

the nickel boys

the nickel boys is a powerful and haunting novel that has captivated readers and critics alike with its searing exploration of historical injustice, friendship, and resilience. Written by Colson Whitehead, this Pulitzer Prize-winning book delves into the dark legacy of a real-life reform school in Florida and the boys whose lives were forever impacted by its brutal regime. In this article, readers will discover a comprehensive analysis of "the nickel boys," including its plot, themes, historical context, notable characters, and the lasting impact it has had on both literature and the broader conversation about systemic abuse. Whether you are a literature enthusiast, a student seeking deeper understanding, or simply curious about why this novel has garnered so much attention, this article will provide a thorough and SEO-optimized guide to everything you need to know about "the nickel boys."

- Overview of The Nickel Boys
- Historical Context and Inspiration
- Detailed Plot Summary
- Major Themes Explored in The Nickel Boys
- Key Characters and Their Roles
- Critical Reception and Awards
- The Lasting Impact of The Nickel Boys

Overview of The Nickel Boys

"The Nickel Boys" is a 2019 novel by acclaimed author Colson Whitehead. This gripping work of historical fiction is based on the true story of the Dozier School for Boys, a notorious reform school in Florida that operated for over a century. The novel shines a light on the inhumane conditions endured by the boys sent there, focusing specifically on the friendship between two teenagers, Elwood Curtis and Turner. By weaving together powerful storytelling, vivid characters, and sobering historical realities, "the nickel boys" delivers a moving narrative that confronts the lasting scars of institutional abuse and racial injustice.

Historical Context and Inspiration

The True Story Behind the Nickel Boys

Colson Whitehead drew inspiration for "the nickel boys" from the real-life Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys in Marianna, Florida. Opened in 1900, this state-run reform institution was meant to rehabilitate troubled youth but instead became infamous for decades of reported physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. The discovery of unmarked graves at the school in the 2010s brought renewed public attention and outrage, ultimately inspiring Whitehead to craft a fictionalized account that would honor the voices of the survivors and victims.

Socio-Political Climate of the Era

Set primarily in the early 1960s, "the nickel boys" reflects the era's deeply entrenched segregation and racial discrimination in the American South. The novel highlights not only the abuses within the reform school but also the broader context of civil rights struggles, making it a timely reminder of the systemic challenges faced by Black Americans throughout history.

- The real Dozier School operated from 1900 to 2011
- More than 100 unmarked graves discovered on school grounds
- Survivors' testimonies revealed decades of institutional abuse
- The novel's events are rooted in factual investigations and public inquiries

Detailed Plot Summary

The Journey of Elwood Curtis

At the heart of "the nickel boys" is Elwood Curtis, a bright and idealistic African American teenager living in Tallahassee, Florida. Influenced by the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Elwood is determined to make a positive difference in the world. His dreams are abruptly derailed when, through a twist of fate and racial injustice, he is falsely accused and sent to the Nickel Academy, a fictional depiction of the Dozier School.

Life Inside the Nickel Academy

Within the oppressive walls of the Nickel Academy, Elwood encounters a brutal reality. The institution, segregated by race, is rife with corruption, violence, and abuse perpetrated by those in power. Elwood forms a complex friendship with Turner, a more cynical and streetwise boy. Their contrasting outlooks on survival and morality form the emotional core of the novel, as both boys must navigate a world where justice is elusive and hope comes at a cost.

The Lasting Consequences

The narrative unfolds across two timelines, following Elwood and Turner's experiences at the Nickel Academy and the aftermath decades later. The story's final revelations offer a poignant commentary on memory, trauma, and the enduring impact of the past on the present. Whitehead's masterful storytelling brings the injustices of the Nickel Academy into sharp focus, ensuring that the pain and courage of its victims are never forgotten.

Major Themes Explored in The Nickel Boys

Systemic Racism and Injustice

A central theme in "the nickel boys" is the pervasive nature of systemic racism. The novel exposes how institutions designed to rehabilitate can instead perpetuate discrimination and violence, particularly against Black youth. Through the experiences of Elwood and other boys at the academy, Whitehead illustrates the devastating effects of a society built on inequality.

Friendship and Resilience

Despite the harrowing circumstances, the friendship between Elwood and Turner provides a glimmer of hope and humanity. Their bond is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the ways in which solidarity and trust can provide strength in even the darkest environments.

Truth, Memory, and Justice

"The Nickel Boys" also grapples with the notion of truth—how it is remembered, told, and sometimes hidden. The uncovering of the graves at the real-life Dozier School mirrors the novel's exploration of confronting painful histories and seeking justice for those whose voices were silenced.

Key Characters and Their Roles

Elwood Curtis

Elwood Curtis is the protagonist, whose unwavering faith in justice and equality is repeatedly tested by the harsh reality of the Nickel Academy. His idealism, shaped by civil rights teachings, makes his journey both inspiring and heartbreaking.

Turner

Turner serves as Elwood's foil—a pragmatic survivor who relies on skepticism and caution. His perspective challenges Elwood's ideals and adds nuance to the novel's exploration of morality, adaptability, and survival.

Supporting Characters

The novel features a range of supporting characters, from fellow students to staff members of the Nickel Academy. Each character adds depth to the portrayal of the institution's ecosystem, illustrating the various ways individuals cope with or contribute to injustice.

1. Elwood Curtis: Idealistic, principled, and hopeful
2. Turner: Cynical, resourceful, and protective
3. Staff of Nickel Academy: Represent systemic abuse and corruption
4. Other boys: Illustrate diverse responses to trauma and oppression

Critical Reception and Awards

Acclaim from Critics and Readers

"The Nickel Boys" received widespread acclaim upon its release, praised for its compelling narrative, historical accuracy, and emotional depth. Critics highlighted Whitehead's ability to blend literary craftsmanship with a powerful social message, making the novel both a gripping read and an important work of historical reckoning.

Major Awards and Recognition

The novel won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2020, marking Whitehead's second Pulitzer after "The Underground Railroad." It was also a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and appeared on numerous best-of-the-year lists. Its success helped spark renewed conversations about institutional abuse and the need for historical accountability.

The Lasting Impact of The Nickel Boys

Legacy in Literature and Society

"The Nickel Boys" has secured its place as a significant work in contemporary American literature. It has been incorporated into academic curricula and book clubs, prompting dialogue about racism, justice, and the importance of confronting uncomfortable histories. The novel's influence extends beyond literature, encouraging continued investigation and remembrance of the real events that inspired it.

Continuing Relevance

The themes explored in "the nickel boys" remain relevant in ongoing discussions about systemic abuse, racial inequality, and the need for reform in correctional institutions. Whitehead's novel serves as a reminder of the resilience of those affected and the enduring necessity of seeking truth and justice.

Questions and Answers about The Nickel Boys

Q: What is "the nickel boys" about?

A: "The Nickel Boys" is a novel by Colson Whitehead that tells the story of two boys, Elwood Curtis and Turner, who are sent to a brutal reform school in Florida during the 1960s. It explores themes of institutional abuse, racism, and the impact of historical injustice.

