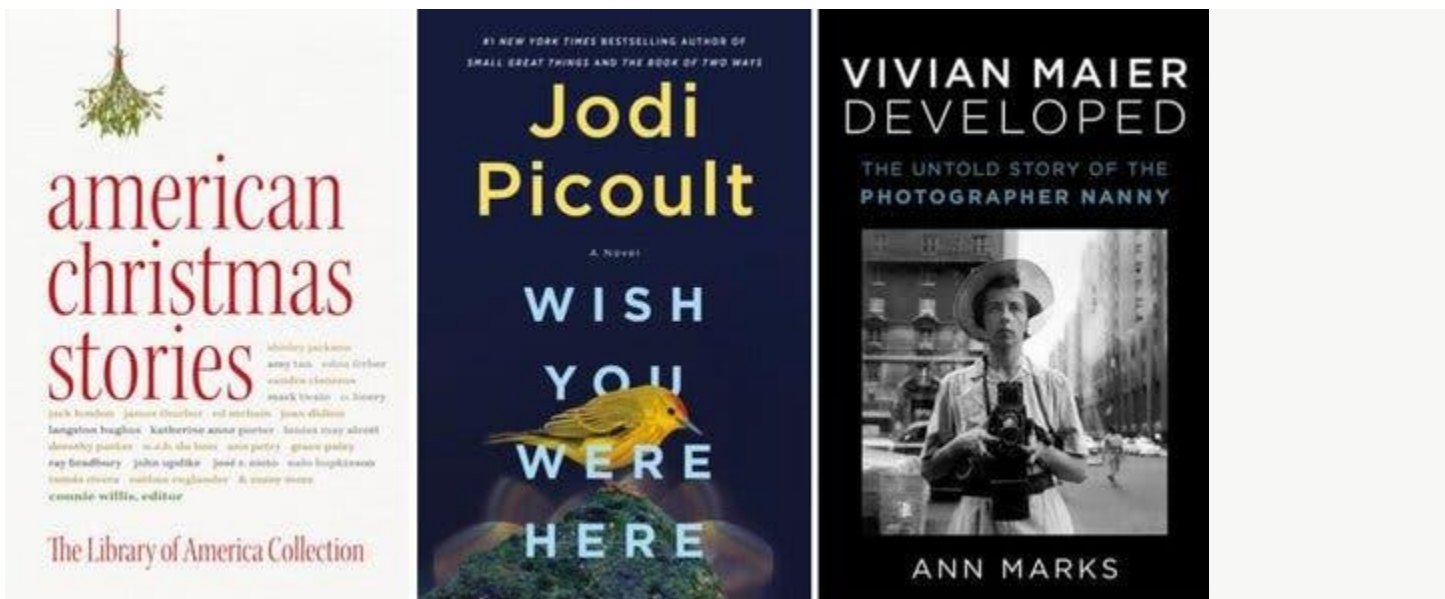


# The New York Times

Best Books of 2021

## Newly Published, From Christmas Stories to a Photographer Nanny



Dec. 3, 2021

**AMERICAN CHRISTMAS STORIES**, edited by Connie Willis. (Library of America, \$29.95.) Willis, a writer of science fiction, has chosen 59 stories spanning 150 years and representing a range of styles and genres, from ghost stories to westerns, to show the spirit and evolution of the holiday.

**DISORIENTATION: Being Black in the World**, by Ian Williams. (Europa Compass, \$19.95.) Inspired by James Baldwin's essays, the novelist and poet threads his experiences of growing up in Trinidad and living in Korea with 18th-century slave narratives to explore institutional whiteness and "blame culture."

**WISH YOU WERE HERE**, by Jodi Picoult. (Ballantine, \$28.99.) An associate specialist at Sotheby's has her life mapped out until she takes a solo trip to the Galápagos, all while a virus outbreak in New York City forces her surgeon boyfriend to stay behind.

**VIVIAN MAIER DEVELOPED: The Untold Story of the Photographer Nanny**, by Ann Marks. (Atria, \$40.) With access to Maier's personal archives and 140,000 photographs, a retired Dow Jones executive researches and unravels the private, dual life of the nanny and world-class photographer.

**What to Read: 4 New Illustrated Books**

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