**Afghanistan**

**Three cups of tea   
by Greg Mortenso**

**In 1993, following a failed attempt to ascend K2, Greg Mortenson was inspired by a chance encounter with impoverished mountain villagers in Pakistan and promised to build them a school. From that rash, earnest promise grew one of the most incredible humanitarian campaigns of our time--Mortenson's one-man mission to counteract extremism by building schools, especially for girls, throughout the breeding ground of the Taliban. Award-winning journalist David Oliver Relin has collaborated on this spellbinding account of Mortenson's incredible accomplishments in a region where Americans are often feared and hated. Over the following decade Mortenson built not just one but fifty-five schools. Three Cups of Tea is at once an unforgettable adventure and the inspiring story of how one man really is changing the world--one school at a time.**

**Africa**

**Over a thousand hills I walk with you Hanna Jansen ; translated from the German by Elizabeth D. Crawford.**

**Based on a true story, this haunting novel makes unforgettably real the events of the 1994 Rwandan genocide as one family experienced it. a tribute to the human spirit and its capacity to heal.**

**African American**

**We beat the street: how a friendship pact led us to success  and the Pact  
by Sampson Davis**

**Growing up on the rough streets of Newark, New Jersey, Rameck, George, and Sampson could easily have followed their childhood friends into drug dealing, gangs, and prison. But when a presentation at their school made the three boys aware of the opportunities available to them in the medical and dental professions, they made a pact among themselves that they would become doctors. It took a lot of determination--and a lot of support from one another--but despite all the hardships along the way, the three succeeded.**

**Amish**

**Rumspringa: To be or not to be Amish  
by Tom Shachtman**

**Rumspringa is Tom Shachtman's celebrated look at a littleknown Amish coming-of-age ritual, the rumspringa-- the period of "running around" that begins for their youth at age sixteen. During this time, Amish youth are allowed to live outside the bounds of their faith, experimenting with alcohol, premarital sex, revealing clothes, telephones, drugs, and wild parties. By allowing such broad freedoms, their parents hope they will learn enough to help them make the most important decision of their lives--whether to be baptized as Christians, join the church, and forever give up worldly ways, or to remain in the world. In this searching book, Shachtman draws on his skills as a documentarian to capture young people on the cusp of a fateful decision, and to give us "one of the most absorbing books ever written about the Plain People"**

**Arab Americans**

**Zeitoun Dave Eggers.**

**Abdulrahman and Kathy Zeitoun run a house-painting business in New Orleans. In August of 2005, as Hurricane Katrina approaches, Kathy evacuates with their four young children, leaving Zeitoun to watch over the business. In the days following the storm he travels the city by canoe, feeding abandoned animals and helping elderly neighbors. Then, on September 6th, police officers armed with M-16s arrest Zeitoun in his home. Told with eloquence and compassion, Zeitoun is a riveting account of one family's unthinkable struggle with forces beyond wind and water.**

**Australia**

**The Road from Coorain   
by Jill K. Conway**

**One women's journey from a childhood in Australia's outback to adulthood as a successful American career woman. The Road From Coorain is about Everywoman, for it is about childhood loneliness, anguished parent-child relationships, dawning sensibility, discovering a vocation, and finding one's own sense of self.**

**Bosnia**

**Under the Sun**

**Thirteen-year-old Ehmet's world has changed from the stable city of Sarajevo into a war-torn zone of fighting borders and stressed economics. Seeking safety, he and his mother flee to the countryside of Croatia, where his aunt and uncle live. When they are taken away, mother and son flee once again. The physical challenges of dodging sniper bullets, avoiding landmines, crossing militia lines, smuggling out of a refugee camp, and walking miles with little food or water are enormous. Yet it's invisible obstacles that test Ehmet's endurance. When his mother dies, he is completely alone. Not until he's able to find an old school friend in a refugee camp, and then another, within a peaceful community in a recovered medieval "Children's Village" does his life settle.**

**Brazil**

**Keeper**

**South American journalist Paul Faustino begins his interview with World Cup Soccer star El Gato and learns a fantastic story of a young, lonely boy growing up in the middle of a rain forest who wandered upon a mysterious soccer field and an apparition that appeared to him daily.**

**Buddhism**

**Buddha Boy**

**Justin spends time with Jinsen, the unusual and artistic new student whom the school bullies torment and call BuddhaBoy, and ends up making choices that impact Jinsen, himself, and the entire school.**

**China**

**Snow Flower and the Secret Fan**

**Friends Snow Flower and Lily find solace in their bond as they face isolation, arranged marriages, loss, and motherhood in nineteenth-century China.**

**Chinese Americans**

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Seeing Emily  by Joyce Lee Wong** |  | |

