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Fall 2020

RADICAL AND GROUNDBREAKING BOOKS THAT
HELP US SEE THE WORLD IN A NEW LIGHT



FALL 2020

NEW TITLES

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IJEOMA OLUO

MEDIOCRE

*The Dangerous Legacy of
White Male America*

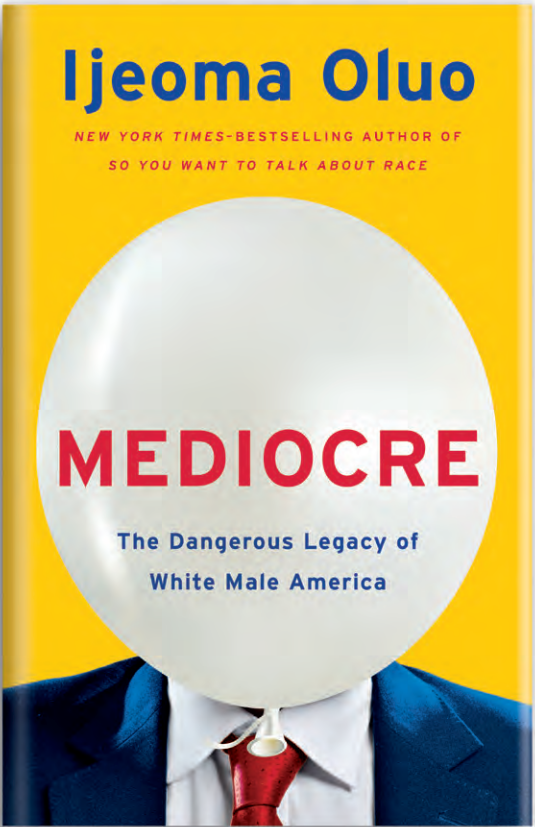
What happens to a country that tells generation after generation of white men that they deserve power? What happens when success is defined by status over women and people of color, instead of by actual accomplishments?

Through the last 150 years of American history—from the post-Reconstruction South and the mythic stories of cowboys in the West, to the present-day controversy over NFL protests and the backlash against the rise of women in politics—Ijeoma Oluo exposes the devastating consequences of white male supremacy on women, people of color, and white men themselves. *Mediocre* investigates the real costs of this phenomenon in order to imagine a new white male identity, one free from racism and sexism.

As provocative as it is essential, this book will upend everything you thought you knew about American identity and offers a bold new vision of American greatness.



IJEOMA OLUO is the author of the *New York Times* best-seller *So You Want to Talk About Race*. Her work on race has been featured in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. She has twice been named to the *Root 100*, and she received the 2018 Feminist Humanist Award from the American Humanist Association. She lives in Seattle, Washington.



From the author of the
New York Times bestseller *So You Want
to Talk About Race*, a subversive history
of white male American identity

