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A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year “ Nolen ’ s tender story of the Wilcomb family ’ s losses and aspirations will resonate. At once heartbreaking and uplifting, a gentle, lyrical story of a determined Black girl ’ s journey toward freedom during the Civil War. ” —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) “ Jerdine Nolen ’ s Calico Girl waves fabrics of freedom in every forward step of her undaunted heroine ’ s journey. Nolen ’ s deftly crafted scholarship offers a poignant and hopeful glimpse at the past for today ’ s curious readers. ” —Rita Williams-Garcia, Newberry Honor author From the award-winning author of Eliza ’ s Freedom Road comes the powerful tale of a slave girl ’ s triumphant journey to freedom with her family during the Civil War. Twelve-year-old Callie Wilcomb and her family are slaves, and the Civil War gives them hope that

freedom may be on the horizon. On May 23, 1861, the State of Virginia ratified their vote to secede from the Union. In Virginia, a window was opened where the laws of the land no longer applied. Because of the Contraband Law, slaves no longer had to be returned to their owners, granting them a measure of protection and safety. With the possibility of Callie and her family escaping their bonds forever, Callie is eager to learn and become educated and hopes to teach others one day. Through hardship and loss—with love and strong family ties—Callie proves that freedom is in her stars. A hilarious, heartfelt, and refreshingly honest memoir and New York Times bestseller by the beloved comedic actress known for her roles on *Freaks and Geeks*, *Dawson ’ s Creek*, and *Cougar Town* who has become “ the breakout star of Instagram stories...Imagine *I Love Lucy* mixed with a modern lifestyle guru ” (The New Yorker). There ’ s no stopping Busy Philipps. From the time she was two and “ aced out in her nudes ” to explore the neighborhood (as her mom famously described her toddler jailbreak), Busy has always been headstrong, defiant, and determined not to miss out on all the fun. These qualities led her to leave Scottsdale, Arizona, at the age of nineteen to pursue her passion for acting in Hollywood. But much like her painful and painfully funny teenage years, chasing her dreams wasn ’ t always easy and sometimes hurt more than a little. In a memoir “ that often reads like a Real World confessional or an open diary ” (Kirkus Reviews), Busy opens up about chafing against a sexist system rife with on-set bullying and body shaming, being there when friends face shattering loss, enduring devastating personal and professional betrayals from those she loved best, and struggling with postpartum anxiety and the challenges of motherhood. But Busy also brings to the page her sly sense of humor and the unshakeable sense that disappointment shouldn ’ t stand in her way—even when she ’ s knocked down both figuratively and literally (from a knee injury at her seventh-grade dance to a violent encounter on the set of *Freaks and Geeks*). The rough patches in her life are tempered by times of hilarity and joy: leveraging a flawless impression of Cher from *Clueless* into her first paid acting gig, helping reinvent a genre with cult classic *Freaks and Geeks*, becoming fast friends with *Dawson ’ s Creek* castmate Michelle Williams, staging her own surprise wedding, conquering natural childbirth with the help of a *Mad Men* – themed hallucination, and of course, how her Instagram stories became “ the most addictive thing on the internet right now ” (Cosmopolitan). Busy is

the rare entertainer whose impressive arsenal of talents as an actress is equally matched by her storytelling ability, sense of humor, and sharp observations about life, love, and motherhood— “ if you think you know Busy from her Instagram stories, you don ’ t know the half of it ” (Jenni Konner). Her conversational writing reminds us what we love about her on screens large and small. From “ candid tales of celebrity life, mom life, and general Busy-ness ” (W Magazine), *This Will Only Hurt a Little* “ is everything we ’ ve been dying to hear about ” (Bustle). Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book.

Sample Book Insights: #1 I had a lot of problems in school, because I was constantly being made fun of for my mom ’ s looks. I would take scissors and cut off my horn, because that is what the kids would say about me. #2 My grandma was wrong about the wart being a mole. It was actually a wart, and she took me to the doctor to have it removed. She told me that warts are caused by nasty people who do nasty things, but in reality, they are caused by HPV. #3 I went to a school called El Camino Real, which was 3 percent black. It was mostly white and Hispanic and Asian, and they were all rich. I was bused from South Central LA. I would try to write Audie letters, but I was illiterate. #4 I was told I was stupid every day growing up. I believed I was stupid, so I didn ’ t think I could do it. I never tried. As an adult, I worked at the airline and one of my coworkers called me stupid. Now in paperback—the intimate, powerful, and inspiring memoir by the former First Lady of the United States, featuring a new introduction by Michelle Obama, a letter from the author to her younger self, and a book club guide with 20 discussion questions and a 5-question Q&A #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • WATCH THE EMMY-NOMINATED NETFLIX ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY • OPRAH ’ S BOOK CLUB PICK • NAACP IMAGE AWARD WINNER • ONE OF ESSENCE ’ S 50 MOST IMPACTFUL BLACK BOOKS OF THE PAST 50 YEARS In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United States of America—the first African American to serve in that role—she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House in history, while also establishing herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls in the U.S. and around the world, dramatically changing the ways that families pursue healthier and more active lives, and standing with her husband as he led America through some of its most

harrowing moments. Along the way, she showed us a few dance moves, crushed Carpool Karaoke, and raised two down-to-earth daughters under an unforgiving media glare. In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world’s most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms. Warm, wise, and revelatory, *Becoming* is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same.

