What to read next: McKinsey’s 2024 annual book recommendations

Looking for your next book? Each year, McKinsey seeks out the best books in business, technology, workplace culture, and more. Here’s our 2024 list, recommended by CEOs, founders, editors in chief, and other global leaders.
**Biography & memoir**

*An Amerikan Family: The Shakurs and the Nation They Created*
Santi Elijah Holley, Mariner Books/HarperCollins Publishers, May 2023

**Recommended by:** Janeen Uzzell, CEO, National Society of Black Engineers

*Chasing Hope: A Reporter’s Life*
Nicholas D. Kristof, Alfred A. Knopf/Penguin Random House, May 2024

**Recommended by:** Mina Al-Oraibi, editor in chief, *National*; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

*The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race*
Walter Isaacson, Simon & Schuster, May 2022

**Recommended by:** Michael Ensser, chair, Egon Zehnder

*Fever Pitch*


*Grief Is for People*
Sloane Crosley, MCD and Farrar, Straus and Giroux/Macmillan Publishers, February 2024

**Recommended by:** Kaitlin Christine, founder and CEO, Gabbi

*Nephew: A Memoir in 4-Part Harmony*

**Recommended by:** Stephanie Mehta, CEO and chief content officer, Mansueto Ventures (publisher of *Inc.* and *Fast Company*)

*Playing from the Rough: A Personal Journey Through America’s 100 Greatest Golf Courses*
Jimmie James, Simon & Schuster, June 2024

**Recommended by:** LaSharah S. Bunting, CEO and executive director, Online News Association

*The Rigor of Angels: Borges, Heisenberg, Kant, and the Ultimate Nature of Reality*
William Egginton, Pantheon/Penguin Random House, August 2023

**Recommended by:** Maryana Iskander, CEO, Wikimedia Foundation

**Trace**
Jenny Holzer, Guggenheim Museum Publications, July 2024

**Recommended by:** Mariët Westermann, CEO and director, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation, New York; former vice chancellor, New York University Abu Dhabi

*Walk Through Fire: A Memoir of Love, Loss, and Triumph*
Sheila Johnson, with Lisa Dickey, Simon & Schuster, September 2023

**Recommended by:** LaSharah S. Bunting, CEO and executive director, Online News Association

**Business & economics**

*Design Social Change: Take Action, Work Toward Equity, and Challenge the Status Quo*
Lesley-Ann Noel, Ten Speed Press/Penguin Random House, November 2023

**Recommended by:** Lila Ibrahim, COO, Google DeepMind; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

*The Formula: How Rogues, Geniuses, and Speed Freaks Reengineered F1 into the World’s Fastest-Growing Sport*

**Recommended by:** Homayoun Hatami, senior partner, McKinsey

*Inner Drive: From Underdog to Global Company*
Arsen Tomsky, Zerde Publishing, 2023

**Recommended by:** Assel Zhanassova, CEO, Kazpost
The Journey of Leadership: How CEOs Learn to Lead from the Inside Out
Dana Maor, Hans-Werner Kaas, Kurt Strovink, and Ramesh Srinivasan, Portfolio/Penguin Random House, September 2024
Recommended by: Homayoun Hatami, senior partner, McKinsey Raju Narisetti, leader of global publishing, McKinsey; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

How Legendary Leaders Speak: 451 Proven Communication Strategies of the World’s Top Leaders
Peter D. Andrei, April 2020
Recommended by: Assel Zhanassova, CEO, Kazpost

Possible: How We Survive (and Thrive) in an Age of Conflict
Recommended by: Álvaro Rodríguez Arregui, cofounder and managing partner, IGNIA; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

Trillion Dollar Coach: The Leadership Playbook of Silicon Valley’s Bill Campbell
Recommended by: May Habib, cofounder and CEO, Writer; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

What I Learned About Investing from Darwin
Recommended by: Aakrit Vaish, cofounder and CEO, Jio Haptik Technologies; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

What Went Wrong with Capitalism
Ruchir Sharma, Simon & Schuster, June 2024
Recommended by: Ravi Krishnan, editor in chief, Mint

Fiction

2054
Elliot Ackerman and Admiral James Stavridis, Penguin Press/Penguin Random House, March 2024
Recommended by: Bob Sternfels, global managing partner, McKinsey

