

We still know what you're reading this summer

McKinsey's annual reading list is back for 2021.



Corporate leaders

James Gorman, Chair and CEO, Morgan Stanley

- *Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad* by M. T. Anderson

John W. Rogers Jr., Chair, Co-CEO, and Chief Investment Officer, Ariel Investments

- *Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know* by Adam Grant

Rob Fauber, President and CEO, Moody's Corporation

- *The Hard Thing About Hard Things: Building a Business When There Are No Easy Answers* by Ben Horowitz
- *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II* by Douglas A. Blackmon

Scott Kirby, CEO, United Airlines

- *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need* by Bill Gates
- *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz* by Erik Larson
- *Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness* by Cass R. Sunstein and Richard H. Thaler
- *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race* by Walter Isaacson

Shobhana Bhartia, Chair and Editorial Director, HT Media

- *Lifespan: Why We Age—and Why We Don't Have To* by David A. Sinclair

- *A Promised Land* by Barack Obama

- *Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and Bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001* by Steve Coll

- *The Great Decoupling: China, America and the Struggle for Technological Supremacy* by Nigel Inkster

Christian Klein, CEO, SAP

- *Good Economics for Hard Times: Better Answers to Our Biggest Problems* by Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo

Ann Fudge, Chair, WGBH Radio

- *Humankind: A Hopeful History* by Rutger Bregman
- *The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains* by Nicholas Carr
- *Haiku: The Last Poems of an American Icon* by Richard Wright
- *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* by Heather McGhee

- *Eating the Sun: Small Musings on a Vast Universe* by Ella Frances Sanders

Gretchen Howard, COO, Robinhood Markets

- *Two Sides of Glory: The 1986 Boston Red Sox in Their Own Words* by Erik Sherman
- *The Museum of Rain* by Dave Eggers

Other leaders

Jacqueline Novogratz, CEO, Acumen Fund

- *High Conflict: Why We Get Trapped and How We Get Out* by Amanda Ripley
- *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahrel
- *10 Minutes 38 Seconds in This Strange World* by Elif Shafak
- *Freedom* by Sebastian Junger
- *100 Poems to Break Your Heart* by Edward Hirsch
- *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America* by Clint Smith

Richard Buery, CEO, Achievement First; CEO, Robin Hood Foundation (effective September 2021)

- *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America* by Clint Smith
- *On Juneteenth* by Annette Gordon-Reed
- *Policing the Black Man: Arrest, Prosecution, and Imprisonment* by Angela J. Davis, Bryan Stevenson, Marc Mauer, Bruce Western, and Jeremy Travis
- *Tangled Up in Blue: Policing the American City* by Rosa Brooks
- *God in the Ghetto: A Prophetic Word Revisited* by William Augustus Jones Jr. (edited by his daughter Jennifer Jones Austin)
- *King of Scars* by Leigh Bardugo

Alexis McGill Johnson, President and CEO, Planned Parenthood

- *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America* by Clint Smith
- *The Engagement: America's Quarter-Century Struggle Over Same-Sex Marriage* by Sasha Issenberg
- *Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty* by Patrick Radden Keefe
- *The Premonition: A Pandemic Story* by Michael Lewis

Ailish Campbell, Canada's Ambassador to the EU

- *How to Stay Sane in an Age of Division* by Elif Shafak
- *Putin's People: How the KGB Took Back Russia and Then Took On the West* by Catherine Belton
- *The Lying Life of Adults* by Elena Ferrante (translated by Ann Goldstein)

Rebecca Lowell Edwards, Chief Communications Officer, ACLU

- *The Color of Money: Black Banks and the Racial Wealth Gap* by Mehrsa Baradaran
- *Parent Like It Matters: How to Raise Joyful, Change-Making Girls* by Janice Johnson Dias, PhD
- *You Are Enough! Reclaiming Your Career and Your Life with Purpose, Passion, and Unapologetic Authenticity* by Charlene Wheelless
- *How Beautiful We Were: A Novel* by Imbolo Mbue

