

The Vanishing Half



The Vanishing Half: A Deep Dive into Brit Bennett's Masterpiece

Are you captivated by stories of identity, family secrets, and the enduring power of the past? Then Brit Bennett's *The Vanishing Half* is a must-read. This blog post delves deep into this critically acclaimed novel, exploring its compelling characters, intricate plot, and the lasting impact it has on readers. We'll examine the themes of race, identity, passing, and sisterhood, providing insightful analysis without spoilers while highlighting why *The Vanishing Half* continues to resonate with audiences worldwide. Get ready to unravel the complexities of this literary masterpiece.

The Premise: Identical Twins, Divergent Paths

The Vanishing Half follows the intertwined lives of identical twin sisters, Stella and Desiree Vignes, who grew up in the racially segregated town of Mallard, Louisiana. Their escape from Mallard sets the stage for dramatically different choices. Desiree embraces her Black identity, while Stella makes the shocking decision to "pass" as white, a choice that fundamentally alters the course of her life and the lives of her descendants. The novel masterfully explores the consequences of this decision, examining the complexities of race and identity in America.

The Power of Choice and Consequence

Bennett expertly portrays the sisters' opposing paths, highlighting the profound weight of their choices. Desiree's decision to remain in her community brings its own challenges and triumphs, while Stella's carefully constructed life as a white woman is fraught with constant anxieties and hidden truths. The novel doesn't shy away from the moral ambiguities inherent in their decisions, leaving the reader to grapple with the ethical dilemmas presented.

Exploring Themes: Identity, Race, and Sisterhood

The Vanishing Half transcends a simple narrative of twin sisters; it's a powerful exploration of multiple interwoven themes:

The Illusion of Passing:

Stella's decision to pass highlights the social construct of race. It reveals the precariousness of identity and the constant fear of exposure. The novel forces the reader to confront the historical and societal pressures that led to such drastic measures and the ongoing psychological toll it takes.

The Burden of Secrets:

The novel is woven with secrets, carefully guarded truths that reverberate through generations. These secrets create tension and drive the plot forward, ultimately shaping the characters' destinies and relationships. The impact of these secrets extends far beyond the immediate family, illustrating the lasting consequences of concealment.

The Strength of Sisterhood:

Despite their diverging paths, the bond between Stella and Desiree remains a powerful force throughout the novel. Their relationship is complex and often strained, yet it underscores the enduring nature of sisterhood even amidst profound differences and betrayals. This sisterly connection forms a crucial backbone to the narrative, providing a poignant counterpoint to the other themes explored.

Intergenerational Trauma:

The Vanishing Half beautifully illustrates how trauma is passed down through generations. The experiences of the twins and their families, particularly regarding race and identity, leave an indelible mark on subsequent generations, shaping their perspectives and choices. Bennett masterfully shows how the past continues to haunt the present, impacting individual lives and family dynamics.

The Literary Brilliance of Brit Bennett

Bennett's writing style is both lyrical and precise. Her prose effortlessly captures the emotional complexities of her characters, allowing readers to deeply empathize with their struggles and triumphs. The novel's structure cleverly interweaves different timelines and perspectives, creating a rich and immersive reading experience. Bennett's ability to build suspense and reveal crucial information gradually keeps the reader captivated from beginning to end.

A Multi-Generational Saga:

The novel spans decades, offering a compelling exploration of how racial dynamics and societal expectations evolve across generations. This multi-generational perspective adds significant depth and complexity, enriching the overall narrative and offering a broader understanding of the impact of historical events on individual lives.

Conclusion: A Must-Read for Every Book Lover

The Vanishing Half is more than just a captivating story; it's a thought-provoking exploration of identity, family, and the enduring power of the past. Brit Bennett's masterful storytelling, combined with the novel's poignant themes, makes it a truly unforgettable reading experience. It's a book that will stay with you long after you finish the final page, prompting reflection on the complexities of race, identity, and the choices that shape our lives.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Is *The Vanishing Half* a difficult read?

A1: While the novel deals with complex themes, Bennett's writing style is accessible and engaging, making it a rewarding read for a wide audience.

Q2: Does the book contain any graphic content?

A2: The novel deals with sensitive topics, including racial prejudice and difficult family relationships, but it avoids graphic descriptions of violence or explicit sexual content.

Q3: Is *The Vanishing Half* a standalone novel?

A3: Yes, it is a complete and satisfying standalone novel.

Q4: What are the major themes explored in *The Vanishing Half*?

A4: The major themes include identity, race, passing, sisterhood, secrets, and intergenerational trauma.

Q5: Is there a movie adaptation of *The Vanishing Half*?

A5: Currently, there is a television adaptation in development at HBO.

the vanishing half: *The Vanishing Half* Brit Bennett, 2020-06-02 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER ONE OF BARACK OBAMA'S FAVORITE BOOKS OF THE YEAR NAMED A BEST BOOK OF 2020 BY THE NEW YORK TIMES * THE WASHINGTON POST * NPR * PEOPLE * TIME MAGAZINE* VANITY FAIR * GLAMOUR 2021 WOMEN'S PRIZE FINALIST "Bennett's tone and style recalls James Baldwin and Jacqueline Woodson, but it's especially reminiscent of Toni Morrison's 1970 debut novel, *The Bluest Eye*." —Kiley Reid, Wall Street Journal "A story of absolute, universal timelessness ...For any era, it's an accomplished, affecting novel. For this moment, it's piercing, subtly wending its way toward questions about who we are and who we want to be...." - Entertainment Weekly From The New York Times-bestselling author of *The Mothers*, a stunning new novel about twin sisters, inseparable as children, who ultimately choose to live in two very different worlds, one black and one white. The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect? Weaving together multiple strands and generations of this family, from the Deep South to California, from the 1950s to the 1990s, Brit Bennett produces a story that is at once a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing. Looking well beyond issues of race, *The Vanishing Half* considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations, and explores some of the multiple reasons and realms in which people sometimes feel pulled to live as something other than their origins. As

with her New York Times-bestselling debut *The Mothers*, Brit Bennett offers an engrossing page-turner about family and relationships that is immersive and provocative, compassionate and wise.

