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Announcing the 2021 Great Group Reads

NEW YORK — October 1, 2021 — The [Women's National Book Association](https://www.wnba-books.org/) (WNBA) has released its 2021 Great Group Reads list. The annual list of 20 books features literary fiction and memoir titles that were chosen based on their literary merit and suitability for group reading. Since its creation in 2009, [Great Group Reads \(GGR\)](#) has become a highly regarded and anticipated resource for reading groups, individual facilitators, educators, bookstores and libraries to recommend books.

Between February and July, the GGR selection committee read hundreds of books submitted by publishers, including large presses, small presses, academic presses and independent presses, that were published October 1 2020-September 31, 2021. Some of the books reached best-sellers lists, while others are less well-known. One of the beauties of GGR is it highlights important books people might not be aware of, especially those that are mid-list or from smaller publishers.

The final list includes books that encourage discussion and reflection about topics and themes that are present in our cultural, such as family, cultural heritage, illness, environment, racism and friendship.

“This year's list contributes to the national conversations we've been having about so many of the social problems we face. It examines our present and mines our past, holding both to an honest accounting. The novels and memoir on this year's list are amazing, heart-wrenching, and so, so important. They will spark discussions within book clubs that we all need to be having, yesterday, today, and tomorrow,” said Kristen Knox, GGR chair.

Throughout 2021 and 2022, the WNBA will conduct interviews and host events with the books' authors to provide the books with support and to continue to spread awareness for these titles.

The submission period for the 2022 Great Group Reads will open in February.

To see descriptions and additional resources, view the [2021 Great Group Reads](#).

2021 Great Group Reads

- *After Francesco* by Brian Malloy (John Scognamiglio Books, 978-1496733511)
- *All Sorrows Can Be Borne* by Loren Stephens (Rare Bird, 978-1644281987)
- *All the Young Men* by Ruth Coker Burks (Grove Press, 978-0802157249)
- *The Baddest Girl on the Planet* by Heather Frese (Blair, 978-1949467161)
- *A Girl Is a Body of Water* by Jennifer Nansubuga Maxumbi (Tin House, 978-1951142551)

- Hell of a Book by Jason Mott (Dutton, 978-0593330968)
- Mona at Sea by Elizabeth Gonzalez James (Santa Fe Writers Project, 978-1951631017)
- The Mountains Sing by Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai (Algonquin, 978-1643751351))
- No Hiding in Boise by Kim Hooper (Keylight, 978-1684426232)
- The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot by Marianne Cronin (Harper Perennial, 978-0063017504)
- The Paris Library by Janet Skeslian Charles (Atria, 978-1982134198)
- The Parted Earth by Anjali Enjeti (Hub City Press, 978-1938235771)
- The Portrait by Ilaria Bernardini (Pegasus Books, 978-1643136189)
- The Prince of Mournful Thoughts & Other Stories by Caroline Kim (University of Pittsburgh Press, 978-0822946489)
- A Recipe for Daphne by Nektaria Anastasiadou (Hoopoe, 978-9774169793)
- The Seed Keeper by Diane Wilson (Milkweed Editions, 978-1571311375)
- The Son of the House by Cheluchi Onyemelukwe-Onubia (Dundurn Press, 978-1459747081)
- The Third Mrs. Galway by Deirdre Sinnott (Kaylie Jones, 978-1617758423)
- When the Apricots Bloom by Gina Wilkinson (Kensington, 978-1496729354)
- Why Birds Sing by Nina Berkhout (ECW Press, 978-1770415812)

About the Women's National Book Association (WNBA): The [Women's National Book Association](#) is a professional literary nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting books, fostering literacy and supporting women in the book world. Formed in 1917 by a group of female booksellers in New York City who were not allowed to join the all-male booksellers' organizations, the WNBA continues to advocate for equality and representation in the book world. The WNBA welcomes members of all genders and professions.