

SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY

Chiang, Ted. *Stories of Your Life.*

A collection of Science Fiction short stories that are surprising, challenging, and moving.

Oh, Axie. *The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea.*

In a retelling of the Korean legend the tale of Shim Chong, 16 year old Mina is swept away to the spirit realm where she is assisted by demons, gods, and spirits to awaken the sleeping sea god and save her family from deadly storms.

Parker-Chan, Shelley. *She Who Became the Sun.*

In a famine stricken village, two children are given 2 fates: a boy greatness, a girl nothingness. The two children are attacked by bandits and the boy dies. The girl uses her brothers identity to achieve his greatness.

Patel, Vaishnavi. *Kaikeyi.*

A retelling of the epic Ramayama in which Kaikeyi uses her two boons to banish Rama and ensure the crown would go to her son. In this version, Kaikeyi uses her talent to improve the position of women, even after being forsaken by the gods.

Tan, Sue Lynn. *Daughter of the Moon Goddess.*

A debut fantasy inspired by the legend of Chang'e, the Chinese moon goddess in which a young woman's quest to free her mother pits her against the most powerful immortal in the realm.

Vo, Nghi. *Siren Queen.*

In Vo's *Siren Queen*, a Chinese American girl will do anything to obtain stardom. The Hollywood studios run on a system of bargains made in blood and magic. Luli is willing to do whatever it takes to become a star, even if she becomes the monster herself.

MEMOIRS

Bui, Thi. *The Best We Can Do.*

A memoir that illustrates Bui's family's journey to the United States. She depicts the misery of the Vietnam War, the alien land of America, the dichotomy of comedy and tragedy, and family love and brokenness.

Chung, Nicole. *All You Can Ever Know.*

An honest and compassionate look at transracial adoption, race in America, and families in general. Chung longs to find the Korean parents who gave her up, which coincides with the birth of her own child. An excellent book for anyone trying to figure out where they belong.

Dumas, Firoozeh. *Funny in Farsi.*

Dumas who came to America from Iran as a young girl in 1872, recounts many anecdotes about her family's adjustment to this country in a light, humorous style.

Jacob, Mira. *Good Talk.*

The bisexual daughter of Indian immigrants, Jacob effectively conveys how Trump impacted LGBTQ and people of color. The talks Jacob relates are painful, funny, absurd and utterly important.

Kingston, Maxine Hong. *The Woman's Warrior.*

National Book Critics Circle Award Winner. A classic first published in 1976, it is a portrayal of many intersecting identities—immigrant, female, Chinese, and American. Hong Kingston archives a new understanding of families past and present.

Wang, Qian Julie. *Beautiful Country.*

Wang grew up as an undocumented immigrant in America. The book portrays her family's triumph in the face of discrimination.

Zauner, Michelle. *Crying in H Mart.*

Depicts Zauner's grief from her mother's diagnosis of terminal cancer and how it forced her to come to terms with her Korean identity.

ASIAN -AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDERS Recommended Books



Belmont Public Library
366 Concord Avenue
Belmont, MA 02478
617-489-2000
belmontpubliclibrary.net

ADULT FICTION

Hua, Vanessa. *A River of Stars.*

In a luxurious oasis just outside L.A., pregnant Chinese women are pampered so that their offspring can provide the parents a part in the American dream. Among the guests is Scarlet Chen who worked in a factory in China, and is pregnant with the owner of the factory's child. When she learns that the sex of the child is not the expected boy, she goes on the run. Part buddy cop adventure, and part ode to female friendship.

Kwak, Jean. *Searching for Sylvie Lee.*

A suspenseful drama about three women, two sisters and their mother. The eldest daughter Sylvie disappears, and a series of family secrets emerge.

Kwan, Kevin. *Sex and Vanity.*

The story of a half Chinese-American girl who can't admit to her feelings for an Asian man because she always favored her white side.

Ng, Celeste. *Little Fires Everywhere.*

The story of the Richardson's, a privileged white family and a poor single parent who clashes with the Richardson's when their old family friend attempts to adopt a Chinese-American baby in a custody battle.

Nguyen, Viet Thang. *The Sympathizer.*

The story of a captain in the South Vietnamese Army, who went to university in America and returned to the South Vietnam Army but is secretly reporting to the Viet Cong.

Wang, Kathy. *Impostor Syndrome.*

A first generation Chinese-American whose parents are thrilled she is working at a successful company, discovers some unusual activity by the COO of the company who is secretly working for Russian intelligence.

ADULT FICTION

Wang, Weike. *Joan is Okay.*

The daughter of a Chinese-American that is a 30 something ICU doctor in New York. When Joan's mother moves back to America from China, Joan's world is upended.

Yang, Susie. *White Ivy.*

A Chinese immigrant desperately wants to assimilate with her American peers. She falls for an upper class WASP, and begins to date him just as a man from her past reappears.

Yun, Jung. *O Beautiful.*

A portrayal of a half Korean American woman attempting to come to terms with her past. Elinor Hanson returns to North Dakota to cover a story on the pipeline and experiences racism, and sexism. She tries to reconcile her anger with her love for the beautiful land.

POETRY/ESSAYS

Cha, Theresa Hak Kyung. *Dictee.*

A work of poetry that is the story of several women including revolutionary Yu Guan Soon, Joan of Arc, Demeter and Persephone, Cha's mother (a Korean born in Manchuria), and Cha herself.

Chee, Alexander. *How to Write an Autobiographical Novel.*

Named a best book of 2018 by New York Magazine, the Washington Post, and others, the book focuses on how we form identities in life and art.

Hong, Cathy Park. *Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning.*

A collection of essays on race in America.

Tolentino, Jia. *Reflections of Self Delusion.*

A collection of essays on topics such as the internet's effect on identity, her childhood as a rare Asian in a large Texas Evangelical community, and the perversion of the Trump administration.

MISCELLANEOUS

Choi, Roy. *L.A. Son.*

Roy Choi created the Korean taco and reinvented street food along the way. This work includes 85 recipes that meld the flavors of L.A. including tempura potato pancakes and pork belly pupusas.

Li, Grace D. *Portrait of a Thief.*

Named a most anticipated book of 2022. Inspired by the true story of a Chinese art theft vanishing from western museums, the novel speaks about the colonization of art, and the complexity of Chinese identity.

Lin, Maya. *Maya Lin: Topologies.*

A complete retrospective on the work of Maya Lin, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial designer and architect.

Sen, Sharmila. *Not Quite White.*

Winner of the ALA Asian/Pacific American Award for nonfiction. A first generation immigrant looks at race in America. An American's journey into the heart of non-whiteness.

Tieu, Julie. *The Donut Trap.*

A romance about a Chinese American working in her parents donut shop.

Zia, Helen. *Last Boat Out of Shanghai.*

The real life stories of four young people caught up in the mass exodus of Shanghai in the wake of the 1949 Communist Revolution.