The Assassin
Tom Fletcher, Canelo, March 2024
Recommended by: Mina Al-Oraibi, editor in chief, National; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

Birnam Wood
Eleanor Catton, Farrar, Straus and Giroux/Macmillan Publishers, March 2023
Recommended by: Tracy Francis, senior partner, McKinsey

The Books of Jacob
Olga Tokarczuk, translated by Jennifer Croft, Riverhead Books/Penguin Random House, February 2022
Recommended by: Yuval Atsmon, senior partner, McKinsey

Bournville
Jonathan Coe, Viking/Penguin Books/Penguin Random House, November 2022
Recommended by: Dmitry Shishkin, CEO, Ringier Media International

Demon Copperhead
Barbara Kingsolver, Harper/HarperCollins Publishers, October 2022
Recommended by: Kweiilin Ellingrud, senior partner, McKinsey

Fathers and Sons
Ivan Turgenev, translated by Richard Freeborn, Oxford University Press, June 2008
Recommended by: Azeem Azhar, creator, Exponential View
God’s Debris: A Thought Experiment
Recommended by: Sven Smit, senior partner, McKinsey

I Have Some Questions for You
Rebecca Makkai, Viking/Penguin Random House, February 2023
Recommended by: M. Scott Havens, president of business operations, New York Mets

The Island of Missing Trees
Elif Shafak, Bloomsbury Publishing, November 2021
Recommended by: Rozina Breen, CEO and editor in chief, Bureau of Investigative Journalism; board chair, Leeds Playhouse

Health
The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness
Recommended by: Jen L. Wong, COO, Reddit; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

Good Energy: The Surprising Connection Between Metabolism and Limitless Health
Casey Means, with Calley Means, Avery/Penguin Random House, May 2024
Recommended by: Andrea Wasmuth, CEO, Handelsblatt Media

My Father’s Brain: Life in the Shadow of Alzheimer’s
Sandeep Jauhar, Farrar, Straus and Giroux/Macmillan Publishers, April 2023
Recommended by: Raju Narisetti, leader of global publishing, McKinsey; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

Lifespan: Why We Age—and Why We Don’t Have to
David A. Sinclair, with Matthew D. LaPlante, Atria Books/Simon & Schuster, September 2019
Recommended by: Sven Smit, senior partner, McKinsey

The Wizard of the Kremlin
Giuliano da Empoli, translated by Willard Wood, Other Press, November 2023
Recommended by: Philip Meissner, founder and director, European Center for Digital Competitiveness; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

Rodney Zemmel, senior partner, McKinsey
Outlive: The Science & Art of Longevity
Peter Attia, with Bill Gifford, Harmony/Penguin Random House, March 2023
Recommended by:
Boris Gartner, CEO, LALIGA North America; president and partner, Relevent
Ginni Rometty, cochair, OneTen; former chair and CEO, IBM
Jen L. Wong, COO, Reddit
Ravi Krishnan, editor in chief, Mint
Stephan Scholl, CEO, Alight

Unwell Women: Misdiagnosis and Myth in a Man-Made World
Elinor Cleghorn, Dutton/Penguin Random House, June 2022
Recommended by: Kevin Ali, CEO and board member, Organon

Why We Remember: Unlocking Memory’s Power to Hold On to What Matters
Charan Ranganath, Doubleday/Penguin Random House, February 2024
Recommended by: Tracy Francis, senior partner, McKinsey

History
Culture: The Story of Us, from Cave Art to K-Pop
Martin Puchner, W. W. Norton, February 2023
Recommended by: Mariët Westermann, CEO and director, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation, New York; former vice chancellor, New York University Abu Dhabi

Eyeliner: A Cultural History
Zahra Hankir, Penguin Books/Penguin Random House, November 2023
Recommended by: Khadija Patel, journalist in residence, IFPIM; former chair, International Press Institute

The Five: The Untold Lives of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper
Hallie Rubenhold, Black Swan/Penguin Random House, February 2020
Recommended by: Kate Smaje, senior partner, McKinsey

The Game: Inside the Secret World of Major League Baseball’s Power Brokers
Recommended by: M. Scott Havens, president of business operations, New York Mets