the vanishing half: *The Mothers* Brit Bennett, 2016 It is the last season of high school life for Nadia Turner, a rebellious, grief-stricken beauty. Mourning her mother's recent suicide, she takes up with the local pastor's son. Luke Sheppard is twenty-one, a former football star whose injury has reduced him to waiting tables at a diner. It's not serious-- until the pregnancy. As years move by, Nadia, Luke, and her friend Aubrey are living in debt to the choices they made that one seaside summer, caught in a love triangle they must carefully maneuver, and dogged by the constant, nagging question: What if they had chosen differently?

the vanishing half: *The Vanishing Half* Brit Bennett, 2021-01-12 The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. Inseparable as children, they ultimately choose to live in two different worlds, one black and one white. An exploration of the American history of passing.

the vanishing half: *Summary of the Vanishing Half* Emilie Perly, 2020-08-14 *The Vanishing Half*, published in June 2020, is the second novel by author Brit Bennett. It became a New York Times bestseller and was selected as a Good Morning America Book Club Pick. The novel explores the themes of female family bonds and the Black experience in America. Bennett covered similar material in her debut novel, *The Mothers* (2016), which also became a New York Times bestseller. HBO has purchased the film rights to *The Vanishing Half* with the intention of creating a limited TV series from the material. Page number citations in this guide refer to the Kindle edition. The novel is set in several locations during different time periods. The story begins in the small village of Mallard, Louisiana, in 1968 and then skips to New Orleans, New York, Southern California, and back to Mallard between 1978 and the early 1980s. Just as the time and location shift among numerous places and decades, the limited third-person narrative point of view shifts among multiple people. Since the novel is driven by the perceptions and recollections of its characters, the story does not move in a linear fashion.

the vanishing half: *The Vanishing Half* Brit Bennett, 2021-06 THE SUNDAY TIMES TOP BESTSELLER#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER'An utterly mesmerising novel..I absolutely loved this book' Bernardine Evaristo, winner of the Booker Prize 2019'Epic' Kiley Reid, O, The Oprah MagazineThe Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Ten years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' story lines intersect?Weaving together multiple strands and generations of this family, from the Deep South to California, from the 1950s to the 1990s, Brit Bennett produces a story that is at once a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing. Looking well beyond issues of race, *The Vanishing Half* considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations, and explores some of the multiple reasons and realms in which people sometimes feel pulled to live as something other than their origins.

the vanishing half: *The Vanishing Half* Brit Bennett, 2020 The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Ten years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect? Weaving together multiple strands and generations of this family, from the Deep South to California, from the 1950s to the 1990s, Brit Bennett produces

a story that is at once a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing.--Provided by publisher.

the vanishing half: The Stationery Shop Marjan Kamali, 2019-06-18 A poignant, heartfelt new novel by the award-nominated author of *Together Tea*—extolled by the *Wall Street Journal* as a “moving tale of lost love” and by *Shelf Awareness* as “a powerful, heartbreaking story”—explores loss, reconciliation, and the quirks of fate. Roya, a dreamy, idealistic teenager living amid the political upheaval of 1953 Tehran, finds a literary oasis in kindly Mr. Fakhri’s neighborhood stationery shop, stocked with books and pens and bottles of jewel-colored ink. Then Mr. Fakhri, with a keen instinct for a budding romance, introduces Roya to his other favorite customer—handsome Bahman, who has a burning passion for justice and a love for Rumi’s poetry—and she loses her heart at once. Their romance blossoms, and the little stationery shop remains their favorite place in all of Tehran. A few short months later, on the eve of their marriage, Roya agrees to meet Bahman at the town square when violence erupts—a result of the coup d’etat that forever changes their country’s future. In the chaos, Bahman never shows. For weeks, Roya tries desperately to contact him, but her efforts are fruitless. With a sorrowful heart, she moves on—to college in California, to another man, to a life in New England—until, more than sixty years later, an accident of fate leads her back to Bahman and offers her a chance to ask him the questions that have haunted her for more than half a century: Why did you leave? Where did you go? How is it that you were able to forget me?

the vanishing half: The Confessions of Frannie Langton Sara Collins, 2019-05-21 This breathtaking debut, winner of the Costa First Novel Award, is a murder mystery that travels across the Atlantic and through the darkest channels of history. A brilliant, searing depiction of race, class, and oppression that penetrates the skin and sears the soul, it is the story of a woman of her own making in a world that would see her unmade. All of London is abuzz with the scandalous case of Frannie Langton, accused of the brutal double murder of her employers, renowned scientist George Benham and his eccentric French wife, Marguerite. Crowds pack the courtroom, eagerly following every twist, while the newspapers print lurid theories about the killings and the mysterious woman being tried at the Old Bailey. The testimonies against Frannie are damning. She is a seductress, a witch, a master manipulator, a whore. But Frannie claims she cannot recall what happened that fateful evening, even if remembering could save her life. She doesn’t know how she came to be covered in the victims’ blood. But she does have a tale to tell: a story of her childhood on a Jamaican plantation, her apprenticeship under a debauched scientist who stretched all bounds of ethics, and the events that brought her into the Benhams’ London home—and into a passionate and forbidden relationship. Though her testimony may seal her conviction, the truth will unmask the perpetrators of crimes far beyond murder and indict the whole of English society itself.

the vanishing half: Shades of Grey Jasper Fforde, 2009-12-29 From the *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Thursday Next* series comes a “laugh-out-loud funny” (*Los Angeles Times*) and “brilliantly original” (*Booklist*, starred review) novel of a man attempting to navigate a color-coded world. “A rich brew of dystopic fantasy and deadpan goofiness.”—*The Washington Post* Welcome to Chromatacia, where the Colortocracy rules society through a social hierarchy based on one’s limited color perception. In this world, you are what you can see. Eddie Russet wants to move up. When he and his father relocate to the backwater village of East Carmine, his carefully cultivated plans to leverage his better-than-average red perception and marry into a powerful family are quickly upended. Eddie must content with lethal swans, sneaky Yellows, inviolable rules, an enforced marriage to the hideous Violet deMauve, and a risky friendship with an intriguing Grey named Jane who shows Eddie that the apparent peace of his world is as much an illusion as color itself. Will Eddie be able to tread the fine line between total conformity—accepting the path, partner, and career delineated by his hue—and his instinctive curiosity that is bound to get him into trouble?

the vanishing half: As You Were David Tromblay, 2021-02-16 A hypnotic, brutal, and unstoppable coming-of-age story echoing from within the aftershocks set off by the American Indian boarding schools of generations past, fanned by the flames of nearly fifteen years of service in the Armed Forces, exposing a series of inescapable prisons and the invisible scars of attempted erasure.