With his tender, funny memoir of four decades in the business, one of the first writers for Saturday Night Live traces the history of American comedy. Alan Zweibel started his comedy career selling jokes for seven dollars apiece to the last of the Borscht Belt standups. Then one night, despite bombing on stage, he caught the attention of Lorne Michaels and became one of the first writers at Saturday Night Live, where he penned classic material for Gilda Radner, John Belushi, and all of the original Not Ready For Prime Time Players. From SNL, he went on to have a hand in a series of landmark shows—from *It’s Garry Shandling’s Show* to *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. Throughout the pages of *Laugh Lines* Zweibel weaves together his own stories and interviews with his friends and contemporaries, including Richard Lewis, Eric Idle, Bob Saget, Mike Birbiglia, Sarah Silverman, Judd Apatow, Dave Barry, Carl Reiner, and more. The book also features a charming foreword from his friend of forty-five years Billy Crystal, with whom he co-wrote and co-produced the upcoming film *Here Today* that stars Crystal and Tiffany Haddish. *Laugh Lines* is a warmhearted cultural memoir of American comedy.

“ In *Laugh Lines*, Zweibel looks back, affectionately and informatively, at a career that began when he was a young deli worker grinding out jokes for old-school borscht belt comedians in his spare time, and that, after his “ S.N.L. ” years, included rewarding collaborations with, among others, Garry Shandling, Billy Crystal, Martin Short, Larry David and Dave Barry. . . . Fascinating. ”

—New York Times “ Any comedy fan will thrill to see the contemporary art's invention through the eyes of consummate funny man Alan Zweibel. He takes

you behind the velvet rope and makes you weep for all those artists who made us laugh. Screamingly funny—also very moving. A classic. ” —Mary Karr “ Alan Zweibel is legendary among us comedians. He is the man who delivers comedy with an emotional clout that makes him respected and revered. ” —Steve Martin "A refreshingly funny and blisteringly unsentimental coming-of-age memoir."

-John Green, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Turtles All The Way Down* and *The Fault in Our Stars*

In Akilah Hughes's world, family--and life--are often complicated, but always funny. Through intimate and hilarious essays, Akilah takes readers along on her journey from the small Kentucky town where she was born--and eventually became a spelling bee champ and 15-year-old high school graduate--to New York City, where she took careful steps to fulfill her dream of becoming a writer and performer. Like Tiffany Haddish's *The Last Black Unicorn* or Mindy Kaling's *Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?* for the YA set, Akilah pens revealing and laugh-out-loud funny essays about her life, covering everything from her racist fifth grade teacher, her struggles with weight and acne, her failed attempts at joining the cheerleading team, how to literally get to New York (hint: for a girl on a budget, it may include multiple bus transfers) and exactly how to "make it" once you finally get there. NOW A NEW YORK TIMES, USA TODAY, AND PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY BESTSELLER

"Dyson writes with the affection of a fan but the rigor of an academic. ... Using extensive passages from Jay-Z ' s lyrics, 'Made in America' examines the rapper ' s role as a poet, an aesthete, an advocate for racial justice and a business, man, but devotes much of its energy to Hova the Hustler." —Allison Stewart, *The Washington Post*

"Dyson's incisive analysis of JAY-Z's brilliance not only offers a brief history of hip-hop's critical place in American culture, but also hints at how we can best move forward." —Questlove

JAY-Z: *Made in America* is the fruit of Michael Eric Dyson ' s decade of teaching the work of one of the greatest poets this nation has produced, as gifted a wordsmith as Walt Whitman, Robert Frost and Rita Dove. But as a rapper, he ' s sometimes not given the credit he deserves for just how great an artist he ' s been for so long. This book wrestles with the biggest themes of JAY-Z's career, including hustling, and it recognizes the way that he ' s always weaved politics into his music, making important statements about race, criminal justice, black wealth and social injustice. As he enters his fifties, and to mark his thirty years as a recording artist, this is the perfect time to take a look at JAY-Z ' s