Q: Is "the nickel boys" based on a true story?

A: Yes, the novel is inspired by the real-life Dozier School for Boys in Florida, where numerous cases of abuse and unmarked graves were uncovered, prompting investigations and public outrage.

Q: Who are the main characters in "the nickel boys"?

A: The main characters are Elwood Curtis, an idealistic teenager influenced by the Civil Rights movement, and Turner, a cynical and pragmatic survivor at the Nickel Academy.

Q: What awards has "the nickel boys" won?

A: "The Nickel Boys" won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2020 and was also a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, among other honors.

Q: What are the main themes in "the nickel boys"?

A: Key themes include systemic racism, institutional abuse, resilience, friendship, truth, memory, and the pursuit of justice.

Q: How does "the nickel boys" address historical events?

A: The novel incorporates real events from the Dozier School for Boys and the broader context of the civil rights era, using fiction to illuminate historical truths.

Q: Why is "the nickel boys" considered important?

A: The novel is important for its powerful depiction of historical injustice and its role in raising awareness about the abuses that occurred at reform schools.

Q: How does Colson Whitehead use dual timelines in "the nickel boys"?

A: Whitehead employs dual timelines to show the immediate experiences at the Nickel Academy and the long-term effects on survivors decades later.

Q: What impact has "the nickel boys" had on readers and society?

A: The novel has sparked discussions about racism, institutional reform, and the need to confront uncomfortable aspects of history, making it influential in both literary and social contexts.

[The Nickel Boys](#)

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The Nickel Boys: A Deep Dive into Colson Whitehead's Pulitzer Prize-Winning Novel

Introduction:

Have you ever felt the chilling weight of injustice? Colson Whitehead's *The Nickel Boys*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece, plunges readers into the brutal reality of a reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida. This isn't just another historical novel; it's a visceral exploration of systemic racism, the enduring legacy of slavery, and the resilience of the human spirit. This post will delve into the powerful narrative of *The Nickel Boys*, exploring its themes, characters, and lasting impact, providing a comprehensive guide for readers and students alike. We'll uncover the historical context, analyze the novel's masterful storytelling, and discuss its contemporary relevance.

H2: The Historical Context: Beyond the Walls of the Nickel Academy

The Nickel Boys isn't a work of fiction in the strictest sense. While the characters are fictional, the horrors depicted at the Nickel Academy are rooted in the grim reality of countless real-life reform schools across the American South. Whitehead meticulously researched the history of these institutions, many of which operated with impunity, inflicting unspeakable cruelty on Black boys and young men. The novel draws inspiration from the infamous Dozier School for Boys in Marianna, Florida, exposing the systemic abuse, neglect, and cover-ups that plagued such places. Understanding this historical context is crucial to appreciating the novel's power and its unsettling truth.

H2: Elwood Curtis and Turner: A Study in Contrasting Personalities

The novel's central characters, Elwood Curtis and Turner, offer a compelling contrast. Elwood, a bright and idealistic young man, represents hope and unwavering moral strength. His commitment to non-violent resistance and his belief in justice, even in the face of overwhelming oppression, is both inspiring and heartbreaking. Turner, on the other hand, embodies a cynical pragmatism, hardened by the brutal realities of the Nickel Academy. Their relationship, complex and fraught with tension, forms the emotional core of the narrative, forcing readers to confront the difficult choices individuals face when confronted with systemic evil.

H3: The Power of Friendship in the Face of Adversity

Despite the horrific conditions, a fragile bond of friendship develops between Elwood and Turner. This connection, born out of shared suffering, becomes a lifeline for both boys. Their interactions reveal the resilience of the human spirit and the power of human connection in the face of unimaginable hardship. The complexities of their relationship challenge the reader to consider the

ethical dilemmas presented by survival in a deeply unjust system.

H2: Themes of Systemic Racism and the Legacy of Slavery

The Nickel Boys is not merely a story about a reform school; it's a powerful indictment of systemic racism and the enduring legacy of slavery in America. The novel masterfully depicts how the institution of slavery, though abolished, continues to manifest itself in insidious ways, shaping the lives of Black individuals and perpetuating cycles of oppression. The Nickel Academy becomes a microcosm of this larger societal problem, demonstrating how seemingly disparate systems of oppression—from the legal system to the education system—interconnect to maintain racial inequality.

H3: The Psychological Impact of Institutional Abuse

The novel delves into the profound psychological impact of institutional abuse, detailing the emotional scars that endure long after the boys leave the Nickel Academy. The trauma inflicted on these young men is not merely physical; it's a deep-seated psychological wounding that shapes their identities and their future prospects. Whitehead effectively portrays the lasting effects of this abuse, highlighting the need for healing and restorative justice.

H2: The Power of Storytelling and the Novel's Literary Merit

Whitehead's prose is both stark and beautiful, using economical language to convey the emotional weight of the narrative. His masterful use of imagery and symbolism creates a powerful and unforgettable reading experience. The novel's structure, shifting perspectives and timelines, adds to its complexity and enhances its emotional impact, prompting reflection on the cyclical nature of injustice.

H2: The Contemporary Relevance of The Nickel Boys

Despite being set in the past, The Nickel Boys remains profoundly relevant today. The systemic

injustices depicted in the novel continue to plague marginalized communities, highlighting the ongoing struggle for racial equality and justice reform. The novel serves as a stark reminder that the fight for a more just and equitable society is far from over and that historical understanding is crucial to addressing present-day challenges.

Conclusion:

The Nickel Boys is more than just a historical novel; it's a powerful and moving story that compels readers to confront the uncomfortable truths of America's past and present. Through its compelling characters and unflinching portrayal of systemic injustice, the novel leaves a lasting impact, reminding us of the importance of fighting for justice and equality for all. It is a must-read for anyone seeking to understand the complexities of race, justice, and the enduring legacy of oppression.

FAQs:

1. Is The Nickel Boys a true story? While the characters are fictional, the novel is heavily inspired by the real-life horrors of the Dozier School for Boys and other similar institutions in the Jim Crow South. It's a work of historical fiction based on extensive research.
2. What is the significance of the title, The Nickel Boys? The title refers to the derogatory term used to refer to the boys at the reform school, highlighting their dehumanization and the systemic disregard for their well-being.
3. What age group is The Nickel Boys appropriate for? Due to its mature themes of violence, abuse, and systemic racism, it's most appropriate for mature young adults and adults.
4. What are the major themes explored in The Nickel Boys? The novel explores themes of systemic racism, the legacy of slavery, institutional abuse, the resilience of the human spirit, friendship, and the struggle for justice.
5. How does The Nickel Boys differ from other historical novels about the Jim Crow South? While many novels explore this period, The Nickel Boys uniquely focuses on the often-overlooked experiences of Black boys in reform schools, exposing the brutal realities and systemic failures of these institutions.

