

# The Best Books We Read in 2020

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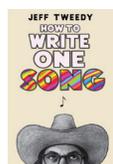
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248.843 HAT  

**Fierce, Free, and Full of Fire** by Jen Hatmaker

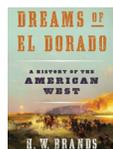
If you need a refreshing take on how to live an authentic, guilt-free life then do yourself a favor and pick up this new one from Hatmaker. And who couldn't use a little more grace and self love for 2021? ~Kira



782.4213 TWE 

**How to Write One Song: Loving the Things We Create and How They Love Us Back** by Jeff Tweedy

Singer/guitarist Tweedy, best known for his work with alt-country band Wilco, muses on the creativity and craft of songsmithing. Part TED talk, part DIY manual with tips and tricks, this is an enjoyable and relevant read about finding your own voice, even if thinking out loud is the closest you'll ever come to Ed Sheeran. ~Fred



978.02 BRA

**Dreams of El Dorado: A History of the American West** by H.W. Brands

Brands masterfully sculpts a sweeping survey of the American West, from the beginnings of the Oregon trail to the California Gold Rush. This is the perfect title to dip your toe into a rich area of American history, filled with dreams and myths galore. ~Amanda



Biography HAMILL, K. 

**Filthy Beasts** by Kirkland Hamill

This riches-to-rags memoir takes the reader from high society New York to Bermuda where the author's family moves, barely getting by after his parents' divorce. Self-centered and neglectful, he loves his parents anyway. Readers will be mesmerized by tales of wealth and privilege, and will cheer for the author as he comes to terms with his upbringing, life, and sexuality. ~Nancy



Fiction HADLOW, J. 

**The Other Bennet Sister** by Janice Hadlow

Mary Bennet is the much-maligned Bennet sister, content to sit reading and sniff haughtily at the flightiness of her sisters. Mary struggles to be understood after her two sisters' successful marriages, and the plight of an unmarried daughter of a gentleman whom no one cares to understand has new meaning in this beautifully written novel. A pleasure for Austen fans. ~Joy



Fiction HAIG, M.  

**The Midnight Library** by Matt Haig

Nora Seed, filled with regrets, has hit rock bottom. When she tries to end her life, she wakes up in a magical library filled with books that contain different versions of her life, depending on the choices made. With career, location, and even relationship changes, Haig's fast-paced, beautiful writing will engross readers, offering up thought-provoking exploration, inspiration, and more. ~Van



Fiction HENDERSON, A. 

**The Year of the Witching** by Alexis Henderson

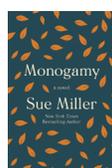
In Bethel, the Prophet's word is law, and Immanuel's existence is blasphemy; her mother's union with an outsider of a different race disgraced their family. Creepy witches, a forbidding forest, and a young woman's struggle with the rigid laws of her puritanical society come together in this excellent dark fantasy. ~Tim



Fiction MACALLISTER, G.  

**The Arctic Fury** by Greer Macallister

Virginia Reeve is a take-no-prisoners adventurer and trail guide when she's asked by a mysterious benefactor to lead a group of 12 women to find the lost captain of the shipwrecked vessel "The Franklin." Not for the squeamish or easily offended, this thrilling read is recommended for those who enjoyed **Into the Wild** and **In the Kingdom of Ice**. ~Joy



Fiction MILLER, S.  

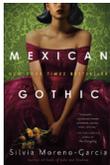
**Monogamy** by Sue Miller

Graham and Annie have a loving 30 year marriage that ends suddenly when Graham dies. While grieving, Annie discovers the unthinkable—Graham was unfaithful. Annie must work through her grief, anger, and the question of how well she knew her spouse. Beautifully written, with complex and true-to-life characters, this book is perfect for fans of family fiction. ~Nancy



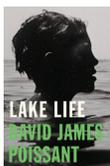
Fiction MONTIMORE, M.   
**Oona Out of Order** by Margarita Montimore