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | **Sixteen-year-old Emily is one of three Asian students at her high school in Richmond, Virginia, and the only child of protective, ambitious parents. She loves her parents and has always strived to please them, but her interest in a sexy new student, her growing passion for art, and her need to break away without breaking her tightly-knit family apart force Emily to create a web of lies, one that traps her just as tightly as her circumstances. It's her art that provides a key to freedom and a new understanding of her place in the world.** | |

**Columbia**

**Boy kills man**

**Sometimes guns speak louder than words That's what Shorty and Alberto think at least. To them, it seems like the only people in their town who command respect are the drug dealers. The drug dealers are rich. They're powerful. They're not afraid of anybody. So when Alberto gets a job as a hit man for a drug dealer, he's happy. His family won't starve. He'll be a big shot. He thinks his life has finally begun. But in this tough South American town, twelve-year-old assassins are disposable. And it won't be long before Alberto and Shorty find this out.**

**Cuban Americans**

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| **The Agüero sisters** |
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**Two Cuban sisters--one a master electrician in Havana, the other a successful cosmetics saleswoman in Miami--are reunited after a thirty-year separation and learn the truth behind their mother's tragic death at the hands of their father years earlier.**

**Gangs**

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Lady Q  by Reymundo Sanchez** |  |   **Alternative Titles**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | **Lady Q: the rise and fall of a Latin Queen** |  | |

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| **Summary**   |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | **This is a raw and powerful memoir not only of one woman's struggle to survive the streets but also of her ascent to the top ranks of the new mafia, where the only people more dangerous than rival gangs were members of her own. At age five Sonia Rodriguez's stepfather began to abuse her; at 10 she was molested by her uncle and beaten by her mother when she told on him; and by 13 her home had become a hangout for the Latin Kings and Queens who were friends with her older sister. Threatened by rival gang members at school, Sonia turned away from her education and extracurricular activities in favor of a world of drugs and violence. The Latin Kings, one of the largest and most notorious street gangs in America, became her refuge, but its violence cost her friends, freedom, self-respect, and nearly her life. As a Latin Queen, she experienced the exhilarating highs and unbelievable lows of gang life. From being shot at by her own gang and kicked out at age 18 with an infant daughter to rejoining the gang and distinguishing herself as a leader, her legacy as Lady Q was cemented both for her willingness to commit violence and for her role as a drug mule. For the first time, a woman's perspective on gang life is presented.** | |

**Germany**

**Real Time**

**Sixteen-year-old Thomas Wanninger is on a mission: to find out what his grandfather, a Nazi officer, did during World War II. Thomas is going to Israel to work on a kibbutz, where he will have access to a Jerusalem archive that may hold the information he seeks. His life is one of many to be affected by a terrorist attack that occurs at 11:47 A.M. on the day he arrives. Kibbutz members, a doctor, "the boss" of a diner, two Palestinian teenagers and their families, a bus driver, policemen, a news correspondent, an Israeli soldier, a Holocaust survivor . . . these and others add their voices to the minute-by-minute account of a catastrophic incident that changes everything, while at the same time renewing a deadly cycle of sacrifice and destruction.**

**Guatemala**

**Red Glass**

**Sixteen-year-old Sophie has been frail and delicate since her premature birth, but discovers her true strength during a journey through Mexico, where the six-year-old orphan her family hopes to adopt was born, and to Guatemala, where her would-be boyfriend hopes to find his mother and plans to remain.**

**Haitian Americans**

**Touching Snow**

**After her stepfather is arrested for child abuse, thirteen-year-old Karina's home life improves but while the severity of her older sister's injuries and the urging of her younger sister, their uncle, and a friend tempt her to testify against him, her mother and other well-meaning adults persuade her to claim responsibility.**

**Hispanic Americans**

**Accidental Love**

**It all starts when Marisa picks up the wrong cell phone. When she goes to return it, she feels something she's never felt before, something a bit like . . . love. But Marisa and Rene aren't exactly a match made in heaven. For one thing, Marisa is a chola , and she isn't petite; she's a lot of girl, and she's not ashamed of it. Skinny Rene, however, gangles like a sackful of elbows and wears a calculator on his belt. In other words, he's a geek. So why can't Marisa stay away from him?**

**India**

**White tiger**

**Balram Halwai is a complicated man. Servant. Philosopher. Entrepreneur. Murderer. Over the course of seven nights, by the scattered light of a preposterous chandelier, Balram tells the terrible and transfixing story of how he came to be a success in life -- having nothing but his own wits to help him along.**

**Interracial**

**Black White and Jewish**

**The Civil Rights movement brought author Alice Walker and lawyer Mel Leventhal together, and in 1969 their daughter, Rebecca, was born. Some saw this unusual copper-colored girl as an outrage or an oddity; others viewed her as a symbol of harmony, a triumph of love over hate. But after her parents divorced, leaving her a lonely only child ferrying between two worlds that only seemed to grow further apart, Rebecca was no longer sure what she represented.**