the nickel boys: The Nickel Boys Colson Whitehead, 2020-06-30 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • In this Pulitzer Prize-winning follow-up to *The Underground Railroad*, Colson Whitehead brilliantly dramatizes another strand of American history through the story of two boys unjustly sentenced to a hellish reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida. When Elwood Curtis, a black boy growing up in 1960s Tallahassee, is unfairly sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy, he finds

himself trapped in a grotesque chamber of horrors. Elwood's only salvation is his friendship with fellow "delinquent" Turner, which deepens despite Turner's conviction that Elwood is hopelessly naive, that the world is crooked, and that the only way to survive is to scheme and avoid trouble. As life at the Academy becomes ever more perilous, the tension between Elwood's ideals and Turner's skepticism leads to a decision whose repercussions will echo down the decades. Based on the real story of a reform school that operated for 111 years and warped the lives of thousands of children, *The Nickel Boys* is a devastating, driven narrative that showcases a great American novelist writing at the height of his powers and "should further cement Whitehead as one of his generation's best" (*Entertainment Weekly*). Look for Colson Whitehead's bestselling new novel, *Harlem Shuffle*!

the nickel boys: *The Nickel Boys* Colson Whitehead, 2019 As the Civil Rights movement begins to reach the black enclave of Frenchtown in segregated Tallahassee, Elwood Curtis takes the words of Dr. Martin Luther King to heart: He is as good as anyone. Abandoned by his parents, but kept on the straight and narrow by his grandmother, Elwood is about to enroll in the local black college. But for a black boy in the Jim Crow South of the early 1960s, one innocent mistake is enough to destroy the future. Elwood is sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy, whose mission statement says it provides physical, intellectual and moral training so the delinquent boys in their charge can become honorable and honest men. In reality, the Nickel Academy is a grotesque chamber of horrors where the sadistic staff beats and sexually abuses the students, corrupt officials and locals steal food and supplies, and any boy who resists is likely to disappear out back. Stunned to find himself in such a vicious environment, Elwood tries to hold onto Dr. King's ringing assertion Throw us in jail and we will still love you. His friend Turner thinks Elwood is worse than naive, that the world is crooked, and that the only way to survive is to scheme and avoid trouble. The tension between Elwood's ideals and Turner's skepticism leads to a decision whose repercussions will echo down the decades. Formed in the crucible of the evils Jim Crow wrought, the boys' fates will be determined by what they endured at the Nickel Academy.

the nickel boys: *The Underground Railroad* Colson Whitehead, 2016-10-06 NOW A MAJOR TV SERIES BY BARRY JENKINS (COMING MAY 2021) WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION 2017 WINNER OF THE ARTHUR C. CLARKE AWARD 2017 LONGLISTED FOR THE BOOKER PRIZE 2017 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER 2016 'Whitehead is on a roll: the reviews have been sublime' *Guardian* 'Luminous, furious, wildly inventive' *Observer* 'Hands down one of the best, if not the best, book I've read this year' *Stylist* 'Dazzling' *New York Review of Books* Praised by Barack Obama and an Oprah Book Club Pick, *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead won the National Book Award 2016 and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2017. Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. All the slaves lead a hellish existence, but Cora has it worse than most; she is an outcast even among her fellow Africans and she is approaching womanhood, where it is clear even greater pain awaits. When Caesar, a slave recently arrived from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they take the perilous decision to escape to the North. In Whitehead's razor-sharp imagining of the antebellum South, the Underground Railroad has assumed a physical form: a dilapidated box car pulled along subterranean tracks by a steam locomotive, picking up fugitives wherever it can. Cora and Caesar's first stop is South Carolina, in a city that initially seems like a haven. But its placid surface masks an infernal scheme designed for its unknowing black inhabitants. And even worse: Ridgeway, the relentless slave catcher sent to find Cora, is close on their heels. Forced to flee again, Cora embarks on a harrowing flight, state by state, seeking true freedom. At each stop on her journey, Cora encounters a different world. As Whitehead brilliantly recreates the unique terrors for black people in the pre-Civil War era, his narrative seamlessly weaves the saga of America, from the brutal importation of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day. *The Underground Railroad* is at once the story of one woman's ferocious will to escape the horrors of bondage and a shatteringly powerful meditation on history.

the nickel boys: *The Underground Railroad* Colson Whitehead, 2016-08-02 WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION 2017 WINNER OF THE ARTHUR C. CLARKE AWARD 2017 LONGLISTED FOR THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE 2017 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER 2016

AMAZON.COM #1 BOOK OF THE YEAR 2016 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER AND A NEW YORK TIMES BOOK OF THE YEAR 'Whitehead is on a roll: the reviews have been sublime' Guardian 'Luminous, furious, wildly inventive' Observer 'Hands down one of the best, if not the best, book I've read this year' Stylist 'Dazzling' New York Review of Books Praised by Barack Obama and an Oprah Book Club Pick, *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead won the National Book Award 2016 and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2017. Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. All the slaves lead a hellish existence, but Cora has it worse than most; she is an outcast even among her fellow Africans and she is approaching womanhood, where it is clear even greater pain awaits. When Caesar, a slave recently arrived from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they take the perilous decision to escape to the North. In Whitehead's razor-sharp imagining of the antebellum South, the Underground Railroad has assumed a physical form: a dilapidated box car pulled along subterranean tracks by a steam locomotive, picking up fugitives wherever it can. Cora and Caesar's first stop is South Carolina, in a city that initially seems like a haven. But its placid surface masks an infernal scheme designed for its unknowing black inhabitants. And even worse: Ridgeway, the relentless slave catcher sent to find Cora, is close on their heels. Forced to flee again, Cora embarks on a harrowing flight, state by state, seeking true freedom. At each stop on her journey, Cora encounters a different world. As Whitehead brilliantly recreates the unique terrors for black people in the pre-Civil War era, his narrative seamlessly weaves the saga of America, from the brutal importation of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day. *The Underground Railroad* is at once the story of one woman's ferocious will to escape the horrors of bondage and a shatteringly powerful meditation on history.

the nickel boys: *The Nickel Boys* Colson Whitehead, 2019-07-16 'RaMell Ross's transcendently moving and frightening film' (Guardian, New York Film Festival) on UK cinema release 8th November 2025 WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION 2020 WINNER OF THE ORWELL PRIZE FOR POLITICAL FICTION 2020 Winner of the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction 2020 Time #1 Novel of the Year 2019 Author of *The Underground Railroad*, Colson Whitehead brilliantly dramatizes another strand of American history through the story of two boys sentenced to a hellish reform school in 1960s Florida. Elwood Curtis has taken the words of Dr Martin Luther King to heart: he is as good as anyone. Abandoned by his parents, brought up by his loving, strict and clear-sighted grandmother, Elwood is about to enroll in the local black college. But given the time and the place, one innocent mistake is enough to destroy his future, and so Elwood arrives at The Nickel Academy, which claims to provide 'physical, intellectual and moral training' which will equip its inmates to become 'honorable and honest men'. In reality, the Nickel Academy is a chamber of horrors, where physical, emotional and sexual abuse is rife, where corrupt officials and tradesmen do a brisk trade in supplies intended for the school, and where any boy who resists is likely to disappear 'out back'. Stunned to find himself in this vicious environment, Elwood tries to hold on to Dr King's ringing assertion, 'Throw us in jail, and we will still love you.' But Elwood's fellow inmate and new friend Turner thinks Elwood is naive and worse; the world is crooked, and the only way to survive is to emulate the cruelty and cynicism of their oppressors. The tension between Elwood's idealism and Turner's skepticism leads to a decision which will have decades-long repercussions. Based on the history of a real reform school in Florida that operated for one hundred and eleven years and warped and destroyed the lives of thousands of children, *The Nickel Boys* is a devastating, driven narrative by a great American novelist whose work is essential to understanding the current reality of the United States. 'If greatness is excellence sustained over time, then without question, Whitehead is one of the greatest of his generation. In fact, figuring his age, acclaim, productivity and consistency, he is one of the greatest American writers alive' Time 'A commanding triumph' Sunday Times 'Every chapter hits its mark' New York Times

