Further Reading

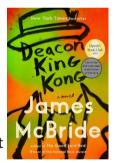
Anxious People (Sep 2020) by Backman, Fredrik

Taken hostage by a failed bank robber while attending an open house, eight anxiety-prone strangers—including a redemption-seeking bank director, two couples who would fix their marriages and a plucky octogenarian—discover their unexpected common traits.



Deacon King Kong (Mar 2020) by McBride, James

In the aftermath of a 1969 Brooklyn church deacon's public shooting of a local drug dealer, the community's African-American and Latinx witnesses find unexpected support from each other when they are targeted by violent mobsters.

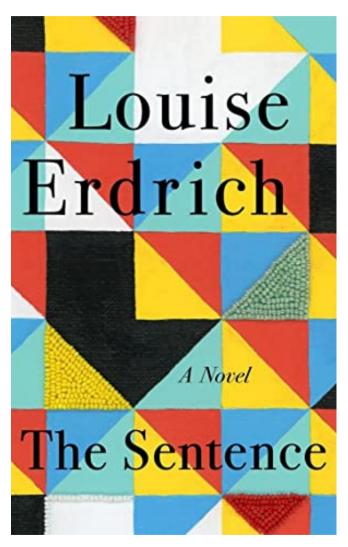


Sing, Unburied, Sing (Sep 2017) by Ward, Jesmyn

A story of how the past affects the present, and of deeply entrenched racism, Sing Unburied Sing describes the life of a biracial boy, his addicted, grieving black mother, and his incarcerated white father. A road trip to Dad's prison kickstarts the novel, which offers deeply affecting characters, a strong sense of place (rural Mississippi), and a touch of magical realism in appearances by the dead.



BOOK DISCUSSION







Discussion Questions

- 1. What do you believe we owe the dead?
- 2. Erdrich makes a cameo in this book! She's the owner of the store where Tookie works, which bears a striking resemblance to Erdrich's real-life bookstore, Birchbark Books. How does her appearance here strike you?
- 3. We're in the midst of the first wave of pandemic novels, with likely more to come as time goes on. How do you feel about this one?
- 4. The Sentence veers pretty wildly between emotional tones. Tookie's theft of Budgie's body is very madcap and fun, and then her early days at the bookstore are settled and restrained and slice-of-life-esque. By the time Erdrich gets into the pandemic and the protests over George Floyd's murder, she's writing something close to narrative nonfiction. For me, the shifting tones work because of the lightness of Erdrich's touch. What did you think?
- 5. We love a book that comes with its own syllabus. Have you read any of the books recommended at the end? What did you think?
- 6. What would be on your personal ghostbusting playlist?

Selected Bibliography: Louise Erdrich

- The Night Watchman (Mar 2020)
- Future Home of the Living God (Nov 2017)
- LaRose (May 2016)
- The Round House (Oct 2012)
- The Plague of Doves (May 2008)
- The Antelope Wife (Mar 1998)
- Tales of Burning Love (Apr 1996)
- The Bingo Palace (Jan 1994)

Questions by vox.com