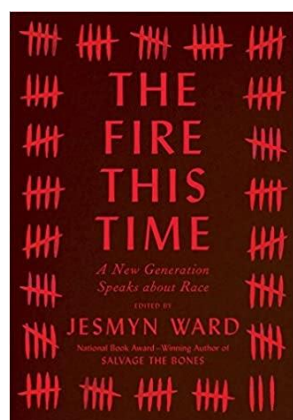


### *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?: And Other Conversations by Beverly Daniel Tatum*

In *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria*, Tatum explores the psychology of racism, identifying and encouraging different ways to enable and improve communication across racial and ethnic divides.

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### *The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks About Race by Jesmyn Ward*

*The Fire This Time* is a collection of essays inspired by James Baldwin's 1963 examination of race in America. Contributors Carol Anderson, Jericho Brown and others, shed light on the past, present and future of race and racism in America.

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## *The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas*



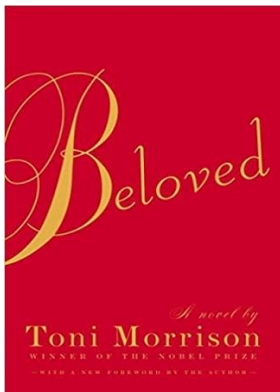
This realistic fiction novel depicts the ethical challenges that many Black youth are faced with from an early age when the system does not value their word nor existence in society. The main character takes readers on a journey of finding her inner power and strength despite all odds, including the consequences that follow. Thomas evokes deep emotion as well as a critical analysis of the system's impact on Black lives.

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*Geraldine Cahill, Valerie Fox and Champagne Thomson commits to read.*

## *Beloved by Toni Morrison*



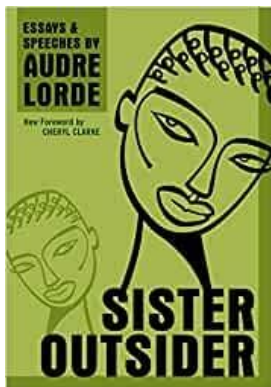
Staring unflinchingly into the abyss of slavery, this spellbinding novel transforms history into a story as powerful as Exodus and as intimate as a lullaby. Sethe, its protagonist, was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe's new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved.

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*Petra Kassün-Mutch commits to read.*

## *Sister Outsider by Audre Lorde*

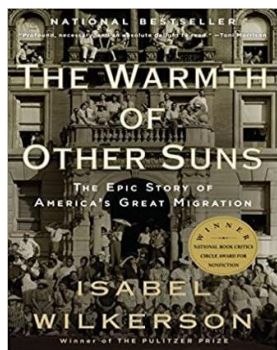


Presenting the essential writings of black lesbian poet and feminist writer Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider* celebrates an influential voice in twentieth-century literature. In this charged collection of fifteen essays and speeches, Lorde takes on sexism, racism, ageism, homophobia, and class, and propounds social difference as a vehicle for action and change.

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*Meral Jamal commits to read.*

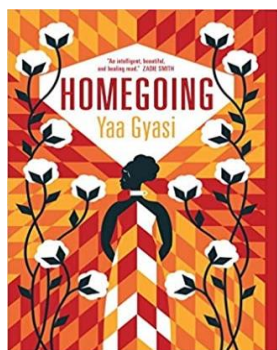


## *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson*

In this epic, beautifully written masterwork, the first African-American woman Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life.

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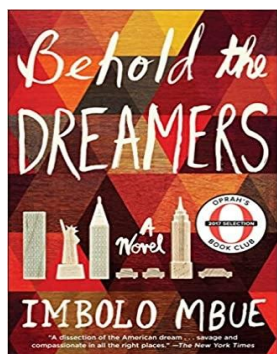


## *Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi*

Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing* is a novel about race, history, ancestry, love and time, charting the course of two sisters torn apart in 18th century Africa through to the present day.

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## *Behold the Dreamers by Imbolo Mbue*

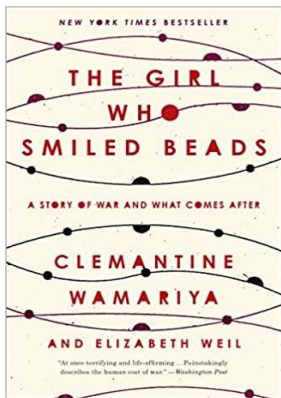
Jende Jonga, a Cameroonian immigrant living in Harlem, has come to the United States to provide a better life for himself, his wife, Neni, and their six-year-old son. But as both husband and wives get jobs with powerful people, they realize the world of great power and privilege conceals troubling secrets, and soon Jende and Neni notice cracks in their employers' façades.

