



2024
SUMMER
READING LIST



Dear Maverick Collective community,

We are excited to share Maverick Collective's 2024 Summer Reading List. Each summer, we use the reading list as an opportunity to keep our community energized and connected, provoke our thinking, and introduce new voices that can help shape and influence our work. This year has been particularly challenging on many fronts, and the headwinds we face are especially fierce. Over the next few months, we will focus on balance – in all spheres of our lives – as a tool for nurturing creativity, fostering connections, and maintaining our energy to shape a better world.

This year's reading list delves into the crucial balance between work and rest. The first section celebrates trailblazing women that are forging new paths and uplifting others along the way. The second section underscores the essential need to disconnect, rest, explore nature, and embrace joy.

Over and over, we hear that Maverick Collective members are truly distinctive. We show up, operate with intention, and above all, we act. We stand out for our commitment to doing, learning, and growing – individually and together. We are also great at playing, adventuring, and seeking experiences that nourish our bodies, minds, and souls.

May your literary adventure this summer reflect the life adventures you have chosen. May you feel inspired, rested, and grounded in the knowledge that disconnection is required for deeper connection. Pick the book that speaks to you, follow your curiosity, and enjoy getting lost in a new read. Whatever you choose, consider this:

- How have these change-makers stayed true to their values and themselves while making a social impact? How have they embraced the community of women around them to support and propel them forward?
- What does life look like when we embrace nature, boredom, and rest? What do we gain, and how does it strengthen our work?

Let's continue to be Mavericks – bold, intentional, and balanced.

If you choose to purchase a title, please consider doing so from a local bookstore. If you prefer to shop online, you can support local bookstores by [purchasing books from bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org).

Happy reading and have a joyful summer!

The Maverick Collective Team

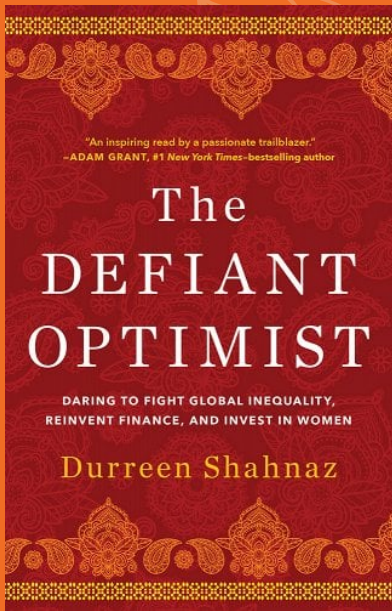
Part 1 : The Work

The Defiant Optimist | Durreen Shahnaz

The inspiring story of a Bangladeshi American entrepreneur and a global leader in social impact and impact investing. Despite growing up with constrained life choices, Durreen Shahnaz became the first Bangladeshi woman to work on Wall Street, and rose to global leadership in impact investing guided by "defiant optimism" – the stubborn belief that systems benefiting only a few can be changed to help many. Her story outlines how she uses capital markets to help those in need, especially women and girls, and offers strategies for others to challenge existing power structures.

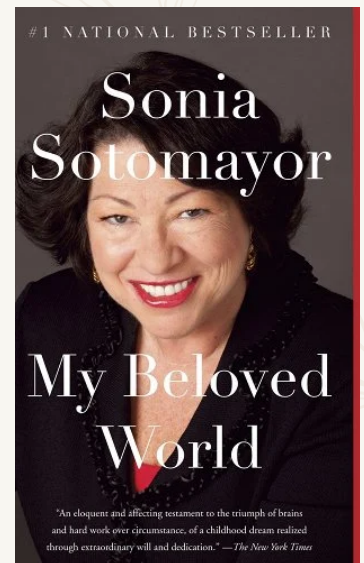
Join us on September 17 for an Author Chat with Durreen to explore her life as an impact investor and advocate for gender equality.

