

## CONTACT

### Concord Free Public Library

Main Library

129 Main Street Concord, MA

For more information, contact the Reference Department 978.318.3347

Website [www.concordlibrary.org](http://www.concordlibrary.org)

## HOURS

### Monday—Thursday

9am—9pm

### Friday

9am—6pm

### Saturday

9am—5pm

### Sunday

September to June 1pm—5pm  
July and August CLOSED



### INHERITANCE

By Dani Shapiro

BIOG 818.5 Shapiro (2019)

In the spring of 2016, through a genealogy website to which she had whimsically submitted her DNA for analysis, Dani Shapiro received the stunning news that her father was not her biological father.

She woke up one morning and her entire history--the life she had lived--crumbled beneath her. *Inheritance* is a book about family secrets, kept out of shame or self-protectiveness or in the name of love and a woman's urgent quest to unlock the story of her own identity and a story that has been scrupulously hidden from her for more than fifty years. Science and technology have outpaced not only medical ethics, but also the capacities of the human heart to contend with the consequences of what we discover.



### FIRST: SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

By Evan Thomas

BIOG 347.7326 O'Connor/Thomas (2019)  
She was born in 1930 in El Paso and grew up on a cattle ranch in Arizona. At a time when women were expected to be homemakers, she set her sights on Stanford University. When she graduated

near the top of her class at law school in 1952, no firm would even interview her. Repeatedly shattering glass ceilings, she became the first-ever female majority leader of a state senate and a judge on the Arizona State Court of Appeals. When she arrived at the Supreme Court, appointed by Reagan in 1981, she began a quarter-century tenure on the court, hearing cases that ultimately shaped American law. Diagnosed with cancer at fifty-eight, and caring for a husband with Alzheimer's, O'Connor endured every difficulty with grit and poise.

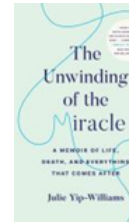


### EDUCATED

By Tara Westover

270.092 Westover (2018)

Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. She was born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho. The family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, she never saw a doctor or nurse and no one intervened when an older brother became violent. When another brother got himself into college and came back with news of the world, Tara decided to teach herself enough mathematics, grammar, and science to take the ACT and was admitted to Brigham Young University. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University.



### THE UNWINDING OF THE MIRACLE:

A MEMOIR OF LIFE, DEATH AND EVERYTHING THAT COMES AFTER

By Julie Yip-Williams

973.04952 Yip-Williams (2019)

Julie Yip-Williams surviving infancy was a miracle. Born blind in Vietnam, she narrowly escaped euthanasia at the hands of her grandmother, only to flee with her family the political upheaval of her country in the late 1970s. Loaded into a rickety boat with three hundred other refugees, Julie made it to Hong Kong and, ultimately, America, where a surgeon gave her partial sight. She would go on to become a Harvard-educated lawyer, with a husband and family. At age thirty-seven, with two little girls at home, Julie was diagnosed with terminal metastatic colon cancer. At first, Julie Yip-Williams sought clarity and guidance through the experience and, finding none, began to write her way through it. Through her writing, Julie Yip-Williams set the stage for her lasting legacy and one final miracle: the story of her life.

DY 4/19



Concord Free Public Library

## Days of Our Lives

Recent biographies and memoirs



#WhereIdeasDevelop



***RUNNING HOME: A MEMOIR***

**By Katie Arnold**

BIOG 796.42092 Arnold (2019)

When Kate Arnold's father died of cancer, she was forced to confront her own mortality. She and her father, an enigmatic photographer for National Geographic, had always been kindred spirits. He encouraged her to run her first race when she was seven years old. Now nearly paralyzed by fear and terrified she was dying, too, she turned to the thing that had always made her feel most alive: running. She ran to heal her grief, to outpace her worry that she wouldn't live to raise her own daughters. She ran to remember and to forget and most of all, to live.

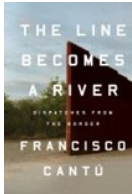


***SMALL FRY***

**By Lisa Brennan-Jobs**

BIOG 338.761004 Jobs/Brennan-Jobs (2018)

Born on a farm and named in a field by her parents, artist Chrisann Brennan and Steve Jobs, Lisa Brennan-Jobs's childhood unfolded in a rapidly changing Silicon Valley. When she was young, Lisa's father was a mythical figure who was rarely present in her life. As she grew older, her father took an interest in her. His attention was thrilling, but he could also be cold, critical and unpredictable. When her relationship with her mother grew strained in high school, Lisa decided to move in with her father, hoping he'd become the parent she'd always wanted him to be.

