

IMPERIAL FAMILY COMPANIES

ASIAN AMERICANS IN ENTERTAINMENT

CM
CHARACTER MEDIA

JOY RIDE

How the comedy reminds viewers to hold on to their roots

NEVER HAVE I EVER

A reflection on the Netflix show's four seasons

BEEF

There's no such thing as burying the hatchet



BRUCE LEE

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF
THE LEGACY OF THE DRAGON



CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE 2023 HONOREES





C E L E B R A T I N G

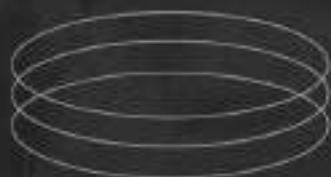
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U N F O R G E T T A B L E

Y E A R S



S O C I E T Y 1





IMPERIAL FAMILY COMPANIES

— CHARACTER MEDIA —

UNFORGETTABLE

THE 21ST ANNUAL ASIAN AMERICAN AWARDS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023
THE BEVERLY HILTON

BROADCASTING ON

ChimeTV
AAPI Entertainment



CHARLES MELTON
ACTOR IN FILM



STEVEN YEUN
ACTOR IN TV



GRETA LEE
BREAKOUT IN FILM



YOUNG MAZINO
BREAKOUT IN TV



ADELE LIM
DIRECTOR



SUNG JIN LEE
WRITER



STEVEN LIM
DIGITAL INFLUENCER



**NEVER
HAVE I EVER**
VANGUARD



MACKENYU
GLOBAL GROUNDBREAKER
FOR ONE ASIA



BYEONG KYU CHO
GLOBAL BREAKOUT
FOR ONE ASIA



BRUCE LEE
LEXUS LEGACY



ALISON LEE
PECHANGA ATHLETE
ON ANOTHER LEVEL



COVER

70 "Kick It Like Bruce Lee"

Fifty years after the legendary martial artist's passing, reminisce on Bruce Lee's lifelong journey of becoming the Dragon.

PROFILES

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NEW ADDITIONS TO YOUR BOOKSHELF

Read on to learn more about the top most trending books by AAPI authors in 2023.

TEXT BY ASHLEY INSONG

Asian American and Pacific Islander authors from the Hawaiian Islands to the Philippines, Vietnam, China, and more hit the stands this year to tell stories representing their AAPI experiences and identities. From a fiction novel based on a mythical fire goddess to a memoir about a victorious transgender pageant queen, this list is nothing short of diverse. Read on to get the in-scoop on the most trending books by API of 2023.

Yellowface

by R.F. Kuang



Image Courtesy of Harper Collins Publishers.

Yellowface, by R.F. Kuang, is a #1 New York Times Bestseller that speaks on the realities of the publishing industry, racism, and cultural appropriation. The fiction novel follows frenemies Athena, a successful Chinese American writer, and June, a white writer who isn't finding as much success in the publishing industry as Athena. When Athena dies suddenly in a tragic accident, June steals Athena's most recently completed manuscript and passes it off as her own.

When the Hibiscus Falls

by M. Evelina Galang

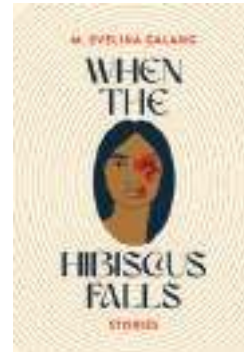


Image Courtesy of Coffee House Press.

Before being a writer, activist, and professor, Filipina American M. Evelina Galang is a daughter, sister, auntie, wife, madrastra (stepmother), and lola (grandmother). These same values mirror her collection of seventeen stories incorporated into her new novel *When the Hibiscus Falls*. The book follows generations of Filipinas who protect their heritage and legacy. Galang attended the University of Miami, earned a Fulbright Senior Research Fellowship, and was a Dayton Literary Peace Prize finalist.

Wandering Souls

by Cecile Pin

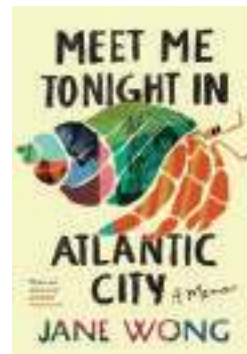


Image Courtesy of Macmillan Publishers.

Wandering Souls by Vietnamese and French writer Cecile Pin is a fiction novel that follows siblings Anh, Thanh, and Minh, who leave Vietnam by boat to Hong Kong, hoping to make it to the United States. Their reality is thrown into chaos as the siblings are put through refugee camps and detention centers and eventually end up in the United Kingdom, where they learn that the grass may not be greener on the other side. This genre-defying novel touches on the truth of war, history, and assimilation.

