**RAPID REVIEWS 2019**

Given May 22, 2019 at the University of Vermont

**YOUNG ADULT FOR ADULTS**

* Chao, Gloria. *American Panda.*  ISBN 9781481499101. $17.99. Simon Pulse, 2018. Mei Lu is a seventeen-year-old Taiwanese girl, following the path her family has chosen for her. Now a freshman at MIT, she starts to realize that she has different dreams and goals for herself. HP
* Gilbert, Kelly Loy. *Picture Us In The Light.* ISBN 9781484726020. $17.99. Hyperion, 2018. YA novel about a gay Asian-American teen art student, his two loyal friends, and the unravelling of family secrets. Richly plotted, beautiful characterizations. ED
* Khorram, Adib. *Darius the Great is Not Okay.* ISBN 9780525552963. $17.99. Dial, 2018. Darius and his family travel to Iran to say good-bye to his sick grandfather. Darius, a Sophomore, is clinically depressed and struggling with the side effects of his meds. On the trip he makes his first ever true friend. HP
* Marshall, Kate Alice. *I Am Still Alive.* ISBN 9780425290989. $17.99 Viking, 2018. Gripping YA survival tale about a girl sent off to live with her criminal father in the Canadian wilderness. Lots of suspense. ED

**CURRENT EVENTS**

* Anderson, Carol. *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression is Destroying Our Democracy.* ISBN 9781635571370. $27.00. Bloomsbury, 2018. The best of several books about this crucially important topic. This would be an excellent book for a discussion group. ED
* Bauer, Shane. *American Prison: A Reporter’s Undercover Journey Into the Business of Punishment.* ISBN 9780735223585. $28.00. Penguin, 2018. The author takes an assignment as a guard in one of America’s private, for-profit corporate prisons, and tells an important story about greed, cruelty and illegality. ED
* Bernard, Emily. *Black is the Body: Stories From My Grandmother’s Time, My Mother’s Time, and Mine.* ISBN 9780451493026. $25.95. Knopf, 2019. In these twelve essays UVM professor Emily Bernard discusses “growing up black in the South, marrying a white man from the North, and surviving a violent attack which unleashed the storyteller in her.” HP
* Buttigieg, Pete. *Shortest Way Home: One Mayor's Challenge and a Model for America's Future.* ISBN 97816831494369. $27.95. Liveright, 2019. Regardless of your political leanings, this man will make you think with his brilliant analysis of culture, regionalism, history, technology, music. A fresh look at what “flyover” country really looks like, plus his writing makes even data-driven economics accessible. JW
* Newport, Cal. Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World. ISBN 9780525536512. $26.00. Portfolio, 2019. Tips, tricks, and motivation to Kondo your digital life. EF

**FICTION**

* Ahmed, Samir. *Internment*. ISBN 978031605226904. $17.99. Little, Brown, 2019. Gripping novel about the internment of Muslims in the former Japanese-American internment camps. 17 year old Layla and her boyfriend David on the outside struggle to bring this injustice to an end. Wonderful plot, satisfying characters, and a timely take on our near future. ED
* Benedict, Marie. *The Only Woman in the Room.* ISBN 9781492666868. $$25.99. Sourcebooks Landmark, 2019. Based upon factual events, we discover Hedy Lamarr’s biggest secret: she had a brilliant scientific mind and her discoveries helped the Allies win World War II. AM
* Hecht, Daniel. *On Brassard’s Farm.*  ISBN 97819825446465. $17.99 Blackstone, 2018. When Ann’s life in Boston implodes, she moves to the Northeast Kingdom seeking simplicity, locally grown food and community. What she finds is back breaking work, lots of mud and personal transformation. LW
* McMahon, Jennifer. *The Invited.* ISBN 9780385541381. $25.95. Doubleday, 2019. Another ghostly thriller from Vermont writer Jennifer McMahon, featuring my favorite trope "city slickers move to the country only to be haunted by ghosts and pursued by locals with issues." EF
* Nunez, Sigrid. *The Friend.* ISBN 978-0735219441. $25.00. Riverhead, 2018. Following the suicide of one her closest friends, the narrator finds herself caring for his Great Dane in a rent-controlled Manhattan apartment that does not allow pets. Grief is explored through literature and her new bond with this giant canine. HP
* Rao, Shoba. *Girls Burn Brighter.* ISBN 9781250074256. $25.99. Flatiron, 2018. Two poor Indian girls become best friends, but are separated when men enter their lives and rip them apart. This is the story of their quest to rediscover each other. AM

