

Best Nonfiction of 2019

A Selection of the Best Nonfiction Books of 2019 Chosen by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *Time*, AV Club, *New Yorker*, and Amazon Editors

All titles can be obtained as e-books or e-audiobooks through the West Haven Public Library.

* An asterisk indicates that the title was chosen by more than one publication.

Descriptions adapted from amazon.com.

American Carnage by Tim Alberta

Politico Magazine's chief political correspondent provides an insider's look at the making of the modern Republican Party—how a decade of cultural upheaval, populist outrage, and ideological warfare made the GOP vulnerable to a hostile takeover from the unlikeliest of insurgents: Donald J. Trump.

* ***Because Internet* by Gretchen McCulloch**

For anyone who's ever puzzled over how to punctuate a text message or wondered where memes come from. The perfect book for understanding how the Internet is changing the English language, why that's a good thing, and what our online interactions reveal about who we are.

***Catch and Kill* by Ronan Farrow**

In a dramatic account of violence and espionage, investigative reporter Farrow exposes serial abusers and a cabal of powerful interests hell-bent on covering up the truth. At any cost.

* ***Furious Hours* by Casey Cep**

Reverend Willie Maxwell, a rural preacher accused of murdering family members for insurance money in the 1970s, escaped justice for years until a relative killed him. Despite hundreds of witnesses, Maxwell's murderer was acquitted. In the audience during the vigilante's trial was Harper Lee.

***The Great Pretender* by Susannah Cahalan**

In the 1970s, psychologist David Rosenhan and 7 others went undercover into asylums around America to test psychiatry's labels. The study broke open the field of psychiatry, closing institutions and changing mental health diagnosis forever.

***How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi**

Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism—and points us toward new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other.

***How We Fight for Our Lives* by Saeed Jones**

The memoir of a young, black, gay man from the South as he fights to carve out a place for himself, within his family, within his country, within his own hopes, desires, and fears.

*** *In the Dream House* by Carmen Maria Machado**

A revolutionary memoir about domestic abuse; an engrossing and innovative account of a relationship gone bad, and a bold dissection of the mechanisms and cultural representations of psychological abuse.

*** *Know My Name* by Chanel Miller**

The memoir of the rape victim of Stanford student Brock Turner who was known as Emily Doe, and whose victim statement at the trial went viral.

***Maid* by Stephanie Land**

At 28, Land's plans of breaking free from her hometown were cut short when a summer fling turned into an unexpected pregnancy. She turned to housekeeping to make ends meet.

*** *Midnight in Chernobyl* by Adam Higginbotham**

A definitive account of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster—and a powerful investigation into how propaganda, secrecy, and myth have obscured the true story of the disaster.

***The Mosquito* by Timothy C. Winegard**

A new perspective on the history of humankind, showing how through millennia, the mosquito has been the single most powerful force in determining humanity's fate.

*** *No Visible Bruises* by Rachel Louise Snyder**

An investigation of the true scope of domestic violence, revealing how the roots of America's most pressing social crises are buried in abuse that happens behind closed doors.

***The Only Plane in the Sky* by Garrett M. Graff**

The story of the day of 9/11 as it was lived—in the words of those who lived it. The most vivid and human portrait of the attacks yet.

*** *Say Nothing* by Patrick Radden Keefe**

A stunning, intricate narrative about a notorious 1972 abduction and killing of a 38-year-old mother of 10 in Belfast.

Three Women by Lisa Taddeo

A riveting true story about the sex lives of three real American women, based on nearly a decade of reporting.

*** *Underland by Robert Macfarlane***

Macfarlane is the celebrated author of books about the intersections of the human and the natural realms. He delivers his masterpiece: an epic exploration of the Earth's underworlds as they exist in myth, literature, memory, and the land itself.