When he learns his father is dying, David Tromblay ponders what will become of the monster's legacy and picks up a pen to set the story straight. In sharp and unflinching prose, he recounts his childhood bouncing between his father, who wrestles with anger, alcoholism, and a traumatic brain injury; his grandmother, who survived Indian boarding schools but mistook the corporal punishment she endured for proper child-rearing; and his mother, a part-time waitress, dancer, and locksmith, who hides from David's father in church basements and the folded-down back seat of her car until winter forces her to abandon her son on his grandmother's doorstep. For twelve years, he is beaten, burned, humiliated, locked in closets, lied to, molested, seen and not heard, until his talent for brutal violence meets and exceeds his father's, granting him an escape. Years later, David confronts the compounded traumas of his childhood, searching for the domino that fell and forced his family into the cycle of brutality and denial of their own identity.

the vanishing half: The Vanishing Half Brit Bennett, 2021-06-22

the vanishing half: *It Is Wood, It Is Stone* Gabriella Burnham, 2020-07-28 "A lush depiction of privilege and power, sex and stability . . . following three women in São Paulo . . . *It Is Wood, It Is Stone* is an elegant arrival of a new talent."—Elle NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY Good Housekeeping • Marie Claire • Harper's Bazaar • Publishers Weekly With sharp, gorgeous prose, *It Is Wood, It Is Stone* takes place over the course of a year in São Paulo, Brazil, in which two women's lives intersect. Linda, an anxious and restless American, has moved to São Paulo, with her husband, Dennis, who has accepted a yearlong professorship. As Dennis submerges himself in his work, Linda finds herself unmoored and adrift, feeling increasingly disassociated from her own body. Linda's unwavering and skilled maid, Marta, has more claim to Linda's home than Linda can fathom. Marta, who is struggling to make sense of complicated history and its racial tensions, is exasperated by Linda's instability. One day, Linda leaves home with a charismatic and beguiling artist, whom she joins on a fervent adventure that causes reverberations felt by everyone, and ultimately binds Marta and Linda in a profoundly human, and tender, way. An exquisite debut novel by young Brazilian American author Gabriella Burnham, *It Is Wood, It Is Stone* is about women whose romantic and subversive entanglements reflect on class and colorism, sexuality, and complex, divisive histories.

the vanishing half: The Obsession Jesse Q. Sutanto, 2021-02-02 A fast-paced teen revenge-thriller from the author of *Dial A for Aunties*, *The Obsession* will keep readers on the edge of their seats until the very end. Boy Meets Girl. Boy Stalks Girl. Girl Gets Revenge. Logan thinks he and Delilah are meant to be. Delilah doesn't know who Logan is. Logan believes no one knows Delilah like him. He makes sure of it by learning everything he can by watching her through a hidden camera. Some might call him a stalker. Logan prefers to be called romantic. Delilah is keeping secrets though, deadly ones. There's so much more to her than meets the eye. Logan is determined to make Delilah the heroine in his twisted fantasy and he'll do anything to get what he wants. Delilah is done with the men in her life controlling her. If Logan won't let her go...she'll make him. Sutanto has crafted a page-turning work of suspense that questions the line between romantic 'research' and stalking in the age of the internet, analyzing the roles played by abuse, misogyny, racism, and violence in contemporary relationships.—Booklist Set against a Northern California private school backdrop, the sensational plot is riddled with twists that come at a furious pace...A suspenseful page-turner.—Kirkus Reviews This tense, quick-moving thriller is also a thought-provoking story about the different shapes of abuse. Fans of high-drama fiction with a dark edge, like Karen McManus's *One of Us Is Lying* or Gretchen McNeil's *#murdertrending*, will be hooked.—School Library Journal

the vanishing half: Passing Nella Larsen, 2022 Harlem Renaissance author Nella Larsen (1891 -1964) published just two novels and three short stories in her lifetime, but achieved lasting literary acclaim. Her classic novel *Passing* first appeared in 1926.

the vanishing half: Grand Union Zadie Smith, 2019-10-08 Longlisted for the Carnegie Medal! A dazzling collection of short fiction Zadie Smith has established herself as one of the most iconic, critically respected, and popular writers of her generation. In her first short story collection, she

combines her power of observation and her inimitable voice to mine the fraught and complex experience of life in the modern world. Interleaving eleven completely new and unpublished stories with some of her best-loved pieces from *The New Yorker* and elsewhere, Smith presents a dizzyingly rich and varied collection of fiction. Moving exhilaratingly across genres and perspectives, from the historic to the vividly current to the slyly dystopian, *Grand Union* is a sharply alert and prescient collection about time and place, identity and rebirth, the persistent legacies that haunt our present selves and the uncanny futures that rush up to meet us. Nothing is off limits, and everything—when captured by Smith’s brilliant gaze—feels fresh and relevant. Perfectly paced and utterly original, *Grand Union* highlights the wonders Zadie Smith can do.

the vanishing half: *Daddy* Emma Cline, 2021-06-29 From the bestselling author of *The Girls* comes a “brilliant” (*The New York Times*) story collection exploring the dark corners of human experience. “Daddy’s ten masterful, provocative stories confirm that Cline is a staggering talent.”—*Esquire* NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY An absentee father collects his son from boarding school after a shocking act of violence. A nanny to a celebrity family hides out in Laurel Canyon in the aftermath of a tabloid scandal. A young woman sells her underwear to strangers. A notorious guest arrives at a placid, not-quite rehab in the Southwest. In ten remarkable stories, Emma Cline portrays moments when the ordinary is disturbed, when daily life buckles, revealing the perversity and violence pulsing under the surface. She explores characters navigating the edge, the limits of themselves and those around them: power dynamics in families, in relationships, the distance between their true and false selves. They want connection, but what they provoke is often closer to self-sabotage. What are the costs of one’s choices? Of the moments when we act, or fail to act? These complexities are at the heart of *Daddy*, Emma Cline’s sharp-eyed illumination of the contrary impulses that animate our inner lives.