the nickel boys: *The Noble Hustle* Colson Whitehead, 2015-03-03 From the two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Underground Railroad* and *The Nickel Boys* • "Whitehead proves a brilliant sociologist of the poker world." —The Boston Globe In 2011, Grantland magazine gave bestselling novelist Colson Whitehead \$10,000 to play at the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas. It

was the assignment of a lifetime, except for one hitch—he'd never played in a casino tournament before. With just six weeks to train, our humble narrator took the Greyhound to Atlantic City to learn the ways of high-stakes Texas Hold'em. Poker culture, he discovered, is marked by joy, heartbreak, and grizzled veterans playing against teenage hotshots weaned on Internet gambling. Not to mention the not-to-be overlooked issue of coordinating Port Authority bus schedules with your kid's drop-off and pickup at school. Finally arriving in Vegas for the multimillion-dollar tournament, Whitehead brilliantly details his progress, both literal and existential, through the event's antes and turns, through its gritty moments of calculation, hope, and spectacle. Entertaining, ironic, and strangely profound, this epic search for meaning at the World Series of Poker is a sure bet. Look for Colson Whitehead's bestselling new novel, *Harlem Shuffle*!

the nickel boys: *Alligator Candy* David Kushner, 2016-03-15 David Kushner grew up in the early 1970s in the Florida suburbs. It was when kids still ran free, riding bikes and disappearing into the nearby woods for hours. One morning in 1973, however, everything changed. David's older brother Jon biked through the forest to the convenience store for candy, and never returned. Decades later, now a grown man with kids of his own, Kushner found himself unsatisfied with his own memories and decided to revisit the episode a different way: through the eyes of a reporter. His investigation made him realize just how much his past had affected his present. After sifting through hundreds of documents, conducting dozens of interviews, and poring over numerous firsthand accounts, he has produced a powerful and inspiring story of loss, perseverance, and memory.

the nickel boys: *Zone One* Colson Whitehead, 2012 In this wry take on the post-apocalyptic horror novel, a pandemic has devastated the planet. The plague has sorted humanity into two types: the uninfected and the infected, the living and the living dead.

the nickel boys: *The Dozier School for Boys* Elizabeth A. Murray, PhD, 2019-09-03 Some true crimes reveal themselves in bits and pieces over time. One such case is the Florida School for Boys, a.k.a. the Dozier School, a place where—rather than reforming the children in their care—school officials tortured, raped, and killed them. Opened in 1900, the school closed in 2011 after a Department of Justice investigation substantiated allegations of routine beatings and killings made by about 100 survivors. Thus far, forensic anthropologist Dr. Erin Kimmerle and her team from the University of South Florida have uncovered fifty-five sets of human remains. Follow this story of institutional abuse, the brave survivors who spoke their truth, and the scientists and others who brought it to light.

the nickel boys: *A Traveler at the Gates of Wisdom* John Boyne, 2020-08-11 From the bestselling author of *A Ladder to the Sky*—"a darkly funny novel that races like a beating heart" (People)—comes a new novel that plays out across all of human history: a story as precise as it is unlimited. This story starts with a family. For now, it is a father and a mother with two sons, one with his father's violence in his blood, one with his mother's artistry. One leaves. One stays. They will be joined by others whose deeds will determine their fate. It is a beginning. Their stories will intertwine and evolve over the course of two thousand years. They will meet again and again at different times and in different places. From Palestine at the dawn of the first millennium and journeying across fifty countries to a life among the stars in the third, the world will change around them, but their destinies remain the same. It must play out as foretold. From the award-winning author of *The Heart's Invisible Furies* comes *A Traveler at the Gates of Wisdom*, an epic tale of humanity. The story of all of us, stretching across two millennia. Imaginative, unique, heartbreaking, this is John Boyne at his most creative and compelling.

the nickel boys: *The Colossus of New York* Colson Whitehead, 2018-02-01 In a dazzlingly original work of non-fiction, the Pulitzer-Prize winning author of *The Underground Railroad* recreates the exuberance, the chaos, the promise, and the heartbreak of New York. Here is a literary love song that will entrance anyone who has lived in - or spent time - in the greatest of American cities. A masterful evocation of the city that never sleeps, *The Colossus of New York* captures the city's inner and outer landscapes in a series of vignettes, meditations, and personal memories. Colson Whitehead conveys with almost uncanny immediacy the feelings and thoughts of longtime

residents and of newcomers who dream of making it their home; of those who have conquered its challenges; and of those who struggle against its cruelties. Whitehead's style is as multilayered and multifarious as New York itself: Switching from third person, to first person, to second person, he weaves individual voices into a jazzy musical composition that perfectly reflects the way we experience the city. There is a funny, knowing riff on what it feels like to arrive in New York for the first time; a lyrical meditation on how the city is transformed by an unexpected rain shower; and a wry look at the ferocious battle that is commuting. The plaintive notes of the lonely and dispossessed resound in one passage, while another captures those magical moments when the city seems to be talking directly to you, inviting you to become one with its rhythms. The Colossus of New York is a remarkable portrait of life in the big city. Ambitious in scope, gemlike in its details, it is at once an unparalleled tribute to New York and the ideal introduction to one of the most exciting writers working today.

the nickel boys: Apex Hides the Hurt Colson Whitehead, 2018-03-01 This New York Times Notable Book from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Underground Railroad* is a brisk, comic tour de force about identity, history, and the adhesive bandage industry. The town of Winthrop has decided it needs a new name. The resident software millionaire wants to call it New Prospera; the mayor wants to return to the original choice of the founding black settlers; and the town's aristocracy sees no reason to change the name at all. What they need, they realize, is a nomenclature consultant. And, it turns out, the consultant needs them. But in a culture overwhelmed by marketing, the name is everything and our hero's efforts may result in not just a new name for the town but a new and subtler truth about it as well.

the nickel boys: Rip Van Winkle, and The Legend of Sleepy Hollow Washington Irving, 1963 A man who sleeps for twenty years in the Catskill Mountains wakes to a much-changed world.