**Ireland**

**The Gathering**

**The death of Liam Hegarty, found drowned in the sea at Brighton, England, sparks a crisis in the life of his middle sister Veronica, who goes to retrieve the body and bring Liam home to Dublin where the Hegarty clan is gathering to mourn and remember**

**Israel**

**Weight of the sky**

**A sixteen-year-old girl travels to Israel to spend the summer on a kibbutz and discovers who she is and what she wants out of life.**

**Italy**

**Waterfall**

**American teen Gabi Bertarrini, spending yet another boringsummer in Tuscany with her sister and parents, famed Etruscan scholars, finds life getting a lot more exciting when she places her hand on top of a handprint in an ancient tomb and is transported to fourteenth-century Italy where she is rescued from a fierce battle between warring knights by Prince Marcello Falassi, who takes her back to his father's castle--which she has seen in ruins in her modern-day life.**

**Japanese**

**In darkness death**

**n eighteenth-century Japan, young Seikei becomes involved with a ninja as he helps Judge Ooka, his foster father, investigate the murder of a samurai.**

**Japanese Americans**

**Invisible thread**

**Growing up in California, Yoshi knew her family looked different from their neighbors. Still, she felt like an American. But everything changed when America went to war against Japan. Along with all the other Japanese-Americans on the West Coast, Yoshi's family were rounded up and imprisoned in a crowded. badly built camp in the desert because they"looked like the enemy."**

**Korea**

**Escape from Camp 14**

**Chronicles the life of Dong-hyuk Shin, who was raised in a political prison camp in North Korea, and describes the inhuman conditions inside, his harrowing escape from the camp and the country, and his efforts to raise awareness of the camps to others.**

**Koaoco**

**Although Zana, an eleven-year-old Albanian girl, experiences the turmoil and violence of the 1999 conflict in her native Kosovo, she remembers her father's admonition to not let her heart become filled with hate.**

**Lebanese**

**Ten things I hate about me**

**Lebanese-Australian Jamilah, known in school as Jamie, hides her heritage from her classmates and tries to pass by dyeing her hair blonde and wearing blue-tinted contact lenses, until her conflicted feelings become too much for her to bear.**

**Mexican American**

**Mexican Whiteboy**

**Danny, who is tall and skinny but has a talent for pitching a fastball, cannot seem to fit in at school in San Diego, where his Mexican and white heritage causes people to judge him before he even speaks.**

**Muslin**

**Being muslim**

**he author addresses a number of political, cultural, and religious issues associated with the Muslim faith.**

**Native American**

**Flight**

**a powerful, fast and timely story of a troubled foster teenager - a boy who is not a "legal" Indian because he was never claimed by his father - who learns the true meaning of terror. About to commit a devastating act, the young man finds himself shot back through time on a shocking sojourn through moments of violence in American history. He resurfaces in the form of an FBI agent during the civil rights era, inhabits the body of an Indian child during the battle at Little Big Horn, and then rides with an Indian tracker in the 19th Century before materializing as an airline pilot jetting through the skies today. When finally, blessedly, our young warrior comes to rest again in his own contemporary body, he is mightily transformed by all he's seen.**

**Pakistan**

**I am Malala**

**When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.**

**Philippines**

**Fresh off the boat**

**When her family emigrates from the Philippines to San Francisco, California, fourteen-year-old Vicenza Arambullo struggles to fit in at her exclusive, all-girl private school.**

**Poland**

**Eva underground**

**In 1978, a high school senior is forced by her widowed father to move from their comfortable Chicago suburb to help with an underground education movement in communist Poland.**

**Russia**

**Between shades of gray**

**In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp while she fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil. Based on the author's family, includes a historical note.**

**Saudi Arabia**

**Princess**

**A Saudi Arabian princess tells of her life, from her turbulent childhood to her arranged marriage, revealing the true role designated to women by men in her country.**

**Sierra Leone**

**A long way gone**

**Ishmael Beah describes his experiences after he was driven from his home by war in Sierra Leone and picked up by the government army at the age of thirteen, serving as a soldier for three years before being removed from fighting by UNICEF and eventually moving to the United States.**

**Sweden**

**You & You & You**

**Young Anon, who marches to the beat of a different drummer in galoshes to protect himself from radiation, touches the lives of all around him, resulting in disillusionment, loss, love, and more than a few surprises.**

**South Africa**

**The year the gypsies came**

**In Johannesburg, South Africa, in the late 1960s, twelve-year-old Emily, who longs for affection from her quarreling parents, finds comfort in the stories of a Zulu servant and in her friendship with a young houseguest who has an equally troubled family.**