NEW HARDCOVER • DECEMBER

POLITICS

\$28.00 / \$35.00 CAN

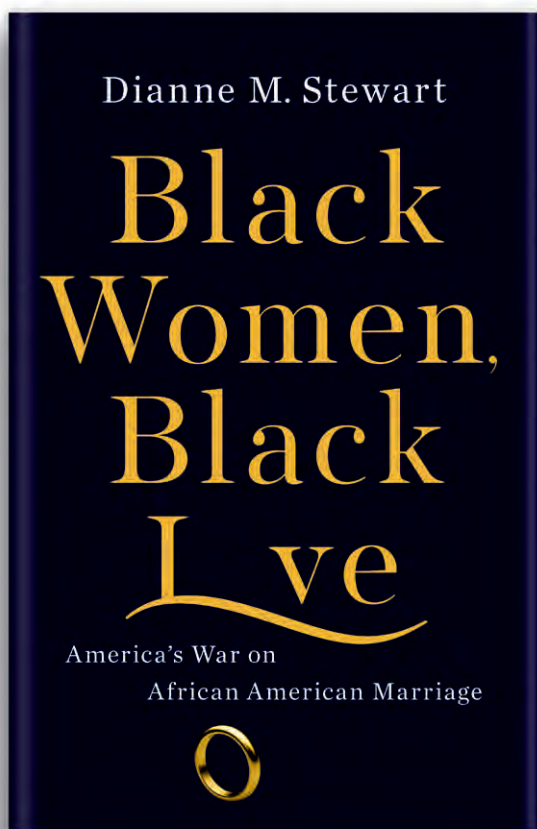
6 X 9¼ • 304 PAGES

978-1-5800-5951-0

E-BOOK 978-1-5800-5950-3

SELLING TERRITORY: W

AUTHOR PHOTO © IJEOMA OLUO



A sweeping history of America's
oppression of Black companionship

NEW HARDCOVER • OCTOBER

SOCIOLOGY

\$30.00 / \$38.00 CAN

6 X 9¼ • 336 PAGES

978-1-5800-5818-6

E-BOOK 978-1-5800-5816-2

SELLING TERRITORY: USC

AUTHOR PHOTO © HEATHER LASHUN

DIANNE M. STEWART

BLACK WOMEN, BLACK LOVE

America's War on

African American Marriage

According to the 2010 US census, more than 70 percent of Black women in America are unmarried. *Black Women, Black Love* reveals how four centuries of laws, policies, and customs have created that crisis.

Dianne M. Stewart begins in the colonial era, when slave owners denied Blacks the right to marry, divided families, and, in many cases, raped enslaved women and girls. Later, during Reconstruction and the ensuing decades, violence split up couples again as millions embarked on the Great Migration north, where the welfare system mandated that women remain single in order to receive government support. And no institution has forbidden Black love as effectively as the prison-industrial complex, which removes Black men en masse from the pool of marriageable partners.

Prodigiously researched and deeply felt, *Black Women, Black Love* reveals how white supremacy has systematically broken the heart of Black America.



DIANNE M. STEWART is an associate professor of religion and African American studies at Emory University, where she created the course Black Love.

She earned her MDiv from Harvard Divinity School and her PhD in systematic theology from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

LESLIE BRODY

SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO LIE

The Life and Times of Louise Fitzhugh,
Renegade Author of Harriet the Spy

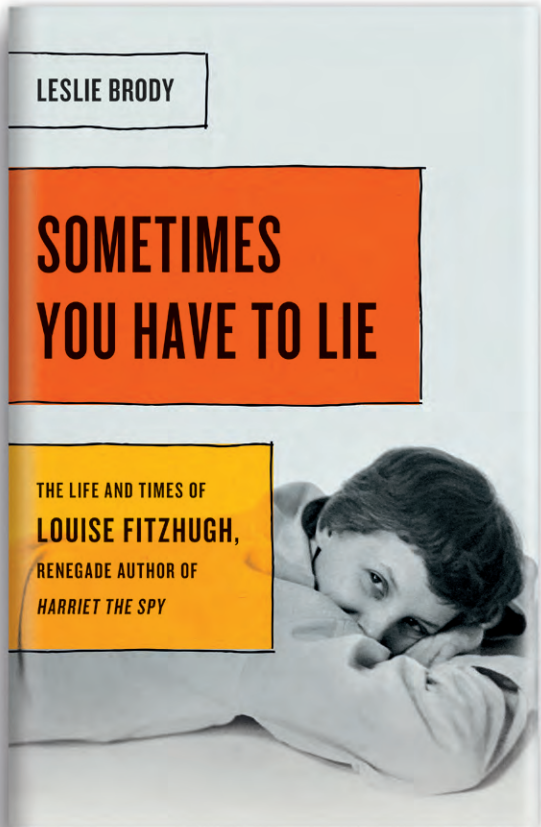
Harriet the Spy, first published in 1964, has mesmerized generations of readers and launched a million diarists. Its beloved antiheroine, Harriet, is erratic, unsentimental, and endearing—very much like the woman who created her, Louise Fitzhugh.

Born in 1928, Fitzhugh was raised in segregated Memphis, but she soon escaped her cloistered world and headed for New York, where her expanded milieu stretched from the lesbian bars of Greenwich Village to the art world of postwar Europe, and her circle of friends included members of the avant-garde like Maurice Sendak and Lorraine Hansberry. Fitzhugh’s novels, written in an era of political defiance, are full of resistance: to authority, to conformity, and even—radically, for a children’s author—to make-believe.

As a children’s author and a lesbian, Fitzhugh was often pressured to disguise her true nature. *Sometimes You Have to Lie* tells the story of her hidden life and of the creation of her masterpiece, which remains long after her death as a testament to the complicated relationship between truth, secrecy, and individualism.



LESLIE BRODY is a biographer, playwright, and professor of creative writing. She adapted *Harriet the Spy* for the stage in 1988 and is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts award and a PEN America award for creative nonfiction. She has been an on-staff book columnist for *Elle* magazine. She lives in Redlands, California.