the vanishing half: *Twin Dilemmas* Barbara Klein, 2017-06-26 The development of how twins relate to each other and their single partners is explored through life stories and clinical examples in this telling study of twin interconnections. While the quality of a nurturing family life is crucial, Dr. Klein has found there are often issues with separation anxiety, loneliness, competition with each other, and finding friendships outside of twinship. When twin lives are entwined because of inadequate parenting and estrangement, twin loss is possible and traumatic, creating a crippling fear of expansiveness—an inability to be yourself. Therapists and twins seeking an understanding of twin relationships will find this clinically compelling book a valuable resource.

the vanishing half: *Mistress of the Ritz* Melanie Benjamin, 2019-05-21 A captivating novel based on the story of the extraordinary real-life American woman who secretly worked for the French Resistance during World War II—while playing hostess to the invading Germans at the iconic Hôtel Ritz in Paris—from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Aviator’s Wife* and *The Swans of Fifth Avenue*. “A compelling portrait of a marriage and a nation at war from within.”—Kate Quinn, author of *The Alice Network* Nothing bad can happen at the Ritz; inside its gilded walls every woman looks beautiful, every man appears witty. Favored guests like Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Coco Chanel, and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor walk through its famous doors to be welcomed and pampered by Blanche Auzello and her husband, Claude, the hotel’s director. The Auzellos are the mistress and master of the Ritz, allowing the glamour and glitz to take their minds off their troubled marriage, and off the secrets that they keep from their guests—and each other. Until June 1940, when the German army sweeps into Paris, setting up headquarters at the Ritz. Suddenly, with the likes of Hermann Goëring moving into suites once occupied by royalty, Blanche and Claude must navigate a terrifying new reality. One that entails even more secrets and lies. One that may destroy the tempestuous marriage between this beautiful, reckless American and her very proper Frenchman. For in order to survive—and strike a blow against their Nazi “guests”—Blanche and Claude must spin a web of deceit that ensnares everything and everyone they cherish. But one secret is shared between Blanche and Claude alone—the secret that, in the end, threatens to imperil both of their lives, and to bring down the legendary Ritz itself. Based on true events, *Mistress of the Ritz* is a taut tale of suspense wrapped up in a love story for the ages, the inspiring story of a woman

and a man who discover the best in each other amid the turbulence of war. Praise for *Mistress of the Ritz* “No one writes of the complexities of women’s lives and loves like Melanie Benjamin. In *Mistress of the Ritz*, Benjamin brings wartime Paris brilliantly to life. . . . Intense, illuminating, and ultimately inspiring!”—Elizabeth Letts, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Finding Dorothy*

the vanishing half: The Chilbury Ladies' Choir Jennifer L. Ryan, 2017 Through letters and journals, [this novel] unfolds the struggles, affairs, deceptions, and triumphs of a village choir during World War II [in England]--Dust jacket flap.

the vanishing half: Fight of the Century Viet Thanh Nguyen, Jacqueline woodson, Ann Patchett, Brit Bennett, Steven Okazaki, David Handler, Geraldine Brooks, Yaa Gyasi, Sergio De La Pava, Dave Eggers, Timothy Egan, Li Yiyun, Meg Wolitzer, Hector Tobar, Aleksandar Hemon, Elizabeth Strout, Rabih Alameddine, Moriel Rothman-Zecher, Jonathan Lethem, Salman Rushdie, Lauren Groff, Jennifer Egan, Scott Turow, Morgan Parker, Victor LaValle, Michael Cunningham, Neil Gaiman, Jesmyn Ward, Moses Sumney, George Saunders, Marlon James, William Finnegan, Anthony Doerr, C.J. Anders, Brenda J. Childs, Andrew Sean Greer, Louise Erdrich, Adrian Nicole LeBlanc, 2021-01-19 The American Civil Liberties Union partners with award-winning authors Michael Chabon and Ayelet Waldman in this “forceful, beautifully written” (Associated Press) collection that brings together many of our greatest living writers, each contributing an original piece inspired by a historic ACLU case. On January 19, 1920, a small group of idealists and visionaries, including Helen Keller, Jane Addams, Roger Baldwin, and Crystal Eastman, founded the American Civil Liberties Union. A century after its creation, the ACLU remains the nation’s premier defender of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. In collaboration with the ACLU, authors Michael Chabon and Ayelet Waldman have curated an anthology of essays “full of struggle, emotion, fear, resilience, hope, and triumph” (Los Angeles Review of Books) about landmark cases in the organization’s one-hundred-year history. *Fight of the Century* takes you inside the trials and the stories that have shaped modern life. Some of the most prominent cases that the ACLU has been involved in—*Brown v. Board of Education*, *Roe v. Wade*, *Miranda v. Arizona*—need little introduction. Others you may never even have heard of, yet their outcomes quietly defined the world we live in now. Familiar or little-known, each case springs to vivid life in the hands of the acclaimed writers who dive into the history, narrate their personal experiences, and debate the questions at the heart of each issue. Hector Tobar introduces us to Ernesto Miranda, the felon whose wrongful conviction inspired the now-iconic Miranda rights—which the police would later read to the man suspected of killing him. Yaa Gyasi confronts the legacy of *Brown v. Board of Education*, in which the ACLU submitted a friend of- the-court brief questioning why a nation that has sent men to the moon still has public schools so unequal that they may as well be on different planets. True to the ACLU’s spirit of principled dissent, Scott Turow offers a blistering critique of the ACLU’s stance on campaign finance. These powerful stories, along with essays from Neil Gaiman, Meg Wolitzer, Salman Rushdie, Ann Patchett, Viet Thanh Nguyen, Louise Erdrich, George Saunders, and many more, remind us that the issues the ACLU has engaged over the past one hundred years remain as vital as ever today, and that we can never take our liberties for granted. Chabon and Waldman are donating their advance to the ACLU and the contributors are forgoing payment.

the vanishing half: The Personal Librarian Marie Benedict, Victoria Christopher Murray, 2022-06-07 The Instant *New York Times* Bestseller! A Good Morning America* Book Club Pick! Named a Best Book of the Year by NPR! Named a Notable Book of the Year by the Washington Post! “Historical fiction at its best!”* A remarkable novel about J. P. Morgan’s personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, the Black American woman who was forced to hide her true identity and pass as white in order to leave a lasting legacy that enriched our nation, from *New York Times* bestselling authors Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene is hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture in New York City society and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she helps create a world-class collection. But Belle has a secret, one she must

protect at all costs. She was born not Belle da Costa Greene but Belle Marion Greener. She is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality. Belle's complexion isn't dark because of her alleged Portuguese heritage that lets her pass as white—her complexion is dark because she is African American. The Personal Librarian tells the story of an extraordinary woman, famous for her intellect, style, and wit, and shares the lengths she must go to—for the protection of her family and her legacy—to preserve her carefully crafted white identity in the racist world in which she lives.