the nickel boys: The Intuitionist Colson Whitehead, 2017-05-04 Verticality, architectural and social, is at the heart of Colson Whitehead's first novel that takes place in an unnamed high-rise city that combines twenty-first-century engineering feats with nineteenth-century pork-barrel politics. Elevators are the technological expression of the vertical ideal, and Lila Mae Watson, the city's first black female elevator inspector, is its embattled token of upward mobility. When Number Eleven of the newly completed Fanny Briggs Memorial Building goes into deadly free-fall just hours after Lila Mae has signed off on it, using the controversial 'Intuitionist' method of ascertaining elevator safety, both Intuitionists and Empiricists recognize the set-up, but may be willing to let Lila Mae take the fall in an election year. As Lila Mae strives to exonerate herself in this urgent adventure full of government spies, underworld hit men, and seductive double agents, behind the action, always, is the Idea. Lila Mae's quest is mysteriously entwined with existence of heretofore lost writings by James Fulton, father of Intuitionism, a giant of vertical thought. If she is able to find and reveal his plan for the perfect, next-generation elevator, the city as it now exists may instantly become obsolescent.

the nickel boys: In The Company of Strangers Awaiz Khan, 2022-10-20 She had everything she ever wanted – apart from love. As the wife of a wealthy but cruel businessman, Mona has all her heart desires: money, friends, social status... everything aside from freedom. Reconnecting with old friend, Meera, introduces her to a world of glamour, parties and covert affairs. And when she meets Ali, a young man whose beautiful exterior hides the pain of his humble roots and family tragedy, Mona feels alive for the very first time. Heady with love, Mona and Ali begin a delicate game of deceit that spirals out of control. But in a world where danger lurks on every corner, their forbidden love may not only destroy Mona's marriage, but have tragic and long-lasting consequences. A captivating tale of love and loss, set against a backdrop of contemporary Pakistan that fans of Christy Lefteri and Lucinda Riley will love.

the nickel boys: The Nickel Boys Colson Whitehead, 2020-06-30 PULITZER PRIZE WINNER • NATIONAL BESTSELLER • This follow-up to *The Underground Railroad* brilliantly dramatizes another strand of American history through the story of two boys unjustly sentenced to a hellish reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida. • One of the most gifted novelists in America today. —NPR

Nickel Boys, soon to be a major motion picture directed by Academy Award® nominee RaMell Ross. Coming to Theaters this Fall. When Elwood Curtis, a black boy growing up in 1960s Tallahassee, is unfairly sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy, he finds himself trapped in a grotesque chamber of horrors. Elwood's only salvation is his friendship with fellow "delinquent" Turner, which deepens despite Turner's conviction that Elwood is hopelessly naive, that the world is crooked, and that the only way to survive is to scheme and avoid trouble. As life at the Academy becomes ever more perilous, the tension between Elwood's ideals and Turner's skepticism leads to a decision whose repercussions will echo down the decades. Based on the real story of a reform school that operated for 111 years and warped the lives of thousands of children, *The Nickel Boys* is a devastating, driven narrative that showcases a great American novelist writing at the height of his powers and "should further cement Whitehead as one of his generation's best (Entertainment Weekly). Look for Colson Whitehead's new novel, *Crook Manifesto*!

the nickel boys: *Harlem Shuffle* Colson Whitehead, 2022-08-09 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER * KIRKUS PRIZE FINALIST FOR FICTION * NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FINALIST FOR FICTION * NAACP IMAGE AWARD FINALIST FOR OUTSTANDING LITERARY WORK - FICTION A gloriously entertaining novel of heists, shakedowns and rip-offs set in Harlem in the 1960s, from two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author Colson Whitehead. To his customers and neighbours on 125th street, Ray Carney is an upstanding salesman of reasonably priced furniture, making a life for himself and his family. He and his wife Elizabeth are expecting their second child, and if her parents on Striver's Row don't approve of him or their cramped apartment across from the subway tracks, it's still home. Cash is tight, so if his cousin Freddie occasionally drops off the odd ring or necklace at the furniture store, Ray doesn't see the need to ask where it comes from. He knows a discreet jeweller downtown who also doesn't ask questions. Then Freddie falls in with a crew who plans to rob the Hotel Theresa—the Waldorf of Harlem—and volunteers Ray's services as the fence. The heist doesn't go as planned; they rarely do, after all. Now Ray has to cater to a new clientele, one made up of shady cops on the take, vicious minions of the local crime lord and numerous other Harlem lowlifes. As Ray navigates his double life, he starts to see the truth about who actually pulls the strings in Harlem. Can Ray avoid getting killed, save his cousin and grab his share of the big score, all while maintaining his reputation as the go-to source for all your quality home furniture needs?

the nickel boys: Good Talk Mira Jacob, 2019-04-04 'By turns hilarious and heart-rending. Plunges fearlessly into the murky grey areas of race and family, of struggling to find common ground, of trying to talk to our children and help them make sense of it all' Celeste Ng 'Does Donald Trump hate Muslims?' 'Is that how people really walk on the moon?' 'Is it bad to be brown?' 'Are white people afraid of brown people?' Inspired by her viral BuzzFeed piece '37 Difficult Questions from My Mixed-Raced Son', Mira Jacob responds to: her six-year-old, Zakir, who asks if the new president hates brown boys like him; uncomfortable relationship advice from her parents, who came to the United States from India one month into their arranged marriage; and increasingly fraught exchanges with her Trump-supporting in-laws. Jacob also investigates her own past, including how it felt to be a brown-skinned New Yorker on 9/11. As earnest and moving as they are laugh-out-loud funny, these are the stories that have shaped one life, but will resonate with many others.

the nickel boys: Free All Along Stephen Drury Smith, Catherine Ellis, 2019-01-15 Featured in the New Yorker's Page-Turner One of Mashable's 17 books every activist should read in 2019 This is an expression not of people who are suddenly freed of something, but people who have been free all along. —Ralph Ellison, speaking with Robert Penn Warren A stunning collection of previously unpublished interviews with key figures of the black freedom struggle by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author In 1964, in the height of the civil rights movement of the 1960s, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and poet Robert Penn Warren set out with a tape recorder to interview leaders of the black freedom struggle. He spoke at length with luminaries such as James Baldwin, Martin Luther King Jr., Stokely Carmichael, Ralph Ellison, and Roy Wilkins, eliciting reflections and frank assessments of race in America and the possibilities for meaningful change. In Harlem, a fifteen-minute

appointment with Malcolm X unwound into several hours of vivid conversation. A year later, Penn Warren would publish *Who Speaks for the Negro?*, a probing narrative account of these conversations that blended his own reflections with brief excerpts and quotations from his interviews. Astonishingly, the full extent of the interviews remained in the background and were never published. The audiotapes stayed largely unknown until recent years. *Free All Along* brings to life the vital historic voices of America's civil rights generation, including writers, political activists, religious leaders, and intellectuals. A major contribution to our understanding of the struggle for justice and equality, these remarkable long-form interviews are presented here as original documents that have pressing relevance today.