career and his role in making this nation what it is today. In many ways, this is JAY-Z ' s America as much as it ' s Pelosi ' s America, or Trump ' s America, or Martin Luther King ' s America. JAY-Z has given this country a language to think with and words to live by. Featuring a Foreword by Pharrell While spending the summer with their grandparents, on a remote farm in South Carolina, Ben Alderman and his sister Casey uncover a hidden world of magic; a world their grandmother is secretly visiting. It is a world where elves and dwarves are locked in mortal combat against a witch who is trying to free the last surviving wizard from exile. The witch has been defeated once before, but with the combined power of the wizard, no one will be able to stand against them. Much to Ben's dismay, he learns that he is the one foretold in the ancient elfin prophecies to bring about the downfall of the witch and save this exciting new world from destruction. **NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER** • The unapologetic, laugh-your-ass-off military memoir both vets and civilians have been waiting for, from a five-tour Army Ranger turned YouTube phenomenon and zealous advocate for veterans Members of the military ' s special operations branches share a closely guarded secret: They love their jobs. They relish the opportunity to fight. They are thankful for it, even, and hopeful that maybe, possibly, they ' ll also get to kill a bunch of bad guys while they ' re at it. You don ' t necessarily need to thank them for their service—the pleasure is all theirs. In this hilarious and personal memoir, readers ride shotgun alongside former Army Ranger and private military contractor and current social media phenomenon Mat Best, into the action and its aftermath, both abroad and at home. From surviving a skin infection in the swampy armpit of America (aka Columbus, Georgia) to kicking down doors on the outskirts of Ramadi, from blowing up a truck full of enemy combatants to witnessing the effects of a suicide bombing right in front of your face, Thank You for My Service gives readers who love America and love the good guys fresh insight into what it ' s really like inside the minds of the men and women on the front lines. It ' s also a sobering yet steadying glimpse at life for veterans after the fighting stops, when the enemy becomes self-doubt or despair and you begin to wonder why anyone should be thanking you for anything, least of all your service. How do you keep going when something you love turns you into somebody you hate? For veterans and their friends and families, Thank You for My Service will offer comfort, in the form of a million laughs, and counsel, as a blueprint for what

to do after the war ends and the real fight begins. And for civilians, this is the insider account of military life you won't find anywhere else, told with equal amounts of heart and balls. It's Deadpool meets Captain America, except one went to business school and one went to therapy, and it's anyone's guess which is which. New York Times bestselling author, superstar comedian, and Hollywood box office star Kevin Hart turns his immense talent to the written word by writing some words. Some of those words include: the, a, for, above, and even even. Put them together and you have a "hilarious but also heartfelt" (Elle) memoir on survival, success, and the importance of believing in yourself. The question you're probably asking yourself right now is: What does Kevin Hart have that a book also has? According to the three people who have seen Kevin Hart and a book in the same room, the answer is clear: A book is compact. Kevin Hart is compact. A book has a spine that holds it together. Kevin Hart has a spine that holds him together. A book has a beginning. Kevin Hart's life uniquely qualifies him to write this book by also having a beginning. It begins in North Philadelphia. He was born an accident, unwanted by his parents. His father was a drug addict who was in and out of jail. His brother was a crack dealer and petty thief. And his mother was overwhelmingly strict, beating him with belts, frying pans, and his own toys. The odds, in short, were stacked against our young hero. But Kevin Hart, like Ernest Hemingway, J.K. Rowling, and Chocolate Droppa before him, was able to defy the odds and turn it around. In his literary debut, he takes us on a journey through what his life was, what it is today, and how he's overcome each challenge to become the man he is today. And that man happens to be the biggest comedian in the world, with tours that sell out football stadiums and films that have collectively grossed over \$3.5 billion. He achieved this not just through hard work, determination, and talent. "Hart is an incredibly magnetic storyteller, on the page as he is onstage, and that's what shines through [in this] genial, entertaining guide to a life in comedy" (Kirkus Reviews). Stephen Rosenfield, founder and director of the American Comedy Institute, the premier comedy school in the United States, has taught literally dozens of major standup comics in North America, and has also pioneered comedy as an academic discipline in many universities, a trend that is rapidly spreading. Mastering Stand-Up draws on Rosenfield's own extensive experience (and those of countless stars like Lenny Bruce, Richard Pryor, Chris Rock,



Rodney Dangerfield, Louis C.K., Steve Martin, Roseanne, and Johnny Carson) to show the reader—and would-be comic—what works, what doesn't, and why. Forty sharply written chapters cover every conceivable angle of the joke and how to tell it. There are a number of books on comedy and how to do it, but none has the breadth and authority Rosenfield brings to his theme. It's not for nothing that the New York Times has described him as "probably the best-known comedy teacher in the country." Rosenfield's book is sure to become the classic text on its subject. And it should help thousands who long to make others laugh to realize their fondest hopes.

Tiffany Haddish's childhood and early adult life were...rough. You need to prepare yourself for hearing what she went through. Child abuse, molestation, physically abusive romantic relationships. At one point, she was a pimp. Which all sounds bleak, and it can be, at times. But those times are made bearable, because Haddish is an excellent storyteller. Before long, she became the first African American lady to have SNL, and later delivered her collection of memoirs, *The Last Black Unicorn*, to basic and public approval. She's driven one of the most unimaginably hard existences of anybody I've ever known, heard, or read about. Also, through it all, she has reliably made unreasonable preferences to push ahead. On the whole, we should discuss the things she had conflict with. She is strong. She was strong when she was a child, a teenager, and she is still strong today. I can't even believe how much she went through. I didn't know who she was until I watched *Girls Trip* and some of her promotional interviews, but once I did, I needed to know more about this authentic woman. Tiffany like most great comedians has had a rough life. Abandoned by her father, raised by a mentally ill and abusive mother, she spent years in foster care, was molested (even if she didn't realize it), married an abusive and controlling man twice (2 marriages to the same man) and was homeless. Had most people experienced even one of these things, it would have broken their spirit, but not Tiffany, her resilience and strong-will is a force to be reckoned with.