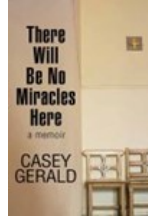


***THE LINE BECOMES A RIVER***

**By Francisco Cantu**

BIOG 363.285092 Cantu (2018)

For Francisco Cantú, the border is in the blood. His mother, a park ranger and daughter of a Mexican immigrant, raised him in the scrublands of the Southwest. Cantú joins the Border Patrol. Plagued by a growing awareness of his complicity in a dehumanizing enterprise, he abandons the Patrol for civilian life. When an immigrant friend travels to Mexico to visit his dying mother and does not return, Cantú discovers that the border has migrated with him, and now he must know the full extent of the violence it wreaks, on both sides of the line.

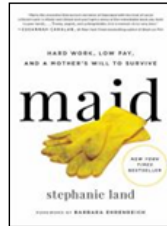


***THERE WILL BE NO MIRACLES HERE: A MEMOIR***

**By Casey Gerald**

BIOG 973.0496 Gerald (2018)

Casey's story begins in Dallas, New Year's Eve 1999, in his grandfather's black evangelical church. His beautiful, fragile mother disappears frequently and mysteriously. He and his sister live like Boxcar Children on her disability checks. Casey, following in the footsteps of his father, is recruited to play football at Yale. He enters a world he's never dreamed of, the anteroom to secret societies and success on Wall Street, in Washington, and beyond. But even as he attains the inner sanctums of power, Casey sees how the world crushes those who live at its margins. A classic rags-to-riches tale, it stands the American Dream narrative on its head.

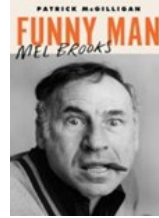


***MAID: HARD WORK, LOW PAY AND A MOTHER'S WILL TO SURVIVE***

**By Stephanie Land**

BIOG 305.569 Land (2019)

*Maid* explores the underbelly of upper-middle class America and the reality of what it's like to be in service to them. At 28, Stephanie Land's plans of breaking free from the roots of her hometown in the Pacific Northwest to chase her dreams of attending a university and becoming a writer were cut short when a summer fling turned into an unexpected pregnancy. She turned to housekeeping to make ends meet, and to provide her daughter the very best life possible. Stephanie writes about her relationship with her clients, many of whom do not know her from any other cleaner and gives voice to the "servant" worker, and those pursuing the American Dream from below the poverty line.



***FUNNY MAN: MEL BROOKS***

**By Patrick McGilligan**

BIOG 792.7028092 Brooks/McGilligan (2019)

Mel Brooks was born on his family's kitchen table in Brooklyn, New York, in 1926 and was not quite three-years-old when his father died of tuberculosis. Growing up in a household too poor to own a radio, Mel was short and homely, a mischievous child whose role was to make the family laugh. Beyond boyhood, after transforming himself into Mel Brooks, the laughs that came easily inside the Kaminsky family proved more elusive. McGilligan navigates the epic ride of Brooks' life story, from his childhood in Williamsburg tenements, his breakthrough in early television, working alongside Sid Caesar and Carl Reiner, and his Hollywood and Broadway peaks (and valleys).

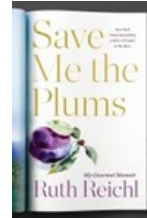


***I AM, I AM, I AM: SEVENTEEN BRUSHES WITH DEATH***

**By Maggie O'Farrell**

BIOG 823.1 O'Farrell (2018)

Seventeen discrete encounters with Maggie at different ages, in different locations, reveal a whole life in a series of tense, visceral snapshots of the near-death experiences that have punctuated and defined her life. The childhood illness that left her bedridden for a year, which she was not expected to survive. A teenage yearning to escape that nearly ended in disaster. An encounter with a disturbed man on a remote path. Most terrifying of all, an ongoing, daily struggle to protect her daughter, for whom this book was written, from a condition that leaves her unimaginably vulnerable to life's myriad dangers.



***SAVE ME THE PLUMS***

**By Ruth Reichl**

BIOG 641.5092 Reichl (2019)

When Condé Nast offered Ruth Reichl the top position at America's oldest epicurean magazine, she declined. She was a writer, not a manager, and had no inclination to be anyone's boss. Yet Reichl had been reading *Gourmet* since she was eight; it had inspired her career. How could she say no? Complete with recipes, *Save Me The Plums* is a personal journey of a woman coming to terms with being in charge and making a mark, following a passion and holding on to her dreams, even when she ends up in a place she never expected to be.



***LOUISA ON THE FRONT LINES: LOUISA MAY ALCOTT IN THE CIVIL WAR***

**By Samantha Seiple**

BIOG 813.4 Alcott Seiple (2019)

Seiple focuses on the least-known aspect of Louisa May Alcott's career, her time spent as a nurse during the Civil War. Though her service was brief, the dramatic experience was one that she considered pivotal, affecting her tenuous relationship with her father, and inspiring her commitment to abolitionism. Through it all, she kept a journal and wrote letters to her family and friends. These letters were published in the newspaper, and her subsequent book, *Hospital Sketches* spotlighted the dire conditions of the military hospitals and the suffering endured by the wounded soldiers she cared for.