the vanishing half: The Invisible Kingdom Meghan O'Rourke, 2022-03-01 A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER FINALIST FOR THE 2022 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR NONFICTION Named one of the BEST BOOKS OF 2022 by NPR, The New Yorker, Time, and Vogue "Remarkable." —Andrew Solomon, The New York Times Book Review At once a rigorous work of scholarship and a radical act of empathy." —Esquire A ray of light into those isolated cocoons of darkness that, at one time or another, may afflict us all." —The Wall Street Journal Essential.—The Boston Globe A landmark exploration of one of the most consequential and mysterious issues of our time: the rise of chronic illness and autoimmune diseases A silent epidemic of chronic illnesses afflicts tens of millions of Americans: these are diseases that are poorly understood, frequently marginalized, and can go undiagnosed and unrecognized altogether. Renowned writer Meghan O'Rourke delivers a revelatory investigation into this elusive category of "invisible" illness that encompasses autoimmune diseases, post-treatment Lyme disease syndrome, and now long COVID, synthesizing the personal and the universal to help all of us through this new frontier. Drawing on her own medical experiences as well as a decade of interviews with doctors, patients, researchers, and public health experts, O'Rourke traces the history of Western definitions of illness, and reveals how inherited ideas of cause, diagnosis, and treatment have led us to ignore a host of hard-to-understand medical conditions, ones that resist easy description or simple cures. And as America faces this health crisis of extraordinary proportions, the populations most likely to be neglected by our institutions include women, the working class, and people of color. Blending lyricism and erudition, candor and empathy, O'Rourke brings together her deep and disparate talents and roles as critic, journalist, poet, teacher, and patient, synthesizing the personal and universal into one monumental project arguing for a seismic shift in our approach to disease. The Invisible Kingdom offers hope for the sick, solace and insight for their loved ones, and a radical new understanding of our bodies and our health.

the vanishing half: Vanishing Half : A Novel Brit Bennett, 2020 The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. Inseparable as children, they ultimately choose to live in two different worlds, one black and one white. An exploration of the American history of passing.

the vanishing half: *Yellow Wife* Sadeqa Johnson, 2021-01-12 From the New York Times bestselling author of *House of Eve*—a 2023 Reese's Book Club Pick! *A Best Book of the Year by NPR and Christian Science Monitor* Called "wholly engrossing" by New York Times bestselling author Kathleen Grissom, this "fully immersive" (Lisa Wingate, #1 bestselling author of *Before We Were Yours*) story follows an enslaved woman forced to barter love and freedom while living in the most infamous slave jail in Virginia. Born on a plantation in Charles City, Virginia, Pheby Delores Brown has lived a relatively sheltered life. Shielded by her mother's position as the estate's medicine woman and cherished by the Master's sister, she is set apart from the others on the plantation, belonging to neither world. She'd been promised freedom on her eighteenth birthday, but instead of the idyllic life she imagined with her true love, Essex Henry, Pheby is forced to leave the only home she has ever known. She unexpectedly finds herself thrust into the bowels of slavery at the infamous Devil's Half Acre, a jail in Richmond, Virginia, where the enslaved are broken, tortured, and sold every day. There, Pheby is exposed not just to her Jailer's cruelty but also to his contradictions. To survive, Pheby will have to outwit him, and she soon faces the ultimate sacrifice.

the vanishing half: *Every Day We Get More Illegal* Juan Felipe Herrera, 2020-09-22 Voted a Best Poetry Book of the Year by Library Journal Included in Publishers Weekly's Top 10 Poetry Books of the Year One of LitHub's most Anticipated Books of the Year! A State of the Union from the

nation's first Latino Poet Laureate. Trenchant, compassionate, and filled with hope. Many poets since the 1960s have dreamed of a new hybrid art, part oral, part written, part English, part something else: an art grounded in ethnic identity, fueled by collective pride, yet irreducibly individual too. Many poets have tried to create such an art: Herrera is one of the first to succeed.—New York Times Herrera has the unusual capacity to write convincing political poems that are as personally felt as poems can be.—NPR Juan Felipe Herrera's magnificent new poems in *Every Day We Get More Illegal* testify to the deepest parts of the American dream—the streets and parking lots, the stores and restaurants and futures that belong to all—from the times when hope was bright, more like an intimate song than any anthem stirring the blood.—Naomi Shihab Nye, *The New York Times Magazine* From Basho to Mandela, *Every Day We Get More Illegal* takes us on an international tour for a lesson in the history of resistance from a poet who declares, 'I had to learn . . . to take care of myself . . . the courage to listen to my self.' You hold in your hands evidence of who we really are.—Jericho Brown, author of *The Tradition* These poems talk directly to America, to migrant people, and to working people. Herrera has created a chorus to remind us we are alive and beautiful and powerful.—José Olivarez, Author of *Citizen Illegal* The poet comes to his country with a book of songs, and asks: America, are you listening? We better listen. There is wisdom in this book, there is a choral voice that teaches us 'to gain, pebble by pebble, seashell by seashell, the courage.' The courage to find more grace, to find flames.—Ilya Kaminsky, author of *Deaf Republic* In this collection of poems, written during and immediately after two years on the road as United States Poet Laureate, Juan Felipe Herrera reports back on his travels through contemporary America. Poems written in the heat of witness, and later, in quiet moments of reflection, coalesce into an urgent, trenchant, and yet hope-filled portrait. The struggle and pain of those pushed to the edges, the shootings and assaults and injustices of our streets, the lethal border game that separates and divides, and then: a shift of register, a leap for peace and a view onto the possibility of unity. *Every Day We Get More Illegal* is a jolt to the conscience—filled with the multiple powers of the many voices and many textures of every day in America. Former Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera should also be Laureate of our Millennium—a messenger who nimbly traverses the transcendental liminalities of the United States . . .—Carmen Gimenez Smith, author of *Be Recorder*