The biography of Louise Fitzhugh,
author of the groundbreaking
Harriet the Spy

NEW HARDCOVER • DECEMBER

BIOGRAPHY / LITERARY FIGURES

\$30.00 / \$38.00 CAN

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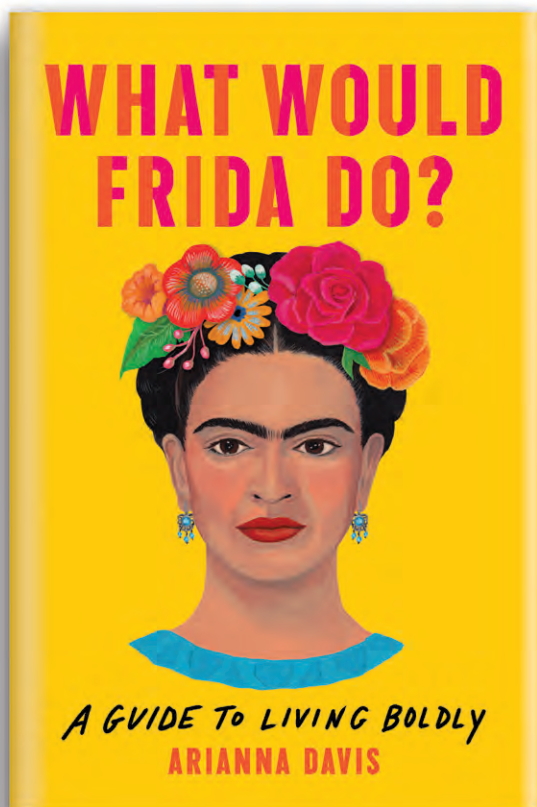
TEN BLACK-AND-WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

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E-BOOK 978-1-5800-5770-7

SELLING TERRITORY: W

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A contemporary guide to life,
inspired by the extraordinary
artist Frida Kahlo

NEW HARDCOVER • DECEMBER
SELF-HELP
\$26.00 / \$33.00 CAN
5½ X 8¼ • 224 PAGES
TWELVE BLACK-AND-WHITE ILLUSTRATIONS
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E-BOOK 978-1-5416-4631-5

SELLING TERRITORY: W
AUTHOR PHOTO © KATE WIRSING

ARIANNA DAVIS

WHAT WOULD FRIDA DO?

A Guide to Living Boldly

Revered as much for her fierce spirit as for her art, Frida Kahlo stands today as a brazen symbol of daring creativity. She was a woman ahead of her time, whose paintings have earned her generations of admirers around the globe. But perhaps her greatest work of art was her own life.

What Would Frida Do? explores the feminist icon's signature style, outspoken politics, and boldness in love and art, even in the face of pain and heartbreak. The book celebrates her larger-than-life persona as a woman who loved passionately and lived ambitiously, refusing to remain in her husband's shadow. Each chapter shares intimate stories from her life, revealing how she overcame obstacles by embracing her ideals.

In this charming read, author Arianna Davis conjures Frida's brave spirit, encouraging women to persevere, to create fearlessly, and to stand by their own truths.



ARIANNA DAVIS is the digital director for *O, The Oprah Magazine*. She previously worked at *Refinery29* and *Us Weekly*, and she has written for *New York Magazine*, *Glamour*, *Marie Claire*, and *PopSugar Latina*. She has also served as an entertainment expert for Access Hollywood, Tamron Hall, VH1, and TLC. She lives in New York City.

CATHERINE McCORMACK

WOMEN IN THE PICTURE

A Feminist History of Art

Art has a reputation for being irrelevant, elitist. But we're constantly bombarded with images, many of which take their cues from museum exhibitions and gallery walls. And images of women—as whores or hags, mothers or maidens—have always been particularly pernicious and powerful. Art historian Catherine McCormack decodes these archetypes in her eye-opening book, *Women in the Picture*. Moving deftly from the work of Artemisia Gentileschi and Pablo Picasso to Uma Thurman in *Kill Bill* and Beyoncé's Instagram, *Women in the Picture* is a twenty-first-century update to John Berger's classic *Ways of Seeing* that slyly neutralizes the sexism of traditional art history.

Sharp edged and stylish, *Women in the Picture* is essential reading for art enthusiasts, women's history buffs, and anyone looking to change how they see.