TED [How Capitalism and Philanthropy Can Collaborate to Solve Big Problems.](#)



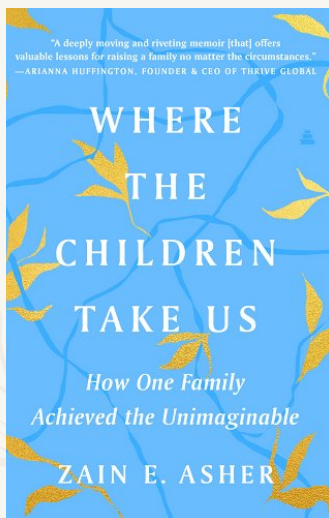
My Beloved World | Sonia Sotomayor

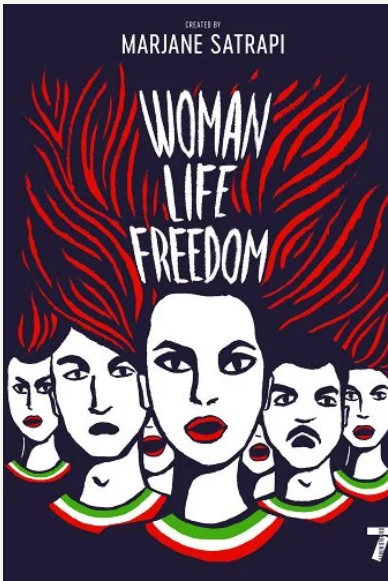
Justice Sotomayor shares her journey from her childhood in the Bronx to her current role on the nation's highest court in this memoir. Central to the story is her relationship with the United States – the opportunities this country has offered her and can offer others. From a juvenile diabetes diagnosis to earning the highest honors at Princeton, from a failed marriage to life-changing mentors, Justice Sotomayor paints a personal portrait of America, one that inspires hope and optimism for the future. Throughout her book, she emphasizes that achieving great things requires relying on others, asking for help, and building strong personal relationships.



Where the Children Take Us | Zain E. Asher

After her father dies in a tragic car accident in Nigeria, Zain E. Asher's mother, Obiajulu Ejiofo, refuses to let grief consume her. Instead, she builds a powerful family unit founded on hard work, love, and perseverance. In her memoir, *Where the Children Take Us*, Asher portrays Obiajulu as a woman of unwavering strength and resilience, who supports herself and her family through the challenges of genocide, famine, and poverty while navigating parenthood as a recent immigrant and single mother of four children.



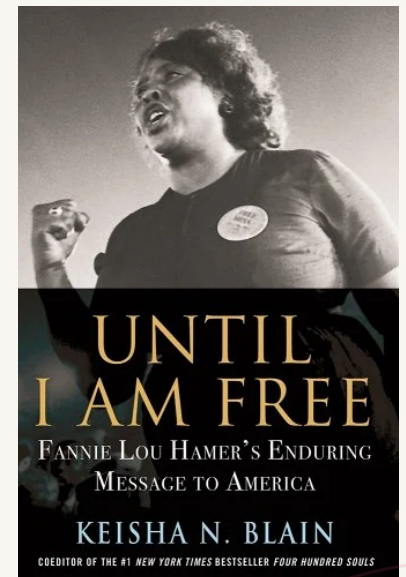


Woman, Life, Freedom | Marjane Satrapi

A collaboration with activists, artists, journalists, academics, and other creatives, *Woman, Life, Freedom* tells the story of the Iranian feminist revolution sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini, following her arrest by the morality police. Translated from the original French text, this graphic novel emphasizes the powerful role of these protests in the history of women's rights activism in Iran. Satrapi's work not only captures the immediacy of the 2022 protests but also situates them within a continuum of women's resistance against oppression, underscoring how these trailblazing women inspire and support each other in the ongoing struggle for gender equality.

Until I Am Free | Keisha N. Blain

Renowned historian, professor, and writer Keisha N. Blain crafts a powerful social justice manifesto in her biography of the lesser-known civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer. Undeterred by the brutal attack that left her permanently disabled while registering to vote, Hamer emerged as a prominent figure in the civil rights movement in Mississippi. Her unwavering voice and formidable presence influenced activists nationwide and continue to inspire new generations of leaders around the world. Through Blain's compelling narrative, Hamer's resilience and dedication to justice are brought to life, showcasing her enduring impact on the fight for civil rights.



