



BEL CANTO BOOKS  
read. think. sing.

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Hello, 2019!

January 2019

## HOLY COW! THE NEW YEAR IS HERE!

Happy New Year, book peeps!

It's hard to believe that we've been at this bookstore startup for a year now! We cannot thank you enough for your support! Seeing your shining faces at pop-up events and your online support has been so affirming and exciting.



In the coming year, we'll be trying new things, asking for your feedback, and mixing things up with even more events. More to come on this front!

Read on for our favorite books of 2018 and what new books we're looking forward to this year.

Wishing you luck, laughter and happy reading in 2019!

Jhoanna  
Avowed Booknerd & Owner/Manager  
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## Our Favorite Reads of 2018

For the first time since we started tracking our reading on GoodReads in 2014, we hit our goal of 52 Books in 52 Weeks (and then some)!

By listening to audiobooks in the car during our work commute and turning off the boob tube (or Netflix iPad auto-binge), we read seventy-six (yup, 7-6!) books this year, all while working a full-time day job, starting a pop-up business, and finding time for travel, family and friends.

We share this because so much of the life improvement books (ehem, self-help) and articles we read this year talked about finding focus and

prioritizing. We all have the same 24 hours each day, and where we focus those 24 hours makes all the difference. For us, reading is a form of self-care and personal investment.

Whether your goal is to read a book a month or just a few new ones this year, know that we support you and are always here with tried-and-tested book recommendations. Here are our favorites:

### Favorite New Books of 2018

- *The Library Book*, a love letter to libraries and librarians by Susan Orlean
- *The Line Becomes a River*, a riveting investigation into our border policies by Francisco Cantu
- *An American Marriage*, a story of marriage, selfhood and injustice by Tayari Jones
- *Circe*, a Greek myth retelling by Madeline Miller
- *Becoming*, the powerful memoir by Michelle Obama



### Favorite Fiction of 2018

- *The Fifth Season*, from the reigning Queen of SciFi, N.K. Jemisin
- *Kindred*, a chilling sci-fi/historical fiction mash-up from Octavia L. Butler
- *The Wife*, the biting and hilarious novel from Meg Wolitzer
- *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones
- *Circe* by Madeline Miller



- *My Abandonment*, a haunting coming-of-age story by Peter Rock
- *Exit West*, a fable of immigration and war by Mohsin Hamid
- *The Windup Girl*, a world-building sci-fi/fantasy story by Paolo Bacigalupi
- *American War*, a chilling post-Climate Change novel by Omar El Akkad

### Favorite Nonfiction of 2018

- *The Fact of a Body*, a

gripping investigation into murder and abuse by Alexandra Marzano-Lesnevich

- *Hourglass*, a moving reflection on marriage and ambition by Dani Shapiro
- *The Devil's Highway*, a tour-de-force of investigative reporting by Luis Alberto Urrea



- *The Line Becomes a River* by Francisco Cantu
- *Becoming* by Michelle Obama
- *The Warmth of Other Suns*, following the epic Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson
- *We're Going to Need More Wine*, the truth-telling memoir you didn't know you needed by Gabrielle Union
- *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean

## Want More Time for Reading in 2019?

### Get Thee an Audiobook Membership!

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## And just a few more books...

In case you're still hungry for more book suggestions, here's a few new books that we're looking forward to in 2019:

- *Black is the Body: Stories from my Grandmother's Time, My Mother's Time, and Mine* by Emily Bernard (coming in late January)
- *Bowlaway* by Elizabeth McCracken (coming in February; read *The Giant's House* while you wait)

- *The Source of Self-Regard*, a new collection of essays by Toni Morrison (coming in February)
- *Fifty Things That Aren't My Fault* by Cathy Guisewite for all you 80s babies (coming in April)
- *The Farm* by Joanne Ramos (coming in May)



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