In this New York Times bestseller, Gayle King collects her favorite inspiring letters from the popular CBS *This Morning* segment *Note to Self*, in which twenty-first century luminaries pen advice and encouragement to the young people they once were. What do Congressman John Lewis, Dr. Ruth, and Kermit the Frog wish they could tell their younger selves? What about a gay NFL player or the most successful female race car driver? In *Note to Self*, CBS *This Morning* cohost Gayle

King shares some of the most memorable letters from the broadcast 's popular segment of the same name. With essays from such varied figures as Oprah, Vice President Joe Biden, Chelsea Handler, and Maya Angelou—as well as poignant words from a Newtown father and a military widow—*Note to Self* is a moving reflection on the joys and challenges of growing up and a perfect gift for any occasion. In this heartfelt memoir, six-time Grammy Award-winning artist and star of WE TV 's reality hit *Braxton Family Values*, Toni Braxton writes about her personal life decisions and their impact on her health, family and career. While Braxton appears to be living a gilded life—selling 60 million records, appearing in sold-out Las Vegas performances and hit shows like *Dancing with the Stars*, and starring in her own reality series—hers is in fact a tumultuous story, a tale of triumph over a life filled with obstacles, including two bankruptcy filings. The mother of an autistic child, Braxton long feared that her son 's condition might be karmic retribution for earlier life choices, some of which will shock fans. But when heart ailments began plaguing her at the age of 41 and she was diagnosed with Lupus, Braxton knew she had to move beyond the self-recrimination and take charge of her own healing. Intensely honest and deeply inspirational, *Unbreak My Heart* is the never-before-told story of the measures Braxton took to make herself and her family whole again. “ What a treasure trove! ” —Sarah Beth Durst, author of *Queen of the Blood Unicorns: Not just for virgins anymore*. Here are sixteen lovely, powerful, intricate, and unexpected unicorn tales from fantasy icons including Garth Nix, Peter S. Beagle, Patricia A. McKillip, Bruce Coville, Carrie Vaughn, and more. In this volume you will find two would-be hunters who enlist an innkeeper to find a priest hiding the secret of the last unicorn. A time traveler tries to corral an unruly mythological beast that might never have existed at all. The lover and ex-boyfriend of a dying woman join forces to find a miraculous remedy in New York City. And a small-town writer of historical romances discovers a sliver of a mysterious horn in a slice of apple pie. In 1990, Tommy Davidson burst onto the scene in the Emmy Award-winning show *In Living Color*, a pioneering sketch comedy show, featuring a multi-racial cast of actors and dancers who spoke to an underrepresented new generation created by Hip Hop Nation. A story of black excellence, in this revealing memoir, Tommy shares his unique perspective on making it in Hollywood, being an integral part of television history, on fame and family, and on living a life that has

never been black and white--just funny and true . . . Abandoned as an infant on the streets of Greenville, Mississippi, and rescued by a loving white family, Tommy Davidson spent most of his childhood unaware that he was different from his brother and sister. All that changed as he came of age in a society of racial barriers--ones that he was soon to help break. On a fledgling network, Tommy joined the cast of *In Living Color*, alongside other relative newcomers including Jim Carrey, Rosie Perez, Jamie Foxx and Jennifer Lopez--all united by an ingenious throng of Wayans siblings (Keenen, Damon, Kim, Shawn, and Marlon), poised to break new ground. Now Tommy gives readers the never-before-told behind-the-scenes story of the first show born of the Hip Hop Nation: from its incredible rise, to his own creation of such unforgettable characters as Sweet Tooth Jones and dead-on impressions of Sammy Davis, Jr., Michael Jackson, M.C. Hammer and Sugar Ray Leonard, and appearing in such classic sketches as "Homie The Clown," the "Hey Mon, family," and the unforgettable "Ugly Woman," through guest-star skirmishes (and black eyes) to backstage tensions and the eventual fall of this pop-culture touchstone. He reveals his own nascent career on the stand-up circuit with Adam Sandler, Jerry Seinfeld, Louie Anderson and performing with Eddie Murphy and Richard Pryor, as well as reflections on working with Spike Lee, Halle Berry, Sam Jackson, Chris Rock and Jada Pinkett Smith. And he also shares his very personal story of living with--and being inspired and empowered by--two distinct family histories. Told with humor and hard-won honesty by a singular voice whose family and friendships help him navigate a life of personal and professional highs and lows, *Living in Color* is a bracing, illuminating, and remarkable success story. An homage to the groundbreaking series *In Living Color* was featured in Bruno Mars's music video for his hit song *Finesse*, a remixed collaboration with Cardi B. It was a loving tribute that exemplified the sustained cultural impact of the show, and now 90s kids can dig into their nostalgia through this humorous memoir of one of its stars! Vivica A. Fox is a dynamo who has created a lasting career on her own, through sheer, roll-up-your-sleeves DIY hustle. *Every Day I'm Hustling* is a personal book with a message Fox passionately believes in: that you make your own luck, that you never ever wake up in the morning thinking somebody 's going to call you and offer you that part or ask you out on that date that 's going to change your life, that you have to wake up and put on your longest eyelashes