Art Monsters

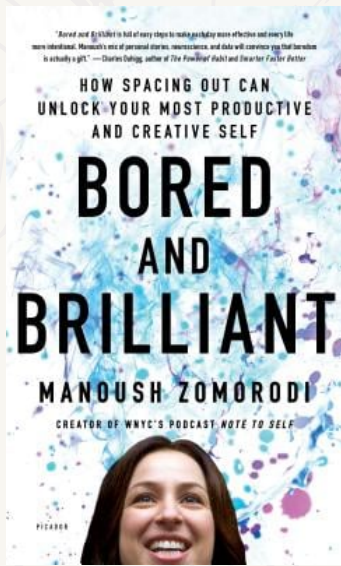


Unruly Bodies in Feminist Art Lauren Elkin

Art Monsters | Lauren Elkin

Working across time periods, disciplines, and cultural backgrounds, writer Lauren Elkin connects various feminist artists to explore how each creates her own aesthetic to challenge and redefine artistic expectations beyond the patriarchy. Throughout the book, Elkin defines the term "art monster" by examining the roles of marginalized bodies – including queer, disabled, and female – in feminist art. Her work delves into the innovative ways these artists confront and reshape the artistic norms imposed by a patriarchal society, offering a comprehensive analysis of the transformative power of feminist art.

Part 2 : Balance & Rest

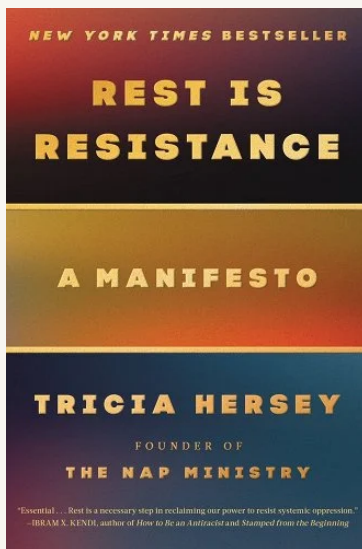
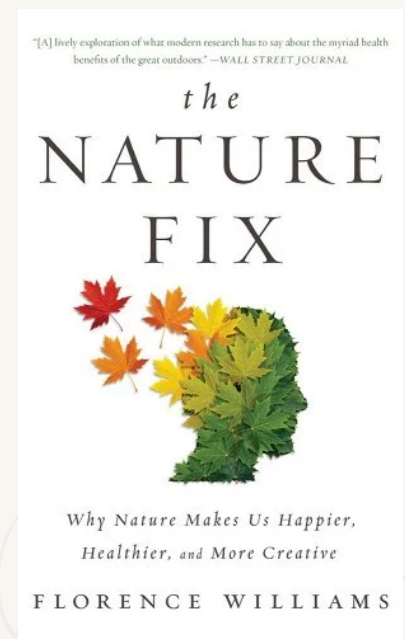


Bored and Brilliant | *Manoush Zomorodi*

In *Bored and Brilliant*, Manoush Zomorodi offers practical steps for readers to reassess their connection with technology to cultivate a healthy digital environment that embraces boredom, enhances creativity, and promotes clarity. As host of WNYC's Note to Self podcast, Zomorodi advocates for a balanced approach to technology, harnessing its potential for sustainable productivity and social interaction, while encouraging moments of mental disengagement for introspection and inspiration.

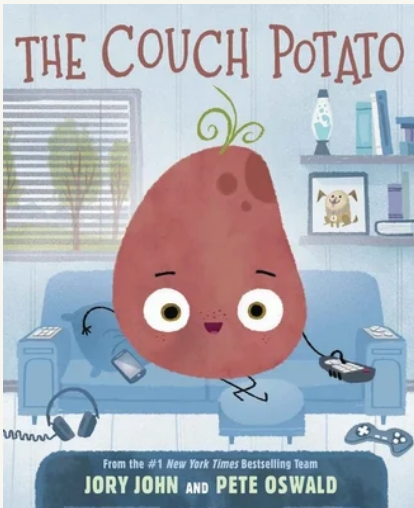
The Nature Fix | *Florence Williams*

In *The Nature Fix*, Florence Williams takes readers on a journey across the globe, where she delves into the intersection of modern science and our relationship with natural environments such as forests, islands, and diverse ecosystems. Through research, Williams reveals how these interactions not only enhance creativity and encourage deep reflection but also foster stronger connections. In a world increasingly stuck inside, Williams argues that the imperative to reconnect with nature has never been more urgent.



Rest is Resistance | *Tricia Hersey*

Affectionately dubbed the "Nap Bishop," Trisha Hersey reframes napping and rest as acts of liberation from the grips of capitalism and white supremacy. Drawing from principles of Black liberation, Afrofuturism, womanism, and somatic rituals, Hersey pens a radical manifesto challenging conventional ideas of productivity and achievement. She advocates for embracing sleep as a potent tool in dismantling oppressive systems and reclaiming personal agency.