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*If you like this list and are interested in learning more about these books, join our book club on the Feminist Enterprise Commons [here](#).*





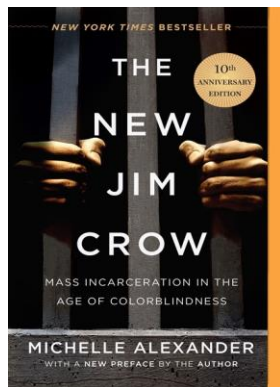
## ***The Girl Who Smiled Beads: A Story of War and What Comes After by Clemantine Wamariya and Elizabeth Weil***

In 1994, Wariya and her fifteen-year-old sister, Claire, fled the Rwandan massacre and spent the next six years wandering through seven African countries. When Clemantine was twelve, she and her sister were granted asylum in the United States, where she embarked on another journey--to excavate her past.

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## **On anti-Black racism, police brutality and the prison system**



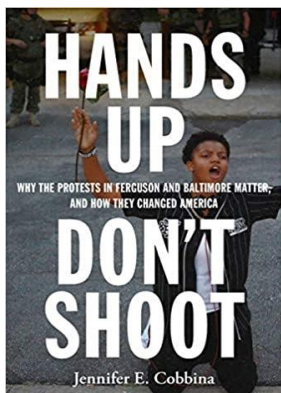
## ***The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander***

*The New Jim Crow* looks at the impact of the the criminal justice system in the mass incarceration of Black people, and discrimination against convicted criminals in nearly all the ways in which it was once legal to discriminate against African Americans.

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## ***Hands Up, Don't Shoot by Jennifer E. Cobbina***



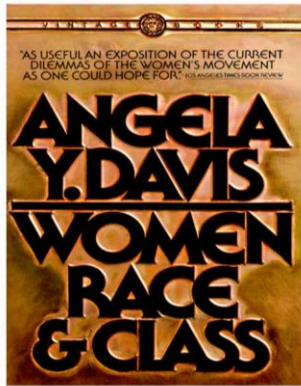
Following the high-profile deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson and Freddie Gray in Baltimore, both cities erupted in protest over the unjustified homicides of unarmed black males at the hands of police officers. Through interviews with nearly 200 residents of Ferguson and Baltimore, Cobbina documents protestors' experiences with the police and how this shaped their perspective on policing.

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*Meral Jamal commits to read.*

## On anti-Black racism and feminism

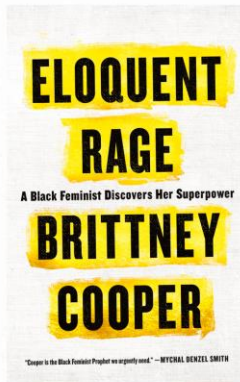


### *Women, Race and Class by Angela Y. Davis*

Davis explores and exposes a lesser known side of the suffrage movement in the United States: the intimate tie between the anti-slavery campaign and the struggle for women's suffrage. By navigating the intersectionality of gender, race and class, Davis shows how the racist and classist bias of some in the women's movement has divided its own membership.

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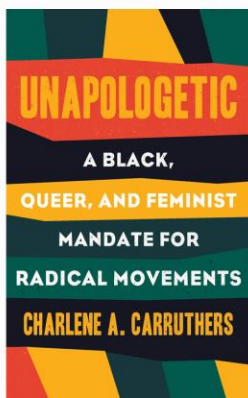


### *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower by Brittney Cooper*

Through a confrontation with her grandmother, Cooper learned of eloquent rage about love and life. Through an intervention by one of her homegirls, she began her journey as a fierce feminist. In *Eloquent Rage*, Cooper encourages readers to embrace feistiness, be fearless and never settle for less.

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### *Unapologetic: A Black, Queer, and Feminist Mandate for Radical Movements by Charlene A. Carruthers*

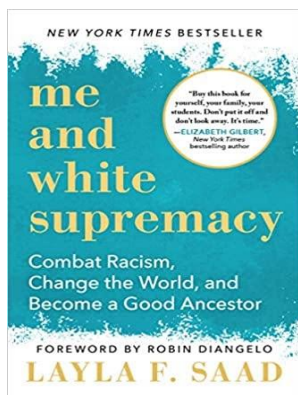
Drawing on Black intellectual and grassroots organizing traditions such as the Haitian Revolution, the US civil rights movement, and LGBTQ rights and feminist movements, Carruthers encourages everyone engaged in struggle for social justice to make the movement for Black liberation more radical, more queer, and more feminist.