In 1982, Oona is a 19 year old girl trying to decide whether to go on tour with her boyfriend and their band or attend the London School of Economics; she soon learns she will not live her life in chronological order. Each birthday, she is transported to another random year of her life. An unusual premise with a likeable character. ~Amy



Fiction MORENO-GARCIA, M.   
**Mexican Gothic** by Maria Moreno-Garcia

Moreno-Garcia conjures a haunting sense of place in 1950s Mexico with Noemi, a wealthy socialite, as she uncovers hidden secrets within a mountainside mansion. Soon to be a series on Hulu.~ Kira



Fiction POISSANT, D.J.  
**Lake Life** by David James Poissant

The Starling family is gathering for one last weekend on Lake Christopher in North Carolina before their vacation home of more than thirty years is sold. However, a tragic accident on their first day causes tensions and secrets to come to the surface. A poignant, sometimes uncomfortable, yet lingering exploration of family and relationships. ~Lora



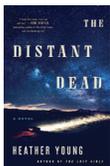
Fiction TREMBLAY, P.   
**Survivor Song** by Paul Tremblay

A deadly virus is spreading throughout the world, infecting animals and people; one bite, and those infected need a vaccine before they turn violent and bloodthirsty. Dr. Sherman is desperately trying to make it to the nearest hospital to get her pregnant, infected friend the vaccine. The journey proves to be a horrific nightmare they might not survive. ~Misty



Fiction WEST, A.   
**Saving Ruby King** by Adel Catherine West

Ruby King grew up on Chicago's South Side. When her mother is found murdered in their home, the police treat it as they do most violence in her Black Chicago neighborhood, but Ruby and her best friend Layla (who just happens to be the pastor's daughter) are determined to find out what happened. A great book club choice. ~Joy



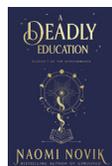
Fiction YOUNG, H.   
**The Distant Dead** by Heather Young

Who would've wanted middle school teacher Adam Merkel dead? Sal, a student he'd taken under his wing, alerted the authorities to the murder scene, and fellow teacher Nora Wheaton feels compelled to help discover his killer. The reader follows Sal and Nora in the time before Adam's death and after in this dark leisurely-paced yet compelling novel. ~Lora



Romance HENRY, E.   
**Beach Read** by Emily Henry

January writes novels that always end happily ever after. Augustus writes literary fiction. When they find themselves living next door to each other, they make a deal: he will work on a romcom and she will work on a great American tragedy. Sparks fly as the two grow closer to each other. ~Lizzie



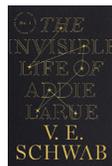
SF/F NOVIK, N.   
**A Deadly Education** by Naomi Novik

Set in Scholomance, a school for the magically gifted, A Deadly Education follows El, a girl who is prophesied to bring destruction to the world. She fights against her prophesied fate all while trying to stay alive in a school that literally thrives on killing its students. ~Anna



SF/F ROTH, R.   
**The Chosen Ones** by Veronica Roth

Ten years ago, the Dark One obliterated entire neighborhoods, leaving mass death and destruction. A rag-tag team of teenagers, hand-chosen by a vague prophecy, finally defeated him. Today, these same teenagers are dealing with the aftermath of being heroes and discovering the trauma they faced was never fully eradicated, and perhaps, neither was the Dark One. ~Lynette



SF/F SCHWAB, V.   
**The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue** by V.E. Schwab

Three hundred years have gone by since Addie LaRue made a deal with the dark for more time. Cursed with immortality, and the inability to be remembered by all who meet her, Addie's life is turned upside down when she meets a boy in a bookshop who finally remembers her name. ~Emily



GN OSEMAN, A.   
**Heartstopper Volume 1** by Alice Oseman

Sweet boy meets boy story. Shy Charlie and star rugby player Nick soon become good friends. But while Charlie is sure his crush will never amount to anything, Nick struggles with his own feelings. Illustrations wonderfully convey their friendship and burgeoning feelings. For fans of **Simon Vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda**. ~Karen B.