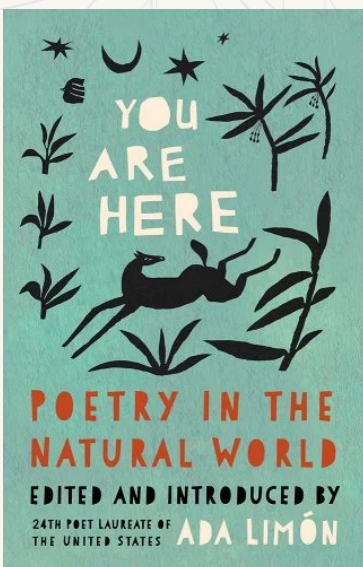
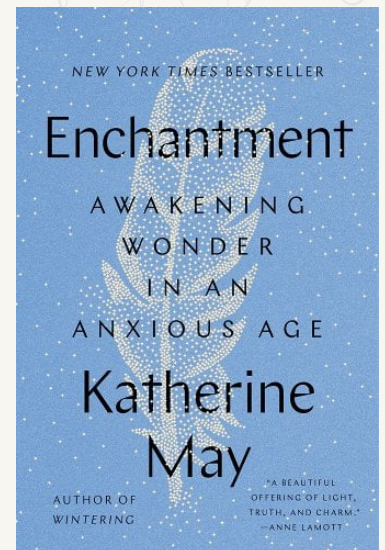


[The Couch Potato](#) | [Jory John & Pete Oswald](#)

A reminder of the simple joy of the outdoors, *The Couch Potato* tells the story of a once-lazy spud who ventures off the couch when the electricity goes out. *The Couch Potato*'s adventure will bring humor to a reader of any age and remind us of humanity's natural affinity for the outside world. We recommend the whole series!

[Enchantment](#) | [Katherine May](#)

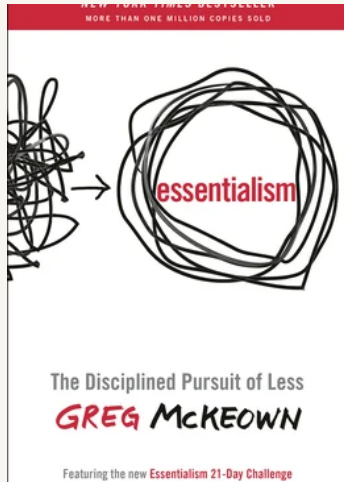
In *Enchantment*, New York Times bestselling author Katherine May encourages the reader to find daily magic in all corners of life by renewing their relationship with the environment. Responding to the constant state of stress and depletion brought on by the news, "doom-scrolling," and persistent technology use, May's tale of reawakening her curiosity after personal crises and a pandemic will inspire even the most dubious of readers to dash out the door and sink their bare feet into the nearest patch of grass.



[You Are Here](#) | [Ada Limón](#)

You Are Here gathers 50 poets to explore their relationships with the natural world. Published in association with the Library of Congress and introduced by the 24th U.S. Poet Laureate, Ada Limón, this anthology reimagines nature poetry. It offers readers a rich tapestry of perspectives on American ecosystems and landscapes, showcasing diverse voices that illuminate our connections to the natural environment.

Member Recommendations



Essentialism | Greg McKeown

Essentialism is more than a time-management strategy or a productivity technique. It is a systematic discipline for discerning what is absolutely essential, then eliminating everything that is not, so we can make the highest possible contribution toward the things that really matter.

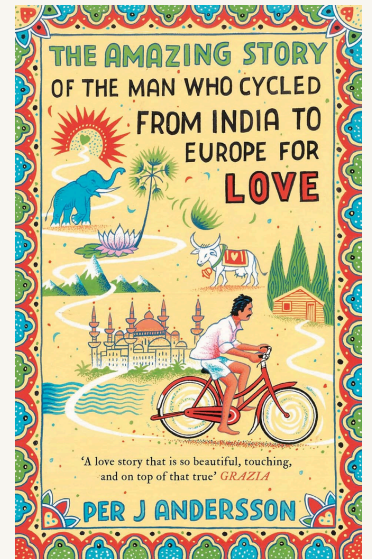
"Talking about self-management, I read Essentialism this last year and loved it. It helps you think about what is really important and where you should focus."

~ Amanda M.