Meet Me Tonight in Atlantic City

by Jane Wong



Cover Design by Jaya Micheli, image courtesy of Tin House.

Based on the idea of the "American dream," *Meet Me Tonight in Atlantic City* is a memoir based on Jane Wong's working-class upbringing. The novel occurs in 1980s Jersey Shore, where Wong's family runs a Chinese restaurant. Family members and siblings help to keep the restaurant afloat while Wong's father is addicted to gambling, and the restaurant begins to lose money. The poignant memoir touches on family, food, and resistance.

Horse Barbie

by Geena Rocero



Image Courtesy of Penguin Random House.

Geena Rocero is an icon for the trans and LGBTQ+ community; despite childhood bullying, Rocero eventually became the highest-earning transgender pageant queen by 17. *Horse Barbie* is a memoir that follows Rocero's journey from Manila, Philippines, to the United States, where she eventually changed her name and transitioned. Although documents confirmed her identity, she still did not feel safe. As a result, she spent eight years hiding her trans identity until she realized that she wanted everyone to see her authentic self. In a CBS Morning News interview, Rocero explains that she "entered an industry that was all about imagery, but I was not being seen."

Biting the Hand: Growing Up Asian in Black and White America

by Julia Lee



Image Courtesy of Macmillan Publishers.

Similar to the premise of Cathy Park Hong's bestseller *Minor Feelings*, Julia Lee writes a memoir about the challenges with her identity growing up Asian in "Black and white America." Detailing her experience as a daughter of Korean immigrants who own a store in Los Angeles in the middle of a predominantly Black neighborhood, Lee doesn't know where she fits in. From the Los Angeles Riots to the beating of Rodney King and her discovery of the works of Toni Morrison and James Baldwin, Lee searches for answers. Eventually, Lee realizes that the Asian American community must collaborate with Black and brown communities to fight for social justice and change.

Hula

by Jasmin Iolani Hakes



Image Courtesy of Harper Collins Publishers.

With many parts to her identity, Hakes is a multiracial Filipina, Portuguese, and Puerto Rican Hawaii local raising a part-Native Hawaiian daughter. Hakes raised her children in different parts of the continental U.S. and wanted her keiki (child) to be in touch with their culture through hula. "I always had this understanding that the only reason we had any culture was because of hula," says Hakes. "We have an oral history, and so all of our events, our gods and goddesses but also our geological events, our volcanoes, were recorded through dance ... Hula was what we all stood on."

Lei and the Fire Goddess

by Malia Maunakea



Image Courtesy of Penguin Random House.

As a Native Hawaiian, or Kānaka Maoli, author Malia Maunakea's adventurous children's novel *Lei and Fire Goddess* is a testament to her roots. The book follows a part-Hawaiian preteen named Anna Leilani Kama'eahu. Raised on her Hawaiian grandmother's folktales and legends about family guardians, Anna finds that her friends in Colorado don't believe in such things. When Anna returns to Hawaii to visit her Tūtū, or grandmother, her beliefs are tested by Pele, the legendary fire goddess of Hawaii.

Holding Pattern

by Jenny Xie



Image Courtesy of Penguin Random House.

Touching on breaking generational patterns, *Holding Pattern* by Jenny Xie is about the complexities of mother-daughter relationships combined with cultural and generational differences. In the novel, Marissa is the mother of Kathleen Cheng, a "professional cuddler" who cuddles for a living—a career choice that Marissa does not understand. Nevertheless, Marissa has relied on Kathleen for emotional support through her rocky marriage and depression. When Kathleen returns home, her mother is a brand new person who is no longer sad-drinking but happily in love—planning her wedding with a tech entrepreneur. The mother and daughter journey through challenges to hopefully, eventually, accept each other's newfound identities.

Your Driver is Waiting

by Priya Guns



Image Courtesy of Penguin Random House.

Not only is Priya Guns the author of the masterpiece novel *Your Driver is Waiting*, but she is also an actor and "full-time big cat bat coyote hyena," as she describes on her Instagram bio. That said, Gun's unique and quirky personality spills into her dark satire, *Your Driver is Waiting*. The novel follows Damani Krishanthan, a queer woman living in an anonymous North American City. After the sudden death of her father, Damani struggles to pay the bills as a rideshare driver. During a rideshare drive, Damani feels a spark of chemistry with passenger Jolene, a liberal white American who is all about social justice. But when Damani finally allows herself to be vulnerable for once, Jolene does something unspeakable, resulting in a roller coaster of chaotic events.