the vanishing half: *1000 Years of Joys and Sorrows* Ai Weiwei, 2021-11-02 The “intimate and expansive” (Time) memoir of “one of the most important artists working in the world today” (Financial Times), telling a remarkable history of China over the last hundred years while also illuminating his artistic process “Poignant . . . An illuminating through-line emerges in the many parallels Ai traces between his life and his father’s.”—The New York Times Book Review (Editors’ Choice) ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: Time, BookPage, Booklist, Kirkus Reviews Once a close associate of Mao Zedong and the nation’s most celebrated poet, Ai Weiwei’s father, Ai Qing, was branded a rightist during the Cultural Revolution, and he and his family were banished to a desolate place known as “Little Siberia,” where Ai Qing was sentenced to hard labor cleaning public toilets. Ai Weiwei recounts his childhood in exile, and his difficult decision to leave his family to study art in America, where he befriended Allen Ginsberg and was inspired by Andy Warhol and the artworks of Marcel Duchamp. With candor and wit, he details his return to China and his rise from artistic unknown to art world superstar and international human rights activist—and how his work has been shaped by living under a totalitarian regime. Ai Weiwei’s sculptures and installations have been viewed by millions around the globe, and his architectural achievements include helping to design the iconic Bird’s Nest Olympic Stadium in Beijing. His political activism has long made him a target of the Chinese authorities, which culminated in months of secret detention without charge in 2011. Here, for the first time, Ai Weiwei explores the origins of his exceptional creativity and passionate political beliefs through his life story and that of his father, whose creativity was stifled. At once ambitious and intimate, Ai Weiwei’s *1000 Years of Joys and Sorrows* offers a deep understanding of the myriad forces that have shaped modern China, and serves as a timely reminder of the urgent need to protect freedom of expression.

the vanishing half: *The New Girl* Harriet Walker, 2020-05-19 “This debut thriller reads like

The Devil Wears Prada meets Single White Female. I couldn't put it down."—Catherine Steadman, author of *Something in the Water* and *Mr. Nobody* She's borrowed your life. But what if she decides to keep it? Glamorous Margot Jones is the fashion editor at glossy magazine *Haute*. Pregnant with her first child, Margot's carefully curated life is the object of other women's envy—who wouldn't want her successful career, loving husband, beautiful house, and stylish wardrobe? Maggie, a freelance journalist, certainly knows she doesn't measure up. But when she gets the temp job covering Margot's maternity leave, Maggie seizes the chance to live a flashier life—even if it's only for a few months. But the simultaneous arrival of Margot's baby and a brutal end to her oldest friendship sends Margot into a spiral of insecurity and suspicion; normal preoccupations of new motherhood turn into dark and frightening paranoia. Who is the vicious online troll mocking Margot's facade of perfection and threatening to expose a dark secret she's spent years concealing? Are Maggie's newfound ambitions and plucky enthusiasm as innocent as they seem? And what happens when Margot is ready to return to her old life—especially if Maggie doesn't want to leave?

the vanishing half: *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* V. E. Schwab, 2020-10-06 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER USA TODAY BESTSELLER NATIONAL INDIE BESTSELLER THE WASHINGTON POST BESTSELLER Recommended by Entertainment Weekly, Real Simple, NPR, Slate, and Oprah Magazine #1 Library Reads Pick—October 2020 #1 Indie Next Pick—October 2020 BOOK OF THE YEAR (2020) FINALIST—Book of the Month Club A "Best Of" Book From: Oprah Mag * CNN * Amazon * Amazon Editors * NPR * Goodreads * Bustle * PopSugar * BuzzFeed * Barnes & Noble * Kirkus Reviews * Lambda Literary * Nerdette * The Nerd Daily * Polygon * Library Reads * io9 * Smart Bitches Trashy Books * LiteraryHub * Medium * BookBub * The Mary Sue * Chicago Tribune * NY Daily News * SyFy Wire * Powells.com * Bookish * Book Riot * Library Reads Voter Favorite * In the vein of *The Time Traveler's Wife* and *Life After Life*, *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* is New York Times bestselling author V. E. Schwab's genre-defying tour de force. A Life No One Will Remember. A Story You Will Never Forget. France, 1714: in a moment of desperation, a young woman makes a Faustian bargain to live forever—and is cursed to be forgotten by everyone she meets. Thus begins the extraordinary life of Addie LaRue, and a dazzling adventure that will play out across centuries and continents, across history and art, as a young woman learns how far she will go to leave her mark on the world. But everything changes when, after nearly 300 years, Addie stumbles across a young man in a hidden bookstore and he remembers her name. Also by V. E. Schwab *Shades of Magic* *A Darker Shade of Magic* *A Gathering of Shadows* *A Conjuring of Light* Villains Vicious Vengeful At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

the vanishing half: Words of Radiance Brandon Sanderson, 2014-03-04 From #1 New York Times bestselling author Brandon Sanderson, *Words of Radiance*, Book Two of the Stormlight Archive, continues the immersive fantasy epic that *The Way of Kings* began. Expected by his enemies to die the miserable death of a military slave, Kaladin survived to be given command of the royal bodyguards, a controversial first for a low-status darkeyes. Now he must protect the king and Dalinar from every common peril as well as the distinctly uncommon threat of the Assassin, all while secretly struggling to master remarkable new powers that are somehow linked to his honorspren, Syl. The Assassin, Szeth, is active again, murdering rulers all over the world of Roshar, using his baffling powers to thwart every bodyguard and elude all pursuers. Among his prime targets is Highprince Dalinar, widely considered the power behind the Alethi throne. His leading role in the war would seem reason enough, but the Assassin's master has much deeper motives. Brilliant but troubled Shallan strives along a parallel path. Despite being broken in ways she refuses to acknowledge, she bears a terrible burden: to somehow prevent the return of the legendary Voidbringers and the civilization-ending Desolation that will follow. The secrets she needs can be found at the Shattered Plains, but just arriving there proves more difficult than she could have imagined. Meanwhile, at the heart of the Shattered Plains, the Parshendi are making an epochal decision. Hard pressed by years of Alethi attacks, their numbers ever shrinking, they are convinced by their war leader, Eshonai, to risk everything on a desperate gamble with the very supernatural