One Fine Day: Britain’s Empire on the Brink—September 29, 1923
Matthew Parker, PublicAffairs/Hachette Book, September 2023
Recommended by: Bob Sternfels, global managing partner, McKinsey

Painting for Profit: The Economic Lives of Seventeenth-Century Italian Painters
Richard E. Spear and Philip Sohm, Yale University Press, July 2010
Recommended by: Benedict Evans, founder, Benedict’s Newsletter

The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money & Power
Recommended by: Azeem Azhar, creator, Exponential View

Recommended by: Benedict Evans, founder, Benedict’s Newsletter

An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s
Doris Kearns Goodwin, Simon & Schuster, April 2024
Recommended by: Nicholas Kristof, columnist, New York Times
Personal development

Anatomy of a Breakthrough: How to Get Unstuck When It Matters Most
Adam Alter, Simon & Schuster, May 2023
**Recommended by:** Boris Gartner, CEO, LALIGA North America; president and partner, Relevent

The Art of Explanation: How to Communicate with Clarity and Confidence
Ros Atkins, Wildfire/Hachette Australia, August 2023
**Recommended by:** Dmitry Shishkin, CEO, Ringier Media International

The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters
Priya Parker, Riverhead Books/Penguin Random House, May 2018
**Recommended by:** Kaitlin Christine, founder and CEO, Gabbi

Der Kreativitäts-Code: 25 Erfolgsregeln für Ihre Kreativität (The Creativity Code: 25 rules for success for your creativity)
Josef Brunner and Christian Sellmann, Vahlen/Verlag Franz Vahlen, July 2024
**Recommended by:** Andrea Wasmuth, CEO, Handelsblatt Media

Don’t Believe Everything You Think: Why Your Thinking Is the Beginning & End of Suffering
Joseph Nguyen, independently published, March 2022
**Recommended by:** Madeline McIntosh, cofounder, CEO, and publisher, Authors Equity; former CEO, Penguin Random House US

Homecoming: Reclaiming and Healing Your Inner Child
John Bradshaw, Bantam/Penguin Random House, February 1992
**Recommended by:** Álvaro Rodríguez Arregui, cofounder and managing partner, IGNIA; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

How Big Things Get Done: The Surprising Factors That Determine the Fate of Every Project, from Home Renovations to Space Exploration and Everything In Between
Bent Flyvbjerg and Dan Gardner, Currency/Penguin Random House, February 2023
**Recommended by:** Anthony Smaré, executive chair, TrueNorth Capital, Papua New Guinea; chair, Paradise Foods; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

Man’s Search for Meaning
Viktor E. Frankl, Beacon Press, June 2006
**Recommended by:** Sahar Albazar, deputy chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, Egypt House of Representatives; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

Mindset: The New Psychology of Success; How We Can Learn to Fulfill Our Potential
**Recommended by:** Sahar Albazar, deputy chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, Egypt House of Representatives; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

Playing Big: Practical Wisdom for Women Who Want to Speak Up, Create, and Lead
Tara Mohr, Avery/Penguin Random House, December 2015
**Recommended by:** Liz Tenety, cofounder, Motherly; CEO, Founding Women

Anne Curzan, Crown/Penguin Random House, March 2024
**Recommended by:** Manoush Zomorodi, cofounder, Stable Genius Productions; host, *TED Radio Hour* by NPR

Slow Productivity: The Lost Art of Accomplishment Without Burnout
Cal Newport, Portfolio/Penguin Random House, March 2024
**Recommended by:** Liz Tenety, cofounder, Motherly; CEO, Founding Women
Somehow: Thoughts on Love
Anne Lamott, Riverhead Books/Penguin Random House, April 2024
Recommended by: Maryana Iskander, CEO, Wikimedia Foundation

To My Sisters: A Guide to Building Lifelong Friendships
Renée Kapuku and Courtney Daniella Boateng, Bluebird/Pan Macmillan Australia, August 2023
Recommended by: Daisy Veerasingham, CEO and president, Associated Press

What I Know for Sure
Oprah Winfrey, Flatiron Books/Macmillan Publishers, September 2014
Recommended by: Aakrit Vaish, cofounder and CEO, Jio Haptik Technologies; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

Age of Revolutions: Progress and Backlash from 1600 to the Present
Fareed Zakaria, W. W. Norton, March 2024
Recommended by: Philip Meissner, founder and director, European Center for Digital Competitiveness; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