and fiercest heels and go out and make your life happen yourself. The actress provides start-today strategies for success in business and “been there” lessons in love, buttressed with stories from her early family life all the way through to today. Always honest and always funny, Fox also tells behind-the-scenes tales from some of her biggest movies — such as Uma Thurman’s life-changing advice during Kill Bill and Will Smith’s downtime pep talk on Independence Day. And she maps out exactly what it took to come back with a role on the smash hit Empire and her own frisky show on Lifetime, Vivica’s Black Magic. She also shares her how-is-she-53? secrets to looking your best, no matter the age on your driver’s license. The enchanting tale of the Black Unicorn is told to Reina, who learns to have confidence in herself. This wonderful twist on identity and loving yourself will inspire readers as they hear the powerful message of acceptance: “You are Loved! You are Beautiful! You are You!” I have been woman for a long time beware my smile I am treacherous with old magic Filled with rage and tenderness, Audre Lorde’s most acclaimed poetry collection speaks of mothers and children, female strength and vulnerability, renewal and revenge, goddesses and warriors, ancient magic and contemporary America. These are fearless assertions of identity, told with incantatory power. **NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A GOODREADS CHOICE AWARDS FINALIST** “Hilarious yet soul-shaking.” —Black Enterprise The fearless comedy legend—one of the “Original Kings of Comedy” —hilariously breaks down the wisdom of white people, advice that has been killing black folks in America for four hundred years and counting. 200 years ago, white people told black folks, “ ‘ I suggest you pick the cotton if you don’t like getting whipped. ” Today, it’s “ comply with police orders if you don’t want to get shot. ” Now comedian/activist D. L. Hughley — one the Original Kings of Comedy — confronts and remixes white people’s “ advice ” in this “ hilarious examination of the current state of race relations in the United States ” (Publishers Weekly). In America, a black man is three times more likely to be killed in encounters with police than a white guy. If only he had complied with the cop, he might be alive today, pundits say in the aftermath of the latest shooting of an unarmed black man. Or, Maybe he shouldn’t have worn that hoodie ... or, moved more slowly ... not been out so late ... Wait, why are black people allowed to drive, anyway? This isn’t a new phenomenon. White people have been giving “ advice ” to black folks for as

long as anyone can remember, telling them how to pick cotton, where to sit on a bus, what neighborhood to live in, when they can vote, and how to wear our pants. Despite centuries of whites' advice, it seems black people still aren't listening, and the results are tragic. Now, at last, activist, comedian, and New York Times bestselling author D. L. Hughley offers *How Not to Get Shot*, an illustrated how-to guide for black people, full of insight from white people, translated by one of the funniest black dudes on the planet. In these pages you will learn how to act, dress, speak, walk, and drive in the safest manner possible. You also will finally understand the white mind. It is a book that can save lives. Or at least laugh through the pain. Black people: Are you ready to not get shot! White people: Do you want to learn how to help the cause? Let's go! An introvert braves the cybersex, the pitfalls of eating out alone, the difficulties of weight gain, and other hurdles faced by shy people living in a world that urges us to be cool as "J" humorously recounts her life in all its awkward glory. Their revolutionary marriage was arguably one of the most scandalous and intriguing in history. Yet five centuries later, we still know little about Martin and Katharina Luther's life as husband and wife. Until now. Against all odds, the unlikely union worked, over time blossoming into the most tender of love stories. This unique biography tells the riveting story of two extraordinary people and their extraordinary relationship, offering refreshing insights into Christian history and illuminating the Luthers' profound impact on the institution of marriage, the effects of which still reverberate today. By the time they turn the last page, readers will have a deeper understanding of Luther as a husband and father and will come to love and admire Katharina, a woman who, in spite of her pivotal role, has been largely forgotten by history. Together, this legendary couple experienced joy and grief, triumph and travail. This book brings their private lives and their love story into the spotlight and offers powerful insights into our own twenty-first-century understanding of marriage. What makes you unique? Find out with Little Ellen, the creative and lovable star of Ellen DeGeneres' debut picture book, based on her new animated series! Hi! Little Ellen here—You know I love making people laugh, but did you also know that I am full of questions? SO many questions! And the one I am wondering most is, what makes me, well, me? Before she was an award-winning actor and talk show host, Ellen DeGeneres was a little girl in New Orleans. Get to know Little Ellen and the wonderful world she sees in this book of