Shamina Singh, Executive Vice President, Sustainability, and President, Center for Inclusive Growth, Mastercard

- *Travels with Charley: In Search of America* by John Steinbeck
- *Between Two Kingdoms: A Memoir of a Life Interrupted* by Suleika Jaouad

Frank McCourt, Chair and CEO, Unfinished Labs; Owner, Olympique de Marseille

- *These Truths: A History of the United States* by Jill Lepore
- *Evil Geniuses: The Unmaking of America: A Recent History* by Kurt Andersen
- *Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters: 10 Secrets Every Father Should Know* by Meg Meeker, MD

Jessica Herrera-Flanigan, Vice President, Public Policy & Philanthropy, Americas, Twitter

- *Trejo: My Life of Crime, Redemption, and Hollywood* by Danny Trejo with Donal Logue
- *The Ethical Algorithm: The Science of Socially Aware Algorithm Design* by Michael Kearns and Aaron Roth
- *A Civic Technologist's Practice Guide* by Cyd Harrell
- *When the Light of the World Was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through: A Norton Anthology of Native Nations Poetry* edited by Joy Harjo

Business media

Matt Murray, Editor in Chief, *Wall Street Journal*

- *American Pastoral* by Philip Roth
- *Alaric the Goth: An Outsider's History of the Fall of Rome* by Douglas Boin
- *The Cult of We: WeWork, Adam Neumann, and the Great Startup Delusion* by Eliot Brown and Maureen Farrell

- *Frankly, We Did Win This Election: The Inside Story of How Trump Lost* by Michael C. Bender

Roula Khalaf, Editor in Chief, *Financial Times*

- *Le pays des autres (In the Country of Others)* by Leïla Slimani

Alan Murray, CEO, Fortune Media

- *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need* by Bill Gates
- *The Road Less Traveled: The Secret Battle to End the Great War, 1916–1917* by Philip Zelikow

Stephanie Mehta, Editor in Chief, *Fast Company*

- *The Contrarian: Peter Thiel and Silicon Valley's Pursuit of Power* by Max Chafkin
- *A Burning: A Novel* by Megha Majumdar

Becky Quick, *Squawk Box* anchor, CNBC

- *Never Split the Difference: Negotiating As if Your Life Depended On It* by Chris Voss with Tahl Raz
- *When: The Scientific Secrets of Perfect Timing* by Daniel H. Pink

Julia Beizer, Global Head of Digital, Bloomberg Media

- *New York, New York, New York: Four Decades of Success, Excess, and Transformation* by Thomas Dyja
- *Klara and the Sun: A Novel* by Kazuo Ishiguro

Rafat Ali, CEO and Founder, Skift

- *The Caesars Palace Coup: How a Billionaire Brawl Over the Famous Casino Exposed the Power and Greed of Wall Street* by Max Frumes and Sujeet Indap

Other media

Kevin Merida, Executive Editor, *Los Angeles Times*

- *The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X* by Les Payne and Tamara Payne
- *Postcolonial Love Poem* by Natalie Diaz
- *Dissent: The Radicalization of the Republican Party and Its Capture of the Court* by Jackie Calmes

Sally Buzbee, Executive Editor, *Washington Post*

- *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen
- *Gaudy Night: A Lord Peter Wimsey Mystery with Harriet Vane* by Dorothy L. Sayers

Gwendolyn Bounds, Chief Content Officer, Consumer Reports

- *Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World* by David Epstein
- *Freedom* by Sebastian Junger
- *Parable of the Sower* and *Parable of the Talents* by Octavia E. Butler

Adrienne LaFrance, Executive Editor, *Atlantic*

- *Demagogue: The Life and Long Shadow of Senator Joe McCarthy* by Larry Tye
- *The Great Fear of 1789: Rural Panic in Revolutionary France* by Georges Lefebvre
- *The Sacraments of Desire* by Linda Gregg
- *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee

Anup Kaphle, Executive Editor, *Rest of World*

- *An Ugly Truth: Inside Facebook's Battle for Domination* by Sheera Frenkel and Cecilia Kang
- *The Cruelty Is the Point: The Past, Present, and Future of Trump's America* by Adam Serwer

- *Mango and Peppercorns: A Memoir of Food, an Unlikely Family, and the American Dream* by Katherine Manning, Lyn Nguyen, and Tung Nguyen

Danielle Belton, Editor in Chief, *HuffPost*

- *African Europeans: An Untold History* by Olivette Otele
- *These Ghosts Are Family: A Novel* by Maisy Card
- *Yellow Wife: A Novel* by Sadeqa Johnson

S. Mitra Kalita, CEO and Co-founder, URL Media

- *The Vanishing Half: A Novel* by Brit Bennett
- *The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X* by Les Payne and Tamara Payne
- *Free Food for Millionaires* by Min Jin Lee

McKinsey leaders

Bob Sternfels, Global Managing Partner, McKinsey

- *Operation Tidal Wave: The Bloodiest Air Battle in the History of War* by Vincent dePaul Lupiano
- *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles
- *A Pirate of Exquisite Mind: Explorer, Naturalist, and Buccaneer: The Life of William Dampier* by Diana Preston and Michael Preston

Tracy Francis, Senior Partner, McKinsey

- *The Mirror & the Light: A Novel* by Hilary Mantel
- *The Premonition: A Pandemic Story* by Michael Lewis

Pierre Gentin, Senior Partner, McKinsey

- *Red Comet: The Short Life and Blazing Art of Sylvia Plath* by Heather Clark
- *Both Are True* by Reyna Marder Gentin

Homayoun Hatami, Senior Partner, McKinsey

- *This Is How They Tell Me the World Ends: The Cyberweapons Arms Race* by Nicole Perlroth

Eric Kutcher, Senior Partner, McKinsey

- *First Principles: What America's Founders Learned from the Greeks and Romans and How That Shaped Our Country* by Thomas E. Ricks
- *Stars in Their Courses: The Gettysburg Campaign, June–July 1863* by Shelby Foote

James Manyika, Senior Partner, McKinsey

- *Mirrors: Stories of Almost Everyone* by Eduardo Galeano
- *Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow* by Henry Louis Gates Jr.
- *Circe: A Novel* by Madeline Miller
- *The Old Drift: A Novel* by Namwali Serpell
- *Go Ahead in the Rain: Notes to A Tribe Called Quest* by Hanif Abdurraqib

Gary Pinkus, Senior Partner, McKinsey

- *The Empire of the Senses* by Alexis Landau
- *Disunited Nations: The Scramble for Power in an Ungoverned World* by Peter Zeihan

Liz Hilton Segel, Global Leader, Industry Practices, McKinsey

- *The How of Happiness: A New Approach to Getting the Life You Want* by Sonja Lyubomirsky
- *Learned Optimism: How to Change Your Mind and Your Life* by Martin E. P. Seligman

Sven Smit, Senior Partner, McKinsey

- *The Power of Creative Destruction: Economic Upheaval and the Wealth of Nations* by Philippe Aghion, Céline Antonin, and Simon Bunel
- *Influence: The Psychology of Persuasion* by Robert B. Cialdini
- *Pre-Suasion: A Revolutionary Way to Influence and Persuade* by Robert B. Cialdini

Magnus Tyreman, Senior Partner, McKinsey

- *The Morning Star: A Novel* by Karl Ove Knausgaard

Rodney Zimmel, Senior Partner, McKinsey

- *Shape: The Hidden Geometry of Information, Biology, Strategy, Democracy, and Everything Else* by Jordan Ellenberg
- *Blockchain Chicken Farm: And Other Stories of Tech in China's Countryside* by Xiaowei Wang
- *Call It Sleep: A Novel* by Henry Roth

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