

Summer Reading List 2018

IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

The Beekeeper: Rescuing the Stolen Women of Iraq

Dunya Mikhail (2018)

The Yazidi people, a minority in the Kurdish region of Iraq, embrace the beliefs of their ancient religion instead of the Sunni Islam practiced by the Kurds. As a minority they have had their struggles, but under ISIS occupation their status became markedly worse. *The Beekeeper: Rescuing the Stolen Women of Iraq*, is the story of Yazidi women's enslavement, torture and eventual escape from captivity. Their rescue is aided by an itinerant beekeeper whose knowledge of the Iraqi countryside and his network of traders and smugglers enables him to bring captive women to safety one by one. The horror of these women's stories makes them difficult to read and absorb. However, we also read of heroism, courage and undying hope that even ISIS hatred and cruelty cannot destroy.

Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in 40 Questions

Valeria Luiselli (2017)

Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in 40 Questions confronts the often cruel disparity between the American Dream and reality. Valeria Luiselli, Mexican immigrant and writer tells us, "Children run and flee. They have an instinct for survival, perhaps, that allows them to endure almost anything, just to make it to the other side of horror, whatever may be there waiting for them." As a translator, Luiselli helped young immigrants fill out forty-question intake forms. She soon realized that these children's futures would be determined by the inadequate narrative the forms were telling. Luiselli's essays challenge attitudes that lead to the demonization of refugees who are fleeing barbarity, cruelty, and very real existential threats. *Tell Me How It Ends* is a call to action for the defense of human rights and support of a compassionate approach to immigration.

SYSTEMIC RACISM

Becoming Ms. Burton: From Prison to Recovery to Leading the Fight for Incarcerated Women

Susan Burton and Cari Lynn (2017)

Life changed for Susan Burton the day her son, KK, was accidentally struck and killed by a LAPD van. The LAPD offered neither an apology nor emotional or psychological support. As her anguish became more and more unbearable, Burton began to self-medicate using crack cocaine. Inevitably, she was arrested and began the first of six periods of incarceration. Each time she was released, Burton faced insurmountable barriers including unemployment and homelessness, which caused her to lose custody of her children. Burton's story is common for many black women, but her recovery is not. As she worked to get her life on track, Burton began meeting the bus from prison, greeting newly released women and offering them a place to sleep and a meal. Burton ultimately began *New Way of Life*, a nonprofit that operates safe residences for formerly incarcerated women to begin life anew. *Becoming Ms. Burton* gives voice to those who are caught in the cycle of recidivism and testifies to the need to offer treatment instead of jail for those involved in non-violent drug crimes.

Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools

Monique Morris (2016)

In *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*, Monique Morris shares the stories of young black girls who the school system has failed. Lack of understanding of culture, circumstances and challenges on the part of teachers and administrators can result in young women being removed from groups or classes at the precise time they most need community. The stories of the young women in Morris's book put a face on the suffering and obstacles that many young black women experience. The philosophy espoused by Morris has been adopted by *Project DIVA*, a Mary's Pence grantee that provides a mentoring program for young black girls in grades 1-12. This book is for anyone who cares about the education of young women and the best ways to create an educational environment that supports black girls as they grow into leaders.

FEMINISM

Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower

Brittney Cooper (2018)

This series of essays explores the ways in which the rage that Black women experience can be used as an impetus for positive action. Black women's anger has been caricatured by media as the eye roll, the finger snap, or the side eye. But Black women's authentic anger demands that they call out racism and misogyny and indeed, our nation as the source of injustice. Anger can be challenging and uncomfortable and so can *Eloquent Rage*. Cooper's writing is honest and sometimes raw as she wrestles with her own experiences of racism and sexism and analyzes the expectations that are placed on Black women by each other and by others, even and especially in social justice spaces.

Not That Bad: Dispatches from Rape Culture

Roxane Gay, Editor (2018)

Roxane Gay survived a gang-rape when she was 12 years old. Her way of coping with the aftermath was to tell herself that it was "not that bad". While this helped her through the initial trauma; it made long term healing much more difficult. She found herself losing empathy, not just for herself but for others as well, viewing their tragedies as "not that bad" either. Gay came to understand that sexual violence is never "not that bad," and must be confronted in order to begin the healing process. In this anthology, Gay includes first person essays from people who have experienced rape, assault and harassment. Their stories shed light on what it's like for women to live in a culture where they are routinely victims of harassment and violence, men's reaction to the attention now being drawn to these issues, and ultimately how society can change rape culture.

CENTRAL AMERICAN POLITICAL HISTORY

Nicaragua June 1978-July 1979

Susan Meiselas and Claire Rosenberg, Editors (2008)

Near the end of the Somoza family's three year control of Nicaragua, the country was experiencing inflation and high unemployment. The people became increasingly dissatisfied with the corrupt and brutal government and began to revolt. Businesses, the Church and even international opinion all turned against the regime. Photojournalist, Susan Meiselas, spent a year in Nicaragua during the revolution. *Nicaragua June 1978-July 1979*, is her pictorial chronicle of the revolutionary movement and the turmoil in the country. This edition, features interviews with those she photographed 25 years earlier. Meiselas's work of stunning photography gives the reader a fuller understanding of this liminal time in Nicaraguan history, and sheds light on the unrest that continues today.

...AND MORE

Broad Strokes: 15 Women Who Made Art and Made History (In That Order)

Bridget Quinn, Author and Lisa Congdon, Illustrator (2017)

It's often been said that winners write history. This was made clear to Bridget Quinn during her studies of Art History. While there were many women artists, social dynamics had rendered them unknown in their own era and throughout history. Quinn saw this as a challenge, and began to research and write about women artists. The result was *Broad Strokes*, a book of fiesty and educational stories of strong women pursuing their passions artistic paired with beautiful contemporary illustrations.

In Our Own Words: Religious Life in a Changing World

Juliet Mousseau, RSCJ and Sarah Kohles, OSF, Editors (2018)

Since the sixth century, women have served God and humankind as vowed religious living in community. Young women preparing to take religious vows have traditionally studied the writings of those who have preceded them, but today's young women found that they were reading about religious life as it was, not as it is lived today. A new generation of sisters realized that the experiences of today's religious community needed to be shared. The hopeful essays in this collection focus on vows and community life, individual identity, congregational charisms, and leadership that brings forth the fulfillment and passion of vowed religious today and into the future.