

Women Writers of Color

A Song Flung Up to Heaven by Maya Angelou

Angelou's memoir, the sixth in a series that began nearly 30 years ago with *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, celebrates "the quality in the human spirit that continues to rise" despite physical pain, psychological cruelty, abuse and abandonment.



You Know Better by Tina McElroy Ansa

Three generations of African-American women are visited by spirits who help them come to terms with their own faults and promote the reconciliation of their family.

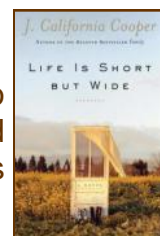
Kindred by Octavia Butler

A woman from the 20th century, Dana is repeatedly brought back in time by her slave-owning ancestor Rufus when his life is endangered. She chooses to save him, knowing that because of her actions, a free-born black woman will eventually become his slave and her own grandmother.



Caramelo by Sandra Cisneros

During her family's annual car trip from Chicago to Mexico City, Lala Reyes listens to stories about her family, including her grandmother, the descendant of a renowned dynasty of shawl makers, whose magnificent striped shawl has come into Lala's possession.



Life is Short But Wide by J. California Cooper

In the early twentieth century, Irene and Val build a life for themselves in Wideland while also allowing neighbors Bertha and Joseph to live on their land, and the two families cope with changing times and fortunes.



The Dew Breaker by Edwidge Danticat

A scarred Brooklyn resident remembers his past life as a Haitian torturer in the 1960s, a period during which he waged personal and political battles before moving to New York, where his past continued to haunt him.



One Amazing Thing by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

When nine disparate characters are trapped together after an earthquake, each of them takes a turn telling "one amazing thing" about his or her life.

Like Water for Chocolate by Laura Esquivel

At the beginning of the 20th century, Tita, the youngest of three daughters, is expected to serve her mother for the rest of her life, but in order to show her love to Pedro, who is engaged to her sister, Tita cooks for him.



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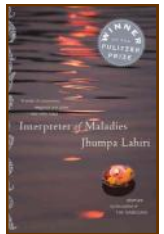
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

Janie Crawford sets out to be her own person – no mean feat for a black woman in the '30s. Janie's quest for identity takes her through three marriages and into a journey back to her roots.



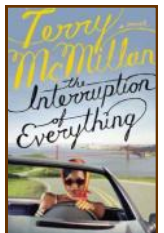
Lucy by Jamaica Kincaid

Lucy, a teenager from the West Indies, comes to America to work as an *au pair* for Lewis and Mariah and their four children – the perfect American family. Almost at once, Lucy begins to notice cracks in their beautiful façade and bitterly compares them with the vivid realities of her native country.



Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri

A debut collection of short fiction blends elements of Indian traditions with the complexities of American culture in such tales as "A Temporary Matter," in which a young Indian-American couple confronts their grief over the loss of a child, while their Boston neighborhood copes with a nightly blackout.



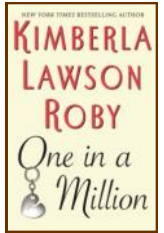
The Interruption of Everything by Terry McMillan

The perfect wife and mother of three grown children, Marilyn Grimes copes with the problems of midlife as she struggles to recall some of her own postponed dreams and reinvent her marriage, friendships, family, and herself.



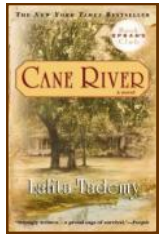
Sula by Toni Morrison

In *Sula*, Toni Morrison, winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize for literature, tells the story of two women – friends since childhood, separated in young adulthood and reunited as grown women. Nel Wright grows up to become a wife and mother, happy to remain in her hometown of Medallion, Ohio. Sula Peace leaves Medallion to experience college, men and life in the big city.



Mama Day by Gloria Naylor

On the island of Willow Springs, off the Georgia coast, the powers of healer Mama Day are tested by her great niece, Cocoa, a stubbornly emancipated woman endangered by the island's darker forces.



One in a Million by Kimberla Lawson Roby

In the first novella by the New York Times bestselling author of the Reverend Curtis Black series, a wife and a husband receive a few surprises that will change their lives forever. A poignant and witty story of hope and perception, expectation, and illusion.



Cane River by Lalita Tademy

Five generations and a hundred years in the life of a matriarchal black Louisiana family are encapsulated in this ambitious debut novel that is based in part upon the lives, as preserved in both historical record and oral tradition, of the author's ancestors.

Now is the Time to Open Your Heart by Alice Walker

A well-published, numerous-times-divorced woman leaves her lover to embark on a personal journey that begins on the Colorado River and traverses through her past and into her future, while her lover begins his own parallel voyage.