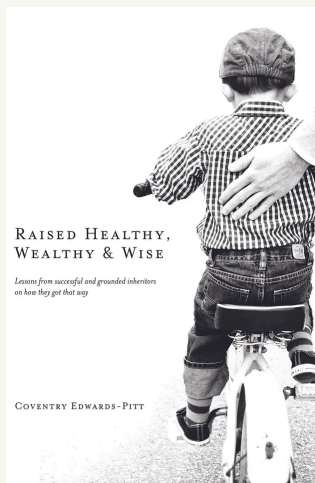
The Amazing Story of the Man Who Cycled from India to Europe for Love | Per J. Andersson

This is the remarkable true story of how love and courage led a street artist to overcome extreme poverty, caste prejudice and adversity – as well as a 7,000-mile, adventure-filled journey across continents and cultures – to be with the woman he loved.

"It is a beautiful and romantic true story that will really move you. I met them in Sweden, and they were incredible. I am working on a documentary about them now!" ~ Cristina

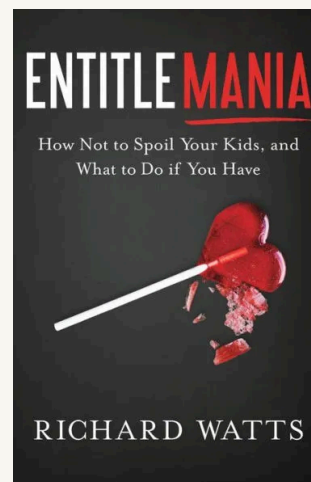


AMANDA ALSO RECOMMENDS:



Raised Healthy, Wealthy & Wise Coventry Edwards-Pitt

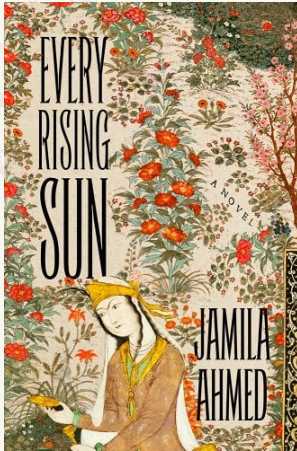
Raised Healthy, Wealthy & Wise breaks new ground in the field of raising children amid wealth by hearing the success stories: real-life children raised with wealth now grown into happy, healthy, and productive adults.



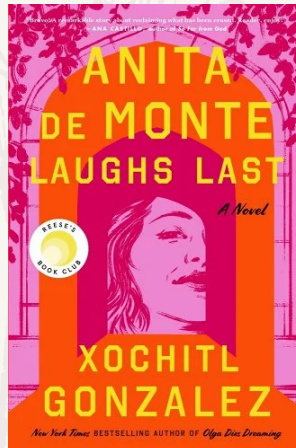
Entitlement Mania Richard Watts

Entitlement Mania provides practical strategies and sheds an important light on an increasingly pervasive social trend affecting children at every age and at every income bracket!

What Else We Are Reading



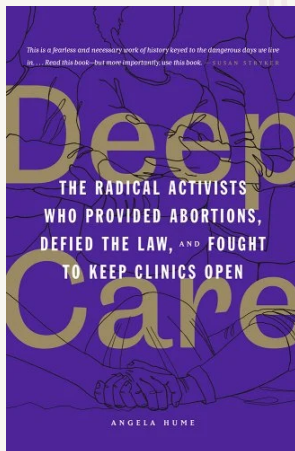
Every Rising Sun
Jamila Ahmed



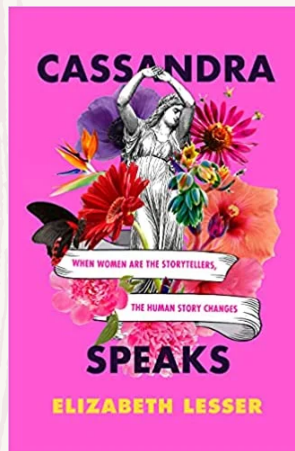
Anita de Monte Laughs Last
Xochitl Gonzalez



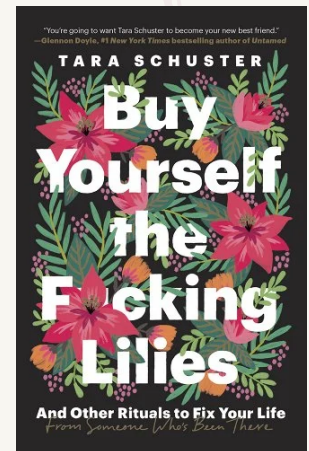
A History of Women in 101 Objects
Annabelle Hirsch