CATHERINE McCORMACK

is a writer, historian, independent curator, and author of *The Art of Looking Up*. She is the founder of the women and art study program at Sotheby's Institute of Art, where she teaches. She earned her PhD in art history from University College London. Her writing has appeared in the *Independent* and the *Architectural Review*. She lives in London.



**A bold reconsideration of how
we look at women, art, and power—
from the oil paintings of the
Old Masters to athleisure ads**

NEW HARDCOVER • DECEMBER

ART / WOMEN'S STUDIES

\$28.00 / \$35.00 CAN

6 X 9½ • 288 PAGES

BLACK-AND-WHITE PHOTOS THROUGHOUT

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SELLING TERRITORY: USC

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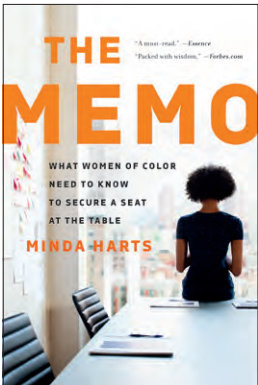


HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS



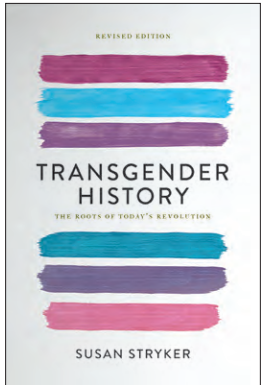
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IJEOMA OLUO
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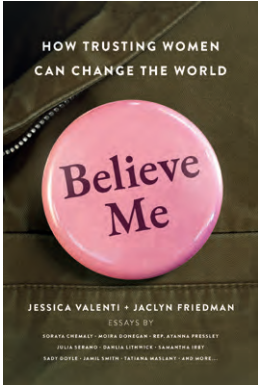
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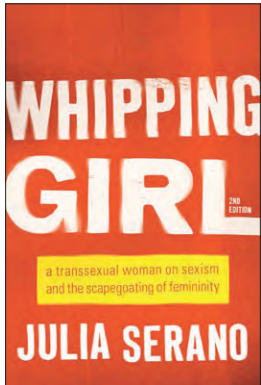
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JULIE SCELFO
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Cunt
INGA MUSCIO
978-1-5800-5664-9

LARA HEIMERT

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Lara Heimert joined Basic Books in 2005. She has been publisher of Basic Books since 2012 and became publisher of Seal Press in 2018. She holds a BA from Princeton University in English and Women's Studies, and has published numerous prize-winning and *New York Times* bestselling titles. Highlights include *Game of Queens: The Women Who Made Sixteenth-Century Europe* by Sarah Gristwood, *The Lost Art of Dress: The Women Who Once Made America Stylish* by Linda Przybyszewski, and *Goddess of Anarchy: The Life and Times of Lucy Parsons, American Radical* by Jacqueline Jones.

EMI IKKANDA

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Emi Ikkanda joined Seal Press in 2019. She previously worked as an editor at Spiegel & Grau and at Henry Holt & Company. She acquires books on current and global affairs, social justice, race, feminism, history, space, tech, and science. Recent standout titles include Ellen Pao's memoir of her Silicon Valley gender discrimination case, *Reset*, soon to be a Shonda Rhimes Netflix show; Carla Power's yearlong journey through the Quran, *If the Oceans Were Ink*, a Pulitzer and National Book Award finalist; and Julia Angwin's *New York Times* bestseller about online surveillance, *Dragnet Nation*.

CLAIRE POTTER

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Claire Potter joined Basic Books in 2019 and primarily acquires women's history and biography for Seal. Her forthcoming titles include works by Joanna Scutts, Catherine McCormack, and Leslie Brody. Previously, she was an associate editor at Crown Publishers, an imprint of Penguin Random House, which she joined in 2013. She has also worked at the Feminist Press, *Guernica*, and Words Without Borders, and is currently an editor at *American Chordata*.

ABOUT



Seal Press was founded in 1976 and stands as one of the most enduring feminist publishing houses to emerge from the women's press movement of the 1970s. Seal publishes radical and groundbreaking books that inspire and challenge readers, that humanize urgent issues, that build much-needed bridges in divisive times, and help us see the world in a new light.

From humble beginnings—a letterpress in a Seattle garage and grassroots fundraising—Seal Press has grown to become an award-winning publishing house, expanding to their current offices in Berkeley, Boston, and New York. In 2016, Seal Press joined Hachette Book Group, one of the largest publishers in the US and a division of the third largest trade and educational publisher in the world, Hachette Livre.