the nickel boys: *Outlawed* Anna North, 2021-01-05 INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK A BELLETRIST BOOK CLUB PICK AMAZON BEST OF THE YEAR A masterpiece. - R.O. Kwon *The Crucible* meets *True Grit* in this riveting adventure story of a fugitive girl, a mysterious gang of robbers, and their dangerous mission to transform the Wild West. In the year of our Lord 1894, I became an outlaw. The day of her wedding, 17 year old Ada's life looks good; she loves her husband, and she loves working as an apprentice to her mother, a respected midwife. But after a year of marriage and no pregnancy, in a town where barren women are routinely hanged as witches, her survival depends on leaving behind everything she knows. She joins up with the notorious Hole in the Wall Gang, a band of outlaws led by a preacher-turned-robber known to all as the Kid. Charismatic, grandiose, and mercurial, the Kid is determined to create a safe haven for outcast women. But to make this dream a reality, the Gang hatches a treacherous plan that may get them all killed. And Ada must decide whether she's willing to risk her life for the possibility of a new kind of future for them all. Featuring an irresistibly no-nonsense, courageous, and determined heroine, *Outlawed* dusts off the myth of the old West and reignites the glimmering promise of the frontier with an entirely new set of feminist stakes. Anna North has crafted a pulse-racing, page-turning saga about the search for hope in the wake of death, and for truth in a climate of small-mindedness and fear.

the nickel boys: *American Histories* John Edgar Wideman, 2019-03-26 "A powerful assemblage of short stories exploring late-in-life angst through personal myth, cultural memory, and riffs on an empire scorched by its own hubris" (O, The Oprah Magazine) from award-winning author John Edgar Wideman—his first collection in more than a decade. "Race and its reverberations are at the core of this slim, powerful volume, a blend of fiction, memoir, and reimagined history, in which the boundaries between those forms are murky and ever shifting" (The Boston Globe). In this singular collection, John Edgar Wideman blends the personal, historical, and political to invent complex, charged stories about love, death, struggle, and what we owe each other. With characters ranging from everyday Americans to Jean-Michel Basquiat to Nat Turner, *American Histories* is a journey through time, experience, and the soul of our country. In "JB & FD," Wideman reimagines conversations between John Brown, the antislavery crusader, and Frederick Douglass, the abolitionist and orator—conversations that produce a fantastical, rich correspondence that spans years and ideologies. "Maps and Ledgers" eavesdrops on a brother and sister today as they ponder their father's killing of another man. "Williamsburg Bridge" sits inside a man sitting on a bridge who contemplates his life before he decides to jump. "My Dead" is a story about how the already-departed demand more time, more space in the lives of those who survive them. *American Histories* is "an important addition to Wideman's body of writing and a remarkable demonstration of his ability to address social issues through a range of fictional forms and styles" (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette). An extended meditation on family, history, and loss, *American Histories* weaves together historical fact, philosophical wisdom, and deeply personal vignettes. This is Wideman at his best—emotionally precise and intellectually stimulating—an extraordinary collection by a master.

the nickel boys: *Masque of Honor* Sharon Virts, 2021-02-09 In this coming-of-age tale set in early 19th century America, two sons of the Virginia aristocracy risk it all to defend their dreams and determine their own destinies. General Armistead Mason and John "Jack" Mason McCarty are brothers-in-law, second cousins and descendants of founding father George Mason IV. Ambitious and

headstrong, together they set out to find love, acceptance and honor on their own merit. Armistead—by nature a politician—demands respect and strives for perfection. Jack—by inclination a rover—looks to forge his own path. When Armistead is challenged by corruption in the political machine and is denied a seat in the US Congress, the two become embroiled in a bitter dispute that sets in motion an irrevocable chain of events, leading them to the dueling grounds and an outcome that changes everything. Based on historical events of the 1819 Mason-McCarty duel, *Masque of Honor* is a story of courage, conviction, and the cost of sacrificing one life to forge another.

the nickel boys: *The Butcher's Hook* Janet Ellis, 2016-03-05 Anne Jacob is coming of age in late eighteenth-century London, the daughter of a wealthy merchant. When she is taken advantage of by her tutor — a great friend of her father's — and is set up to marry a squeamish snob named Simeon Onions, she begins to realize just how powerless she is in Victorian society. Anne is watchful, cunning, and bored. Her saviour appears in the form of Fub, the butcher's boy. Their romance is both a great spur and an excitement. Anne knows she is doomed to a loveless marriage to Onions and she is determined to escape with Fub and be his mistress. But will Fub ultimately be her salvation or damnation? And how far will she go to get what she wants? Dark and sweeping, *The Butcher's Hook* is a richly textured debut featuring one of the most memorable characters in fiction.

the nickel boys: Accra Noir (Akashic Noir) Nana-Ama Danquah, 2020-12-01 Accra joins Lagos, Nairobi, Marrakech, and Addis Ababa in representing the African continent in the Noir Series arena. "Superb . . . Each story reaffirms how fundamental 'place' is to the noir genre and how the locale shapes the story as much as the characters themselves . . . Strongly recommended." —Library Journal "There's good writing as well as a strong sense of place and culture, and the reader will absorb a side of Accra that doesn't make it into the tourist brochures." —New York Journal of Books Akashic Books continues its award-winning series of original noir anthologies, launched in 2004 with *Brooklyn Noir*. Each book comprises all new stories, each one set in a distinct neighborhood or location within the respective city. Brand-new stories by: Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond, Kwame Dawes, Adjoa Twum, Kofi Blankson Ocansey, Billie McTernan, Ernest Kwame Nkrumah Addo, Patrick Smith, Anne Sackey, Gbontwi Anyetei, Nana-Ama Danquah, Ayesha Harruna Attah, Eibhlín Ní Chléirigh, and Anna Bossman.

the nickel boys: *I Who Have Never Known Men* Jacqueline Harpman, 1997-04-08 A work of fantasy, *I Who Have Never Known Men* is the haunting and unforgettable account of a near future on a barren earth where women are kept in underground cages guarded by uniformed groups of men. It is narrated by the youngest of the women, the only one with no memory of what the world was like before the cages, who must teach herself, without books or sexual contact, the essential human emotions of longing, loving, learning, companionship, and dying. Part thriller, part mystery, *I Who Have Never Known Men* shows us the power of one person without memories to reinvent herself piece by piece, emotion by emotion, in the process teaching us much about what it means to be human.

the nickel boys: *The Ice at the End of the World* Jon Gertner, 2019-09-05 Greenland: a remote, mysterious, ice-covered rock with a population of just 56,000, has evolved from one of earth's last physical frontiers to its largest scientific laboratory. Locked within that vast 'white desert' are some of our planet's most profound secrets. As the Arctic climate warms, and Greenland's ice melts at an accelerating rate, the island is evolving into an economic and climatological hub, on which the future of the world turns. Journalist and historian Jon Gertner reconstructs in vivid, thrilling detail the heroic efforts of the scientists and explorers who have visited Greenland over the past 150 years - on skis, sleds, and now with planes and satellites, utilising every tool available to uncover the pressing secrets revealed by the ice before, thanks to climate change, it's too late. This is a story of epic adventures, populated by a colourful cast of scientists racing to get a handle on what will become of Greenland's ice and, ultimately, the world.