friendship and groovy moves, perfect for kids with big imaginations and even bigger hearts! This joyful picture book promotes empathy and social-emotional learning, with an inclusive voice that encourages kids to be themselves. In her memoir, "the screen actress writes of her family--the one she was born into and the one she created. She shares stories of her father, a Vietnam vet who was bowed but never broken by life's challenges, and of her mother who survived violence both in the home and on DC's volatile streets. Here too she opens up about her experiences as a single mother, a journey some saw as a burden but which she saw as a gift"--Amazon.com. This fun and trendy journal can be used as a journal, diary, or a fun way to share ideas, party plans, and vacation ideas. A great match maker journal to be included as a gift set with the book- *The Last Black Unicorn* by Tiffany Haddish. Over 100 pages. A sometimes serious, often hilarious, and always inspiring guide that encourages young women to live a life full of ownership, confidence, and freedom from singer and popular *Scream Queens* and *Grease Live!* actress Keke Palmer, delightfully illustrated in four color with Keke ' s favorite inspirational quotes , journal entries, and memes. As a successful music artist, actress, and talk show host, from inner city Chicago, Keke has always used her social media following and platform for real talk about the issues that matter most to her generation, but now she is speaking out candidly and for the first time about the secrets, struggles, and practices that have guided her to succeed. On the surface, it may appear that Keke has it made, but under the success, she has grappled with the same issues all young women wrestle with—identity, pressure, self-worth, love, sexuality, heartbreak, and family. With this in mind, she created *I Don ' t Belong To You*—an inspirational guide that encourages young people to change their mindset and live with more freedom, confidence, and love as they navigate the rough terrain of the twenty-first century. Full of revealing stories from Keke ' s personal and professional life, this book tackles twelve topics—sexuality, race, anxiety, success, bullying, and body image to name a few—with refreshing honesty. Within each chapter are quotes, texts, song lyrics, and funny memes that have inspired her; and practices that can help you stay on a path of always growing, never grown. With a voice of empathy, tough love, and determination, Keke speaks about the challenges and triumphs she has experienced on her journey to finding her own voice and creating a beautiful life. *I Don ' t Belong To You* is the motivation you need to move past

pain and fear to lead a life full of creativity, spirituality, passion, and unlimited success. Nobody knew where it had come from, or what it wanted. Not even Jaive, the sorceress, could fathom the mystery of the fabled beast. But Tanaquil, Jaive's completely unmagical daughter, understood it at once. She knew why the unicorn was there: It had come for her. It needed her. Tanaquil was amazed because she was the girl with no talent for magic. She could only fiddle with broken bits of machinery and make them work again. What could she do for a unicorn? The Phoenix Project wowed over a half-million readers. Now comes the Wall Street Journal Bestselling The Unicorn Project! “ The Unicorn Project is amazing, and I loved it 100 times more than The Phoenix Project... ” —FERNANDO CORNAGO, Senior Director Platform Engineering, Adidas “ Gene Kim does a masterful job of showing how ... the efforts of many create lasting business advantages for all. ” —DR. STEVEN SPEAR, author of The High-Velocity Edge, Sr. Lecturer at MIT, and principal of HVE LLC. “ The Unicorn Project is so clever, so good, so crazy enlightening! ” — CORNELIA DAVIS, Vice President Of Technology at Pivotal Software, Inc., Author of Cloud Native Patterns This highly anticipated follow-up to the bestselling title The Phoenix Project takes another look at Parts Unlimited, this time from the perspective of software development. In The Unicorn Project, we follow Maxine, a senior lead developer and architect, as she is exiled to the Phoenix Project, to the horror of her friends and colleagues, as punishment for contributing to a payroll outage. She tries to survive in what feels like a heartless and uncaring bureaucracy and to work within a system where no one can get anything done without endless committees, paperwork, and approvals. One day, she is approached by a ragtag bunch of misfits who say they want to overthrow the existing order, to liberate developers, to bring joy back to technology work, and to enable the business to win in a time of digital disruption. To her surprise, she finds herself drawn ever further into this movement, eventually becoming one of the leaders of the Rebellion, which puts her in the crosshairs of some familiar and very dangerous enemies. The Age of Software is here, and another mass extinction event looms—this is a story about rebel developers and business leaders working together, racing against time to innovate, survive, and thrive in a time of unprecedented uncertainty...and opportunity.

“ The Unicorn Project provides insanely useful insights on how to improve your

technology business. ” —DOMINICA DEGRANDIS, author of *Making Work Visible* and Director of Digital Transformation at Tasktop ——— “ My goal in writing *The Unicorn Project* was to explore and reveal the necessary but invisible structures required to make developers (and all engineers) productive, and reveal the devastating effects of technical debt and complexity. I hope this book can create common ground for technology and business leaders to leave the past behind, and co-create a better future together. ” —Gene Kim, November 2019

“ An insightful memoir that uncovers unique stories about matters of the heart. ” —*Essence* The inspiring New York Times bestseller from Common—the Grammy Award, Academy Award, and Golden Globe – winning musician, actor, and activist—explores how love and mindfulness can build communities and allow you to take better control of your life through actions and words. Common believes that the phrase “ let love have the last word ” is not just a declaration; it is a statement of purpose, a daily promise. Love is the most powerful force on the planet, and ultimately the way you love determines who you are and how you experience life. Touching on God, self-love, partners, children, family, and community, Common explores the core tenets of love to help us understand what it means to receive and, most importantly, to give love. He moves from the personal—writing about his daughter, to whom he wants to be a better father—to the universal, where he observes that our society has become fractured under issues of race and politics. He knows there ’ s no quick remedy for all of the hurt in the world, but love—for yourself and for others—is where the healing begins. In his first public reveal, Common also shares a deeply personal experience of childhood molestation that he is now confronting...and forgiving. Courageous, insightful, brave, and characteristically authentic, *Let Love Have the Last Word* shares Common ’ s own unique and personal stories of the people and experiences that have led to a greater understanding of love and all it has to offer. It is a powerful call to action for a new generation of open hearts and minds, one that is sure to resonate for years to come. Peter S. Beagle's beloved fantasy classic captured imaginations around the world and takes on new life in this luscious, fully illustrated graphic novel adaptation. *The Last Unicorn* is a tale for any age about the wonders of magic, the power of love, and the tragedy of loss. The unicorn, alone in her enchanted wood, learns that she may be the last of her kind. Reluctant at first, she sets out on a journey to discover the fate of her