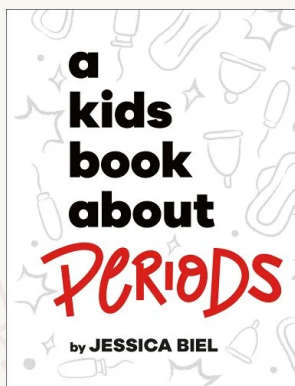
Deep Care
Angela Hume



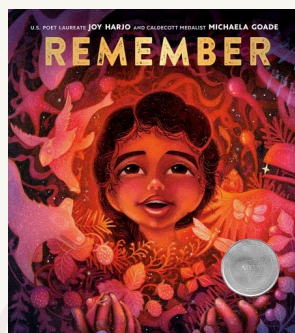
Cassandra Speaks
Elizabeth Lesser



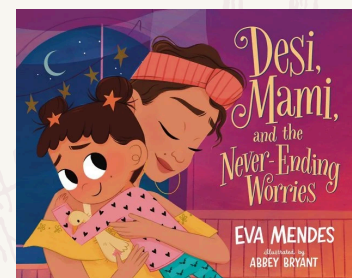
Buy Yourself the F*cking Lilies
Tara Schuster



A Kids Book about Periods
Jessica Biel



Remember
Joy Harjo



Desi, Mami, and the Never-Ending Worries*
Eva Mendes

***Also en Español**



COQUELICOT
DOUBLE, VARIE

AMARANTOIDE IMMORTELLE
GLOBULEUSE VARIEE

DAHLIA
A FLEUR D...

ZINNIA ELEGANT
DOUBLE, NAIN, VAF

PENSÉE ANGLAISE
A GRANDE FLEUR VARIEE

ROSE TRÉMIÈRE DOUBLE
GRANDE, VARIEE

AGÉRATUM
DU MEXIQUE BLEU

MAVERICK
COLLECTIVE
BY PSI



IX

Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative
LORENCE WILLIAMS

PER ANDERSSON
A love story that is so beautiful, touching, and on top of that true
GRAZIA

TRIC FOUNDERS
THE NAP MINIS

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
Enchantment
AWAKENING WONDER IN AN ANXIOUS AGE
Katherine May
AUTHOR OF WINTERING
"A BEAUTIFUL OFFERING OF LIGHT, TRUTH, AND CHARM."
ANNE LAMOTT

EDITED BY MARJANE SATRAPI
WOMAN LIFE FREEDOM
7

#1 NATIONAL BESTSELLER
Sonia Sotomayor
My Beloved World
"An eloquent and affecting testament to the triumph of brains and hard work over circumstance, of a childhood dream realized through extraordinary will and dedication."
—The New York Times

HOW SPACING OUT CAN UNLOCK YOUR MOST PRODUCTIVE AND CREATIVE SELF
BORED AND BRILLIANT
MANOUSH ZOMRODI
CREATOR OF WNYC'S PODCAST NOTE TO SELF

ANDRA
WHEN WOMEN ARE THE STORYTELLERS, THE HUMAN STORY CHANGES
SPEAKS
ELIZABETH LESSER

UNTIL I AM FREE
FANNIE LOU HANER'S ENDURING MESSAGE TO AMERICA
KEISHA N. BLAIN
COEDITOR OF THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER, FOUR HUNDRED SOULS

"An inspiring read by a passionate trailblazer."
—ADAM GRANT, #1 New York Times bestselling author
The DEFIANT OPTIMIST
DARING TO FIGHT GLOBAL INEQUALITY, REINVENT FINANCE, AND INVEST IN WOMEN
Durreen Shahnaz

YOU ARE HERE
POETRY IN THE NATURAL WORLD
EDITED AND INTRODUCED BY ADA LIMÓN
24TH POET LAUREATE OF THE UNITED STATES

"A deeply moving and riveting memoir [that] offers valuable lessons for raising a family no matter the circumstances."
—ARIANNA HUFFINGTON, FOUNDER & CEO OF THRIVE GLOBAL
WHERE THE CHILDREN TAKE US
How One Family Achieved the Unimaginable
ZAIN E. ASHER

Art Monsters
Unruly Bo in Feminis
Lauren