the nickel boys: *Sag Harbor* Colson Whitehead, 2009-04-28 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • PEN/FAULKNER AWARD FINALIST • From the two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Underground Railroad* and *The Nickel Boys*: a hilarious and supremely original novel set in the

Hamptons in the 1980s, a tenderhearted coming-of-age story fused with a sharp look at the intersections of race and class" (The New York Times). Benji Cooper is one of the few Black students at an elite prep school in Manhattan. But every summer, Benji escapes to the Hamptons, to Sag Harbor, where a small community of Black professionals have built a world of their own. The summer of '85 won't be without its usual trials and tribulations, of course. There will be complicated new handshakes to fumble through and state-of-the-art profanity to master. Benji will be tested by contests big and small, by his misshapen haircut (which seems to have a will of its own), by the New Coke Tragedy, and by his secret Lite FM addiction. But maybe, just maybe, this summer might be one for the ages. Look for Colson Whitehead's new novel, *Crook Manifesto*, coming soon!

the nickel boys: *There Are No Children Here* Alex Kotlowitz, 2011-11-30 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A moving and powerful account by an acclaimed journalist that informs the heart. [This] meticulous portrait of two boys in a Chicago housing project shows how much heroism is required to survive, let alone escape (The New York Times). Alex Kotlowitz joins the ranks of the important few writers on the subject of urban poverty.—Chicago Tribune The story of two remarkable boys struggling to survive in Chicago's Henry Horner Homes, a public housing complex disfigured by crime and neglect.

the nickel boys: *The Treeline* Ben Rawlence, 2022-01-13 A ground-breaking and beautifully written investigation into the Arctic Treeline with an urgent environmental message. 'Evocative, wise and unflinching' Jay Griffiths, author of *Wild* The Arctic treeline is the frontline of climate change, where the trees have been creeping towards the pole for fifty years already. Scientists are only just beginning to understand the astonishing significance of these northern forests for all life on Earth. At the treeline, Rawlence witnesses the accelerating impact of climate change and the devastating legacies of colonialism and capitalism. But he also finds reasons for hope. Humans are creatures of the forest; we have always evolved with trees and *The Treeline* asks us where our co-evolution might take us next. SHORTLISTED FOR THE JAMES CROPPER WAINWRIGHT PRIZE 'A moving, thoughtful, deeply reported elegy for our vanishing world and a map of the one to come' Nathaniel Rich, author of *Losing Earth* 'A lyrical and passionate book... *The Treeline* is a sobering, powerful account of how trees might just save the world, as long as we are sensible enough to let them' Mail on Sunday 'Ben Rawlence circumnavigates the very top of the globe - returning with a warning, in this enthralling and wonderfully written book' Mark Lynas, author of *Six Degrees*

the nickel boys: *Tell Me Everything* Cambria Brockman, 2019-07-16 A murder at an elite New England college tears apart a group of friends - and one of them is playing a dangerous game - in this electrifying debut in the tradition of *In a Dark, Dark Wood* and *The Couple Next Door*. In her first weeks at Hawthorne College, Malin is swept up into a tight-knit circle that will stick together through all four years. There's Gemma, an insecure theater major from London; John, a tall, handsome, and wealthy New Englander; Max, John's cousin and a shy pre-med major; Khaled, a wise-cracking prince from Abu Dhabi; and Ruby, a beautiful art history major. But Malin isn't quite like the rest of her friends. She's an expert at hiding her troubling past. She acts as if she is concerned with the preoccupations of those around her - boys, partying - all while using her extraordinary insight to detect their deepest vulnerabilities and weaknesses. By Senior Day, on the cusp of graduation, Malin's secrets - and those of her friends - are revealed. While she scrambles to maintain her artfully curated image, her missteps set in motion a devastating chain of events that ends in a murder. And as their fragile relationships hang in the balance and close alliances start shifting, Malin will test the limits of what she's capable of to stop the truth from coming out. In a mesmerising novel that peels back the innumerable layers of a seductive protagonist, debut author Cambria Brockman brings to life an entrancing setting through a story of friendship, heartbreak, and betrayal.

the nickel boys: *The Rage of Dragons* Evan Winter, 2019-02-12 'A captivating epic fantasy from a major new talent' Anthony Ryan, author of *Blood Song* ***ONE OF TIME MAGAZINE'S 100 BEST FANTASY BOOKS OF ALL TIME*** IN A WORLD CONSUMED BY ENDLESS WAR ONE YOUNG MAN WILL BECOME HIS PEOPLE'S ONLY HOPE FOR SURVIVAL. The Omehi people have been

fighting an unwinnable war for generations. The lucky ones are born gifted: some have the power to call down dragons, others can be magically transformed into bigger, stronger, faster killing machines. Everyone else is fodder, destined to fight and die in the endless war. Tau Tafari wants more than this, but his plans of escape are destroyed when those closest to him are brutally murdered. With too few gifted left, the Omehi are facing genocide, but Tau cares only for revenge. Following an unthinkable path, he will strive to become the greatest swordsman to ever live, willing to die a hundred thousand times for the chance to kill three of his own people. THE RAGE OF DRAGONS LAUNCHES AN UNMISSABLE EPIC FANTASY SERIES. 'Intense, inventive and action-packed from beginning to end - a relentlessly gripping, brilliant read' James Islington, author of *The Shadow of What Was Lost* 'Stunning debut fantasy' Publishers Weekly 'Intense, vivid and brilliantly realised - a necessary read' Anna Smith Spark, author of *The Court of Broken Knives* 'Fans of Anthony Ryan's *Blood Song* will love this' Django Wexler, author of *The Thousand Names* 'A Xhosa-inspired world complete with magic, dragons, demons and curses, *The Rage of Dragons* takes classic fantasy and imbues it with a fresh and exciting twist' Anna Stephens, author of *Godblind*

the nickel boys: *The Primrose Path* Barbara Metzger, 2010-09-14 Viscount Knowle—war hero, society darling and rising political star—expected to inherit his aunt's Primrose Cottage—but she left it to her dogs, and her companion, Angelina Armstead. Angelina would not be reasoned, bribed, threatened or even kissed into giving in to Knowle's shameless tricks to secure the property. Regency Romance by Barbara Metzger; originally published by Fawcett Crest

the nickel boys: *What It Means When a Man Falls from the Sky* Lesley Nneka Arimah, 2017-04-04 A PBS NewsHour/New York Times Book Club Pick A NATIONAL BOOK FOUNDATION 5 UNDER 35 HONOREE WINNER OF THE 2017 KIRKUS PRIZE WINNER OF THE NYPL'S YOUNG LIONS FICTION AWARD FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE LEONARD PRIZE SHORTLISTED FOR THE ASPEN WORDS LITERARY PRIZE A dazzlingly accomplished debut collection explores the ties that bind parents and children, husbands and wives, lovers and friends to one another and to the places they call home. In "Who Will Greet You at Home," a National Magazine Award finalist for *The New Yorker*, A woman desperate for a child weaves one out of hair, with unsettling results. In "Wild," a disastrous night out shifts a teenager and her Nigerian cousin onto uneasy common ground. In *The Future Looks Good*, three generations of women are haunted by the ghosts of war, while in *Light*, a father struggles to protect and empower the daughter he loves. And in the title story, in a world ravaged by flood and riven by class, experts have discovered how to fix the equation of a person - with rippling, unforeseen repercussions. Evocative, playful, subversive, and incredibly human, *What It Means When a Man Falls from the Sky* heralds the arrival of a prodigious talent with a remarkable career ahead of her.