fellow unicorns, even if it means facing the terrifying anger of the Red Bull and the malignant evil of the king who wields its power. Along the way she'll encounter a cast of unforgettable characters, including Schmendrick the magician, the bandit Molly Grue, the noble Prince L í r, and the occasional talking butterfly. Adapted by Peter B. Gillis and lushly illustrated by Renae De Liz and Ray Dillon, *The Last Unicorn* is simultaneously current and timeless in this newest incarnation. **NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER** “ An inspiring story that manages to be painful, honest, shocking, bawdy and hilarious. ” —The New York Times Book Review

From stand-up comedian, actress, and breakout star of *Girls Trip*, Tiffany Haddish, comes *The Last Black Unicorn*, a sidesplitting, hysterical, edgy, and unflinching collection of (extremely) personal essays, as fearless as the author herself. Growing up in one of the poorest neighborhoods of South Central Los Angeles, Tiffany learned to survive by making people laugh. If she could do that, then her classmates would let her copy their homework, the other foster kids she lived with wouldn't beat her up, and she might even get a boyfriend. Or at least she could make enough money—as the paid school mascot and in-demand Bar Mitzvah hype woman—to get her hair and nails done, so then she might get a boyfriend. None of that worked (and she's still single), but it allowed Tiffany to imagine a place for herself where she could do something she loved for a living: comedy. Tiffany can't avoid being funny—it's just who she is, whether she's plotting shocking, jaw-dropping revenge on an ex-boyfriend or learning how to handle her newfound fame despite still having a broke person's mind-set. Finally poised to become a household name, she recounts with heart and humor how she came from nothing and nowhere to achieve her dreams by owning, sharing, and using her pain to heal others. By turns hilarious, filthy, and brutally honest, *The Last Black Unicorn* shows the world who Tiffany Haddish really is—humble, grateful, down-to-earth, and funny as hell. And now, she's ready to inspire others through the power of laughter. From beloved comedian, actress, and New York Times bestselling author Tiffany Haddish comes *Layla, the Last Black Unicorn*, a hilarious, original picture book tale about a lovable but awkward unicorn who learns why her uniqueness is her biggest strength. It's not easy to fit in when you stand out. When Layla arrives for her first day of school at Unicornia, the school for unicorns, she realizes that she's not like the other kids there. They're all pastel colors and know the rules to Horn Ball and none of

them come from the Woods like Layla does. Try as she might to make friends, Layla ' s just . . . different. But when her class gets lost during a field trip to the Fiddle Dee Deep Forest, it ' s up to Layla to step up and save the day. Layla, the Last Black Unicorn is a hilariously heartwarming picture book about self-acceptance, self-esteem, and standing up for standing out by New York Times bestselling author, Grammy Award-winning comedian, and actress Tiffany Haddish and Jerdine Nolen, author of the Coretta Scott King Honor Book Thunder Rose. Thunder Rose vows to grow up to be more than just big and strong, thank you very kindly--and boy, does she ever But when a whirling storm on a riotous rampage threatens, has Rose finally met her match? NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Nominated for the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work Named a Best Book of the Year by The Root Chosen by Emma Straub as a Best New Celebrity Memoir “ A book of essays as raw and honest as anyone has ever produced. ” — Lena Dunham, Lenny Letter In the spirit of Amy Poehler ' s Yes Please, Lena Dunham ' s Not That Kind of Girl, and Roxane Gay's Bad Feminist, a powerful collection of essays about gender, sexuality, race, beauty, Hollywood, and what it means to be a modern woman. One month before the release of the highly anticipated film The Birth of a Nation, actress Gabrielle Union shook the world with a vulnerable and impassioned editorial in which she urged our society to have compassion for victims of sexual violence. In the wake of rape allegations made against director and actor Nate Parker, Union—a forty-four-year-old actress who launched her career with roles in iconic ' 90s movies—instantly became the insightful, outspoken actress that Hollywood has been desperately awaiting. With honesty and heartbreaking wisdom, she revealed her own trauma as a victim of sexual assault: "It is for you that I am speaking. This is real. We are real." In this moving collection of thought provoking essays infused with her unique wisdom and deep humor, Union uses that same fearlessness to tell astonishingly personal and true stories about power, color, gender, feminism, and fame. Union tackles a range of experiences, including bullying, beauty standards, and competition between women in Hollywood, growing up in white California suburbia and then spending summers with her black relatives in Nebraska, coping with crushes, puberty, and the divorce of her parents. Genuine and perceptive, Union bravely lays herself bare, uncovering a complex and courageous life of self-doubt and self-discovery with

