



Best Books of 2021

RAQUEL APARICIO FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Whatever else we say about 2021, it was a great year for books. Of the countless wonderful titles published, here's a list of 90 we loved most in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and works for children and young adults. We hope you, too, will find some to treasure, and [share your own new discoveries with us.](#)

NONFICTION

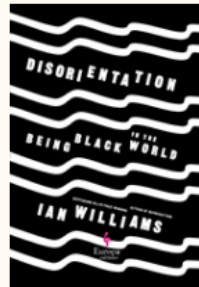
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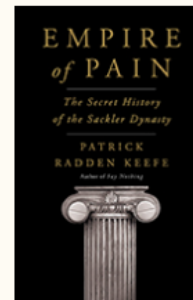


Disorientation: Being Black in the World

BY IAN WILLIAMS

Williams, a Canadian poet, novelist, and essayist, describes his North American Black experience as dizzying. In this pithy, kaleidoscopic book, Williams interrogates moments when Black people have their personal identities challenged by the powerful misperceptions of others. Williams turns these scenes of intimate and public disorientation into subtle, radical essays on self-realization.

— Walton Muyumba



Empire of Pain

BY PATRICK RADDEN KEEFE

In this searing, meticulously researched exposé of the Sackler family, Keefe reveals the malfeasance and criminality of the pharmaceutical billionaires — who made a fortune of opioids even after understanding the drugs' dangers — and shows how they used philanthropy to launder their clan's reputation.

— Kate Tuttle