Eat the Buddha: Life and Death in a Tibetan Town
Barbara Demick, Random House/Penguin Random House, May 2021
Recommended by: Sophie Schmidt, founder and publisher, Rest of World; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

How Infrastructure Works: Inside the Systems That Shape Our World
Deb Chachra, Riverhead Books/Penguin Random House, October 2023
Recommended by: Azeem Azhar, creator, Exponential View

Leadership: Six Studies in World Strategy
Recommended by: Michael Ensser, chair, Egon Zehnder

Ours Was the Shining Future: The Story of the American Dream
David Leonhardt, Random House/Penguin Random House, October 2023
Recommended by: Nicholas Kristof, columnist, New York Times

The Politics Industry: How Political Innovation Can Break Partisan Gridlock and Save Our Democracy
Recommended by: Reid Hoffman, cofounder, LinkedIn; partner, Greylock Partners

Prisoner: My 544 Days in an Iranian Prison—Solitary Confinement, a Sham Trial, High-Stakes Diplomacy, and the Extraordinary Efforts It Took to Get Me Out

‘Whatever It Is, I’m Against It’: Resistance to Change in Higher Education
Brian Rosenberg, Harvard Education Press, September 2023
Recommended by: Martin Schmidt, president, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Sustainability
Blue Machine: How the Ocean Shapes Our World
Helen Czerski, Torva/Penguin Random House, June 2023
Recommended by: Birgit Skarstein, cofounder and board member, Stiftelsen VI; Paralympic Games champion and World Championship medalist; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

Children of a Modest Star: Planetary Thinking for an Age of Crises
Jonathan S. Blake and Nils Gilman, Stanford University Press, April 2024
Recommended by: Nicholas Dirks, CEO and president, New York Academy of Sciences; former chancellor, University of California, Berkeley
The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming
**Recommended by:** Anthony Smaré, executive chair, TrueNorth Capital, Papua New Guinea; chair, Paradise Foods; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

Technology

AI Needs You: How We Can Change AI’s Future and Save Our Own
Verity Harding, Princeton University Press, March 2024
**Recommended by:** Lila Ibrahim, COO, Google DeepMind; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

Chip War: The Fight for the World’s Most Critical Technology
Chris Miller, Scribner/Simon & Schuster, October 2022
**Recommended by:** Lareina Yee, senior partner, McKinsey
Martin Schmidt, president, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Co-intelligence: Living and Working with AI
Ethan Mollick, Portfolio/Penguin Random House, April 2024
**Recommended by:** Lareina Yee, senior partner, McKinsey
Reid Hoffman, cofounder, LinkedIn; partner, Greylock Partners

Workplace culture

The Case for Good Jobs: How Great Companies Bring Dignity, Pay, and Meaning to Everyone’s Work
**Recommended by:** Abbie Lundberg, editor in chief, MIT Sloan Management Review

Culture Is the Way: How Leaders at Every Level Build an Organization for Speed, Impact, and Excellence
Matt Mayberry, Wiley/John Wiley & Sons, February 2023
**Recommended by:** Stephan Scholl, CEO, Alight
Loonshots: How to Nurture the Crazy Ideas That Win Wars, Cure Diseases, and Transform Industries
Safi Bahcall, St. Martin’s Press/Macmillan Publishers, March 2019
**Recommended by:** Kevin Ali, CEO and board member, Organon

The Surprising Science of Meetings: How You Can Lead Your Team to Peak Performance
Steven G. Rogelberg, Oxford University Press, January 2019
**Recommended by:** Birgit Skarstein, cofounder and board member, Stiftelsen VI; Paralympic Games champion and World Championship medalist; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

Tribal Leadership: Leveraging Natural Groups to Build a Thriving Organization
**Recommended by:** Kweilin Ellingrud, senior partner, McKinsey

What You Do Is Who You Are: How to Create Your Business Culture
**Recommended by:** Assel Zhanassova, CEO, Kazpost

Work Here Now: Think like a Human and Build a Powerhouse Workplace
Melissa Swift, Wiley/John Wiley & Sons, January 2023
**Recommended by:** Abbie Lundberg, editor in chief, *MIT Sloan Management Review*