forces they once fled. The possible consequences for Parshendi and humans alike, indeed, for Roshar itself, are as dangerous as they are incalculable. Other Tor books by Brandon Sanderson The Cosmere The Stormlight Archive ● The Way of Kings ● Words of Radiance ● Edgedancer (novella) ● Oathbringer ● Dawnshard (novella) ● Rhythm of War The Mistborn Saga The Original Trilogy ● Mistborn ● The Well of Ascension ● The Hero of Ages Wax and Wayne ● The Alloy of Law ● Shadows of Self ● The Bands of Mourning ● The Lost Metal Other Cosmere novels ● Elantris ● Warbreaker ● Tress of the Emerald Sea ● Yumi and the Nightmare Painter ● The Sunlit Man Collection ● Arcanum Unbounded: The Cosmere Collection The Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians series ● Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians ● The Scrivener's Bones ● The Knights of Crystallia ● The Shattered Lens ● The Dark Talent ● Bastille vs. the Evil Librarians (with Janci Patterson) Other novels ● The Rithmatist ● Legion: The Many Lives of Stephen Leeds ● The Frugal Wizard's Handbook for Surviving Medieval England Other books by Brandon Sanderson The Reckoners ● Steelheart ● Firefight ● Calamity Skyward ● Skyward ● Starsight ● Cytonic ● Skyward Flight (with Janci Patterson) ● Defiant At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

the vanishing half: Fifty Words for Rain Asha Lemmie, 2021-06-08 A Good Morning America Book Club Pick and New York Times Bestseller! From debut author Asha Lemmie, “a lovely, heartrending story about love and loss, prejudice and pain, and the sometimes dangerous, always durable ties that link a family together.” —Kristin Hannah, #1 New York Times–bestselling author of *The Nightingale* Kyoto, Japan, 1948. “Do not question. Do not fight. Do not resist.” Such is eight-year-old Noriko “Nori” Kamiza’s first lesson. She will not question why her mother abandoned her with only these final words. She will not fight her confinement to the attic of her grandparents’ imperial estate. And she will not resist the scalding chemical baths she receives daily to lighten her skin. The child of a married Japanese aristocrat and her African American GI lover, Nori is an outsider from birth. Her grandparents take her in, only to conceal her, fearful of a stain on the royal pedigree that they are desperate to uphold in a changing Japan. Obedient to a fault, Nori accepts her solitary life, despite her natural intellect and curiosity. But when chance brings her older half-brother, Akira, to the estate that is his inheritance and destiny, Nori finds in him an unlikely ally with whom she forms a powerful bond—a bond their formidable grandparents cannot allow and that will irrevocably change the lives they were always meant to lead. Because now that Nori has glimpsed a world in which perhaps there is a place for her after all, she is ready to fight to be a part of it—a battle that just might cost her everything. Spanning decades and continents, *Fifty Words for Rain* is a dazzling epic about the ties that bind, the ties that give you strength, and what it means to be free.

the vanishing half: The Glittering Court Richelle Mead, 2016-04-05 A dazzling new romantic series from the #1 Internationally bestselling author of *Vampire Academy*. To escape an arranged marriage, Adelaide, an Osfridian countess, must pose as a servant and join the Glittering Court—a school designed to transform impoverished girls into upper-class ladies. Adelaide naturally excels in her training, and even makes a few friends: the fiery former laundress Tamsin and the beautiful Sirminican refugee Mira. She manages to keep her true identity hidden from all but one: the intriguing Cedric Thorn When Adelaide discovers that Cedric is hiding a dangerous secret of his own, together, they hatch a scheme to make the best of Adelaide's deception. Complications soon arise—first, as they cross the treacherous seas from Osfrid to Adoria, and later, when Adelaide catches the attention of a powerful governor. But no complication will prove quite as daunting as the potent attraction simmering between Adelaide and Cedric. An attraction that, if acted on, would scandalize the Glittering Court and make them both outcasts in wild, vastly uncharted lands . . .

the vanishing half: Diary of a Somebody Brian Bilston, 2019-06-11 It's January 1st and Brian Bilston is convinced that this year his New Year's resolution will change his life. Every day for a year, he will write a poem. It's quite simple. Brian's life certainly needs improving. His ex-wife has taken up with a new man, a motivational speaker and indefatigable charity fundraiser to boot; he seems to constantly disappoint his long-suffering son; and at work he is drowning in a sea of

spreadsheets and management jargon. So poetry will be his salvation. But there is an obstacle in the form of Toby Salt, his arch nemesis at Poetry Club and rival suitor to Liz, Brian's new poetic inspiration. When Toby goes missing, just after the announcement of the publication of his first collection, *This Bridge No Hands Shall Cleave*, Brian becomes the number one suspect. If he is to regain his reputation and to have a chance of winning Liz, he must find out what has happened to Toby before it is too late. Part tender love story, part murder mystery, part coruscating description of a wasted life, and interspersed with some of the funniest poems about the mundane and the profound, *Diary of a Somebody* is the most original novel you will read this or any year.

the vanishing half: In Five Years Rebecca Serle, 2020-03-10 A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A Good Morning America, FabFitFun, and Marie Claire Book Club Pick "In Five Years is as clever as it is moving, the rare read-in-one-sitting novel you won't forget." —Chloe Benjamin, New York Times bestselling author of *The Immortalists* Perfect for fans of *Me Before You* and *One Day*—a striking, powerful, and moving love story following an ambitious lawyer who experiences an astonishing vision that could change her life forever. Where do you see yourself in five years? Dannie Kohan lives her life by the numbers. She is nothing like her lifelong best friend—the wild, whimsical, believes-in-fate Bella. Her meticulous planning seems to have paid off after she nails the most important job interview of her career and accepts her boyfriend's marriage proposal in one fell swoop, falling asleep completely content. But when she awakens, she's suddenly in a different apartment, with a different ring on her finger, and beside a very different man. Dannie spends one hour exactly five years in the future before she wakes again in her own home on the brink of midnight—but it is one hour she cannot shake. *In Five Years* is an unforgettable love story, but it is not the one you're expecting.