incredible poise and brutal honesty. Throughout, she compels us to be ethical and empathetic, and reminds us of the importance of confidence, self-awareness, and the power of sharing truth, laughter, and support. From Ross Mathews, the nationally bestselling author of *Man Up!*, judge on *RuPaul's Drag Race*, and alum of *Chelsea Lately*, comes “ a delightful mix of sweet and sour celebrity experiences ” (Shelf Awareness) in this hilarious and irreverent collection of essays. Pretend it's happy hour and you and I are sitting at the bar. I look amazing and, I agree with you, much thinner in person. You look good, too. Maybe it's the candlelight, maybe it's the booze. Either way, let's just go with it. Keep this all between you and me, and do me a favor? Don't judge me if I name drop just a little. Television personality Ross Mathews likes telling stories. He was always outrageous and hilariously honest, even when the biggest celebrity he knew was his favorite lunch lady in the school cafeteria. Now that he has Hollywood experience—from interning behind the scenes at *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno to judging *RuPaul's Drag Race*—he has a lot to talk about. In *Name Drop*, Ross dishes about being an unlikely insider in the alternate reality that is showbiz, like that time he was invited by Barbara Walters to host *The View*—only to learn his hero did not suffer fools; his Christmas with the Kardashians, which should be its own holiday special; and his news-making talk with Omarosa on *Celebrity Big Brother*, which, as it turns out, was just the tip of the iceberg. Holding nothing back, Ross shares the most treasured and surprising moments in his celebrity-filled career, and proves that while exposure may have made him a little bit famous, he is still as much a fanboy as ever. Filled with “ charmingly told ” (Booklist) tales ranging from the horrifying to the hilarious—and with just the right “ Rossipes ” and cocktails to go along with them—*Name Drop* is every pop culture lover's dream come true. From Naptown to Tinseltown—legendary stand-up comedian and actor Mike Epps finally tells all in this outrageous, hilarious, no-holds-barred memoir. Before starring in *Def Comedy Jam* and *Showtime at the Apollo*—before the sold-out comedy shows, *Uncle Buck*, and becoming his hero Richard Pryor in a biopic—there was Indianapolis. And not the good part. Mike Epps is one of America's favorite and funniest people, but the path to fame was paved with opportunities to mess it up. And mess it up he did. Growing up in “ Naptown ” —what people who live there really call rough-around-the-edges

Indianapolis—Epps found himself forced to hustle from an early age. Despite his mother’s best efforts, and the love of his well-behaved brother, “ Chaney, ” and his beloved sister, Julie, Epps was drawn to a life of crime, but as he quickly discovered, stealing and dealing didn’t really fit his sweet sensibilities. Not to mention he wasn’t very good at it—take, for example, the day he had to call the cops on himself when a dog wouldn’t let him leave a house he was burgling. After several arrests and more than a few months in jail, Epps finally realized that he was an unsuccessful thug, and instead turned to the next most obvious career path: stand-up comedy. Heading first to New York, then all over the country, and finally to Hollywood, Mike Epps carved out a unique place in American comedy, combining hysterical tales of his family and friends with a mordant take on life in the Naptowns of America. Comedy saved Mike Epps, and here he reveals exactly how he finally grew up and got out, barely. And when describing how he survived when so many of his friends didn’t, Epps makes clear what he’s thankful for and sorry about. *Unsuccessful Thug* is about growing up black in America, facing down racism in Hollywood, and ultimately how it feels to fail at thugdom, pull yourself up by the bootstraps, and end up selling out arenas and starring in movies across the country. A year had passed since Ben Holiday bought the Magic Kingdom from the wizard Meeks, who had set a series of pitfalls against him. Ben survived, by the aid of three loyal friends: Questor Thews, and ill-trained wizard; Abernathy, a talking dog, the Court Scribe; and the lovely Willow, who sometimes had to be a tree. Bu ben had been troubled by dreams of disaster to his former partner, Miles Bennett. Yet when he returned to Earth, Ben found Miles doing splendidly. Unknown to Ben, the dreams had been a trap by Meeks, who had returned to the Magic Kingdom as a tiny insect hidden in Ben's clothing. That first night back in Landover, Ben awoke to see Meeks gloating over him. claiming to have the medallion that could summon the mysterious knight-protector, the Paladin, and that he had cast a spell to witch appearances with Ben. Ben found himself outcast, no longer recognized by any friend, though all his powerful enemies seemed to know him. Without the medallion, he couldn't seek the help of the Paladin against Meeks. There was only the prism cat—whatever that might be! And where was Willow—and the mysterious black unicorn she'd set out to find? A misfit crew race across the galaxy to prevent the genocide of magical creatures, in this unique science fiction debut. Having magical powers

makes you less than human, a resource to be exploited. Half-unicorn Gary Cobalt is sick of slavery, captivity, and his horn being ground down to power faster-than-light travel. When he's finally free, all he wants is to run away in his ancestors' stone ship. Instead, Captain Jenny Perata steals the ship out from under him, so she can make an urgent delivery. But Jenny held him captive for a decade, and then Gary murdered her best friend... who was also the wife of her co-pilot, Cowboy Jim. What could possibly go right? File Under: Science Fiction [ Rocks in Space | Stand Up to Reason | The Human Experiment | Last Unicorn ]

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