the nickel boys: *Agency* William Gibson, 2020-01-23 THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLING NOVEL FROM WILLIAM GIBSON, THE INTERNATIONALLY BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *NEUROMANCER* ----- San Francisco, 2017. Clinton's in the White House, Brexit never happened - and Verity Jane's got herself a new job. They call Verity 'the app-whisperer,' and she's just been hired to evaluate a pair-of-glasses-cum-digital-assistant called Eunice... Only Eunice has other ideas. Pretty soon, Verity realises that Eunice is smarter than anyone she's ever met. Which is just as well since suddenly some very bad people are after Verity. Meanwhile, in a post-apocalyptic London a century from now, PR fixer Wilf Netherton is tasked with interfering in the alternative past in which Verity and Eunice exist. It appears something nasty is about to happen there - and fixing it will require not only Eunice's unique human-AI skillset but also a little help from the future. A future that Verity fears may never be . . . ----- 'Dazzling, astoundingly inventive' *The Times* 'Wild, richly satisfying' *Guardian* 'Terrific' *Spectator* 'Rattles along with great pace and suspense' *Sunday Times* 'One of our greatest science-fiction writers' *New York Times* 'A sensual, remarkably visual ride' *Guardian* 'Among our most fascinating novelists' *Daily Telegraph*

the nickel boys: *John Henry Days* Colson Whitehead, 2009-06-03 From the bestselling, two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Underground Railroad* and *The Nickel Boys*, a novel that is funny and wise and sumptuously written (*Jonathan Franzen, The New York Times Book Review*).

Colson Whitehead's triumphant novel is on one level a multifaceted retelling of the story of John Henry, the black steel-driver who died outracing a machine designed to replace him. On another level it's the story of a disaffected, middle-aged black journalist on a mission to set a record for junketeering who attends the annual John Henry Days festival. It is also a high-velocity thrill ride through the tunnel where American legend gives way to American pop culture, replete with p. r. flacks, stamp collectors, blues men, and turn-of-the-century song pluggers. John Henry Days is an acrobatic, intellectually dazzling, and laugh-out-loud funny book that will be read and talked about for years to come. Look for Colson Whitehead's new novel, *Crook Manifesto*, coming soon!

the nickel boys: *Shaking the Nickel Bush* Ralph Moody, 1994-01-01 Begun in *Little Britches* and *Man of the Family*, this is the continuing saga of Ralph Moody. In 1918, young Moody and his buddy Lonnie travel through the Southwest in an old Ford named *Shiftless*, camp in an Arizona canyon and shake the nickel bush by sculpting busts of lawyers and bankers.

the nickel boys: *The Sellout* Paul Beatty, 2015-03-03 Winner of the Man Booker Prize Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award in Fiction Winner of the John Dos Passos Prize for Literature New York Times Bestseller Los Angeles Times Bestseller Named One of the 10 Best Books of the Year by The New York Times Book Review Named a Best Book of the Year by Newsweek, The Denver Post, BuzzFeed, Kirkus Reviews, and Publishers Weekly Named a Must-Read by Flavorwire and New York Magazine's Vulture Blog A biting satire about a young man's isolated upbringing and the race trial that sends him to the Supreme Court, Paul Beatty's *The Sellout* showcases a comic genius at the top of his game. It challenges the sacred tenets of the United States Constitution, urban life, the civil rights movement, the father-son relationship, and the holy grail of racial equality—the black Chinese restaurant. Born in the agrarian ghetto of Dickens—on the southern outskirts of Los Angeles—the narrator of *The Sellout* resigns himself to the fate of lower-middle-class Californians: I'd die in the same bedroom I'd grown up in, looking up at the cracks in the stucco ceiling that've been there since '68 quake. Raised by a single father, a controversial sociologist, he spent his childhood as the subject in racially charged psychological studies. He is led to believe that his father's pioneering work will result in a memoir that will solve his family's financial woes. But when his father is killed in a police shoot-out, he realizes there never was a memoir. All that's left is the bill for a drive-thru funeral. Fueled by this deceit and the general disrepair of his hometown, the narrator sets out to right another wrong: Dickens has literally been removed from the map to save California from further embarrassment. Enlisting the help of the town's most famous resident—the last surviving Little Rascal, Hominy Jenkins—he initiates the most outrageous action conceivable: reinstating slavery and segregating the local high school, which lands him in the Supreme Court.

the nickel boys: *Confident Women* Tori Telfer, 2021-02-23 The true crime author of *Lady Killers* presents a roundup of history's most notorious female con artists and their bold, outrageous scams. From Elizabeth Holmes and Anna Delvey to Frank Abagnale and Charles Ponzi, audacious scams and charismatic scammers continue to intrigue us. As Tori Telfer reveals in *Confident Women*, the art of the con has a long and venerable tradition, and its female practitioners are some of the best—or worst. In 18th century Paris, Jeanne de Saint-Rémy scammed the royal jewelers out of a priceless diamond necklace by pretending to be best friends with Queen Marie Antoinette. In 19th century Rochester, NY, Kate and Maggie Fox accidentally started a religious movement by pretending they could speak to spirits. In the 20th century, a woman named Margaret Lydia Burton embezzled money all over the country—and stole upwards of forty prized show dogs. A few decades later, a teenager named Roxie Ann Rice scammed the entire NFL. *Confident Women* investigates how these and other notorious women were able to so spectacularly dupe and swindle their victims .

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the nickel boys: *Beirut Hellfire Society: A Novel* Rawi Hage, 2019-07-16 “Truly a masterpiece.” —Lawrence Joseph On a ravaged street overlooking a cemetery in a Christian enclave in war-torn 1970s Beirut, we meet Pavlov, the son of a local undertaker. When his father dies suddenly, Pavlov is approached by a member of the mysterious Hellfire Society—an anti-religious sect that arranges secret burial for outcasts denied last rites because of their religion or sexuality. Pavlov agrees to

take on his father's work for the society, and over the course of the novel he becomes a survivor-chronicler of his embattled and faded community at the heart of Lebanon's civil war.

the nickel boys: Purple Hibiscus Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 2012-11-29 The limits of fifteen-year-old Kambili's world are defined by the high walls of her family estate and the dictates of her fanatically religious father. Her life is regulated by schedules: prayer, sleep, study, prayer.

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