**ON THE LIGHTER SIDE**

* Gay, Ross. *The Book of Delights*. ISBN 9781616207922. $23.95. Algonquin, 2019. To better experience delight, Ross Gay wrote about it every day for one year. This lyrical, captivating book is the result. This is not fluff. Gay, a poet, uniquely examines modern life, one delightful observation at a time. LW
* Handler, Chelsea. *Life Will Be The Death of Me.* ISBN 9780525511779. $27.00. Spiegel and Grau, 2019. Chelsea Handler's latest memoir plumbs new depths of humor and maturity as she discusses her devastation from and personal and political growth following Trump's election in 2016. EF
* Kenney, John. *Love Poems for Married People.* ISBN 9780525540007. $20.00. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2018. Prepare to laugh so hard you weep reading these spot on hilarious yet affectionate poems about what it’s really like for two humans to bond long term. If you’re already experiencing this, you’ll see yourself. If not, just wait! JW

 **RESILIENCE**

* Dalcher, Christina. *Vox.* ISBN 9781984802491. $26.00. Berkley, 2018. Dr. Jean McClellan never thought that women could be silenced. But when all women are limited to 100 words a day, their rights disappear quickly. AM
* Hanson, Rick D. *Resilient: How to Grow an Unshakeable Core of Calm, Strength, and Happiness.* ISBN 9780451498847. $26.00. Harmony, 2018. Neuroscience-based practices and insights to help you build your inner strength. EF
* Kunin, Madeleine May. *Coming of Age: My Journey to the Eighties.* ISBN 9780999499597. $21.95. Green Writers’ Press, 2018. Thoughts on aging, love, loss and memories of a life filled with professional accomplishment, passion, and positive impact on others. Expressed in prose and poetry by former Vermont governor, ambassador to Switzerland, and all around inspiring woman. JW
* Land, Stephanie. *Maid.* ISBN 9780316505116. $27.00. Hatchette, 2019. After the birth of her daughter, single mother Stephanie Land took on whatever work she find to survive. For many years, that meant cleaning houses. In this memoir, Land discusses the challenges that she encountered navigating parenthood, assistance programs, and the emotional toll that barely surviving takes on the human spirit. AM
* McColl, Sarah. *Joy Enough.* ISBN 97801631494703. $21.95. Liveright, 2019. Just as Sarah McColl’s marriage was failing, her mother was diagosed with cancer. Sarah leaves her life behind to caretake the woman who lived for and through her children. A beautifully written debut memoir. LW
* Rum, Etaf. *A Woman is No Man.* ISBN 9780062699763. $26.99. Harper, 2019. “You’ve never heard this story before,” the narrator states. Actually, you may have if you often read about women breaking repressive stereotypes. But three generations of Palestinian-American women living in New York offer unique perspective not often heard. JW
* Soffer, Rebecca & Birkner, Gabrielle. *Modern Loss.* ISBN 9780062499189. $24.99. Harper Wave, 2018. Not your typical book about grief. The subtitle says it all: “Candid converstations about grief. Beginners welcome.” This refreshingly honest essay collection covers everything from “triggers” to “sh\*t not to say.” A must read. LW
* Toews, Miriam. *Women Talking*. ISBN 9781635572582. $24.00. Bloomsbury, 2019. 300 girls and women from a small Mennonite colony were brutally sexually assaulted. 8 of them will now decide whether to leave, to stay and fight, or to do nothing. Based on an actual incident that took place in Bolivia. HP
* Whitehouse, Bonnie Smith. *Afoot and Lighthearted: A Journal for Mindful Walking*. ISBN 9780525574811. $14.99. Clarkson Potter, 2019. Recreational walking, walking meetings, walking, of course, with a dog: this is where humans often find physical and emotional health. Combining a pleasing, gentle design, prose, and inspiring quotations from famous walkers, this book inspires movement, refection, self-awareness and expression. JW

**READERS:**

 ED - Ernie Drown

 EF - Emer Feeney

 AM - Allison Maynard

 HP - Hannah Peacock

 LW - Lucinda Walker

 JW - Joy Worland