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*Geraldine Cahill commits to read.*

# On White people and anti-Black racism

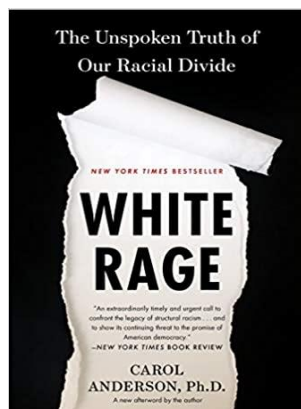


## *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor by Layla F. Saad*

Based on the viral Instagram challenge that captivated participants worldwide, *Me and White Supremacy* takes readers on a 28-day journey, complete with journal prompts, to do the necessary and vital work that can ultimately lead to improving race relations. The book addresses and encourages readers to think about their white privilege, what allyship means and looks like, and Anti-blackness, racial stereotypes, and cultural appropriation.

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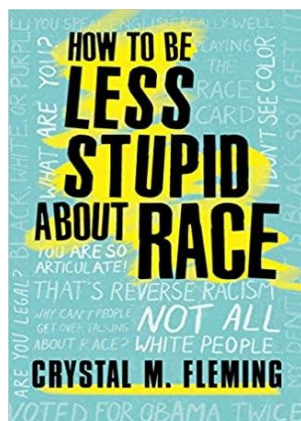


## *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide by Carol Anderson*

Stemming from Anderson's *Washington Post* op-ed in response to what media and political commentators called "Black rage" to instead be "White rage at work," *White Rage* addresses the way that African American social progress has been slowed and stifled by white opposition throughout history, including the Jim Crow laws and the response to Barack Obama's election.

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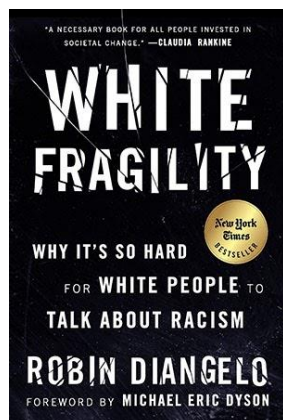


## *How to Be Less Stupid About Race: On Racism, White Supremacy, and the Racial Divide by Crystal Marie Fleming*

Denial and misunderstandings about racism and anti-Black racism remain, and Fleming's *How to Be Less Stupid About Race* navigates these misconceptions have found their way into and have been perpetuated by media, pop culture and politics.

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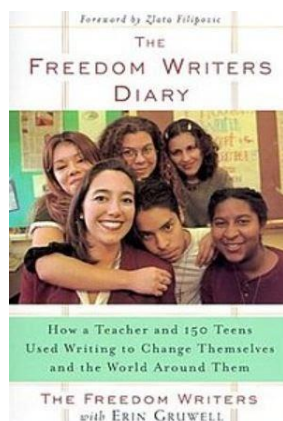
## *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard For White People To Talk About Racism by Robin DiAngelo*

DiAngelo talks about white fragility is a state in which even a minimum amount of racial stress becomes intolerable, triggering a range of defensive moves, and how addressing this will help us address racial discrimination.

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*Lana Pesch commits to read.*



## *The Freedom Writers Diary by Erin Gruwell*

*The Freedom Writers Diary* weaves together a story of what it means to welcome 'other', unlearn, relearn and the importance of writing as a means of peaceful changemaking. Immersing you into the lives and experiences of BIPOC students California it brings outsiders into the frontlines of marginalization as Ms. Gruwell unpacks her new role at an inner city high school. Excellent ties to the Holocaust are also entrenched in this story, bringing to the forefront the historical processes of segregation in contexts outside of North America.

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*Valerie Fox commits to read.*

# LiisBeth



## JOIN THE CONVERSATION



# FEMINIST ENTERPRISE COMMONS

**No Advice. No Success Formulas. No Guru.**

**Just a sense of belonging, shared stories, a place to process ideas, imagine a just world, and an opportunity to bump into "just in time" insights that just might be what you need in that moment.**



**Join us for connection, weekly check ins, community & conversation**

**Fridays, 1:00-2:30 PM on ZOOM**

**Not a member yet? [Click here](#) for 3 months complimentary access today!**

*As part of our ongoing commitment to recognizing, understanding and addressing anti-Black racism in our work, every member of the LiisBeth advisory board has committed to reading at least one book from this list before the end of this year. We also hope to foster conversations from and about these books through a book club on the Feminist Enterprise Commons (FEC). If you're interested in being a part and learning with us, join us on our journey [here](#).*

[www.liisbeth.com](http://www.liisbeth.com) #feministbiz Twitter: [@liisbethq](https://twitter.com/liisbethq)