the vanishing half: A Knock at the Door T. W. Ellis, 2021-02-04 'Riveting, twisty as all hell, and very, very clever, *A Knock at the Door* is a rollercoaster ride of brilliance. TW Ellis is a superb thriller writer' --- SARAH PINBOROUGH They ask for your husband. They just want to talk. THEY'RE LYING. Your husband isn't who he says he is, say the people at your door. Come with us. Don't trust them, says a voice on the phone. Run. Who would you believe? In this terrifying first psychological thriller by bestselling author T.W. Ellis, one woman goes on the run and is forced to question everything she held dear . . . 'A Knock at the Door is a riveting, twisty thriller that grips and intrigues from the very beginning. T. W. Ellis is the real deal' --- ALEX NORTH 'Highly original and very twisty . . . this is his first psychological thriller and it's a cracker' --- DAILY MAIL 'A thrilling fast-paced story, full of twists and turns' --- CLAIRE MCGOWAN 'Only one thing is certain with this heart-pounding thrill-ride of a novel, and that is nothing is what it seems' --- HEAT

the vanishing half: Writers & Company Eleanor Wachtel, 1994

the vanishing half: Bigger Bolder Baking Gemma Stafford, 2019 More than 100 sweet and simple recipes for cakes, cookies, pies, puddings, and more--all using a few common ingredients and kitchen tools.

the vanishing half: If We Were Villains M. L. Rio, 2017-04-11 "Much like Donna Tartt's *The Secret History*, M. L. Rio's sparkling debut is a richly layered story of love, friendship, and obsession...will keep you riveted through its final, electrifying moments." —Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney, New York Times bestselling author of *The Nest Nerdily* (and winningly) in love with Shakespeare...Readable, smart." —New York Times Book Review On the day Oliver Marks is released from jail, the man who put him there is waiting at the door. Detective Colborne wants to know the truth, and after ten years, Oliver is finally ready to tell it. A decade ago: Oliver is one of seven young Shakespearean actors at Dellecher Classical Conservatory, a place of keen ambition and fierce competition. In this secluded world of firelight and leather-bound books, Oliver and his friends play the same roles onstage and off: hero, villain, tyrant, temptress, ingénue, extras. But in their fourth and final year, good-natured rivalries turn ugly, and on opening night real violence invades the students' world of make-believe. In the morning, the fourth-years find themselves facing their very own tragedy, and their greatest acting challenge yet: convincing the police, each other, and themselves that they are innocent. *If We Were Villains* was named one of *Bustle's* Best Thriller

Novels of the Year, and Mystery Scene says, A well-written and gripping ode to the stage...A fascinating, unorthodox take on rivalry, friendship, and truth.

the vanishing half: *The Vanishing Stair* Maureen Johnson, 2019-01-22 New York Times and Publishers Weekly bestseller! In New York Times bestselling author Maureen Johnson's second novel in the Truly Devious series, there are more twists and turns than Stevie Bell can imagine. No answer is given freely, and someone will pay for the truth with their life. The Truly Devious case—an unsolved kidnapping and triple murder that rocked Ellingham Academy in 1936—has consumed Stevie for years. It's the very reason she came to the academy. But then her classmate was murdered, and her parents quickly pull her out of school. For her safety, they say. She must move past this obsession with crime. Stevie's willing to do anything to get back to Ellingham, be back with her friends, and solve the Truly Devious case. Even if it means making a deal with the despicable Senator Edward King. And when Stevie finally returns, she also returns to David: the guy she kissed, and the guy who lied about his identity—Edward King's son. But larger issues are at play. Where did the murderer hide? What's the meaning of the riddle Albert Ellingham left behind? And what, exactly, is at stake in the Truly Devious affair? The Ellingham case isn't just a piece of history—it's a live wire into the present. * Junior Library Guild Selection * Chicago Public Library's Best of the Best Books of 2019 * Hypable's Best Books of 2019 * Praise for Book One: "The Agatha Christie-like ecosystem pairs with lacerating contemporary wit, and alternating past and present scenes makes for a multilayered, modern detective story." —New York Times Book Review "Remember the first time reading Harry Potter and knowing it was special? There's that same sense of magic in the introduction of teen Sherlock-in-training Stevie Bell." —USA Today (four stars) "Be still, my Agatha-Christie-loving beating heart." —Bustle

the vanishing half: *Mixed Up* Tineka Smith, Alex Court, 2022-09-13 An interracial couple gives an honest glimpse into how they've dealt with the tension of race in their relationship and their lives. When Tineka Smith and Alex Court first fell in love, neither were prepared for the disconnect between them when it came to race. As a Black American woman, Tineka struggled with the oppression and microaggressions she faced on a daily basis, and it took Alex, a White British man, a lot of soul-searching to see that his life-long expectations were skewed by his privilege. The couple's struggles were amplified when the Black Lives Matter movement swept across the United States and the world. *Mixed Up* is their confessional. In a series of alternating chapters, Tineka and Alex share their deepest feelings and the lessons they've learned about race and privilege—from their childhoods to their education and workplace experiences to thoughts about their future children. While Tineka finds herself in the role of racial equality advocate in her own relationship, Alex learns what it means to be a true ally as a person—and a husband. In all its raw heartache, humor, and honesty, their story brings hope that there is a future in which interracial relationships and families can find love and acceptance. "An illuminating book that will challenge what you think you know about relationships, cultural diversity and race." —Olivette Otele, historian and author of *African Europeans* "A must read book that will change the way we see mixed race couples and make us question our own entrenched beliefs." —Melissa Fleming, award-winning author of *A Hope More Powerful Than the Sea*

the vanishing half: *The Descent* Jeff Long, 1999-11-12 We are not alone. Some call them devils or demons. But they are real. They are down there. And they are waiting for us to find them. In a cave in the Himalayas, a guide discovers a self-mutilated body with a warning: Satan exists. In the Kalahari Desert, a nun unearths evidence of a proto-human species and a deity called Older-than-Old. In Bosnia, something has been feeding upon the dead in a mass grave. So begins mankind's most shocking realization: the underworld is a vast geological labyrinth populated by another race of beings. With all of Hell's precious resources and territories to be won, a global race ensues. Nations, armies, religions, and industries rush to colonize and exploit the subterranean frontier. A scientific expedition is launched westward to explore beneath the Pacific Ocean floor, both to catalog the riches there and to learn how life could develop in the sunless abyss. But in the dark underground, as humanity falls away from them, the scientists and mercenaries find

themselves prey not only to the savage creatures, but also to their own treachery, mutiny, and greed. One thing is certain: Miles inside the earth, evil is very much alive.

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