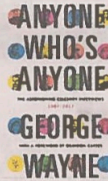


The New York Times

# Book Review

New



**THE KINGDOM OF HIS WORLD** By Alejo Carpentier. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$15.) First published in English in 1957, this story of a slave surviving the violence of the Haitian revolution is considered a masterpiece of Caribbean literature and a stunning early example of magical realism. **THE LAST BLACK UNICORN** By Tiffany Haddish. (Gallery Books, \$26.) Haddish, a comedian who had a breakout role in the movie "Girls Trip," here

recounts her South Central Los Angeles youth and the emergence of her funniness. **BRUNCH IS HELL** By Brendan Francis Newnam and Rico Gagliano. (Little, Brown, \$25.) The authors pinpoint the cause for all our societal problems, the "specter" haunting America. Are you ready for it? It's brunch. Their solution for saving the world is to revive the art of the more civilized choice, the dinner party, and they show you how. **ANYONE WHO'S ANYONE: THE ASTONISHING CELEBRITY INTERVIEWS 1987-2017** By George Wayne. (Harper, \$25.99.) Wayne is one of Vanity Fair's most provocative and provoking interviewers and this collects his greatest hits, including interviews with Ivana Trump, Martha Stewart and Joan Rivers. **THE USUAL SANTAS**. (Soho Crime, \$19.95.) Crime writers are set loose on Christmas and come up with short stories that take place in a variety of locales, from a Korean War P.O.W. camp to a palatial hotel in 1920s Bombay, all somehow finding a way to craftily meld noir and Noel.



## & Noteworthy

"Pssst. Don't tell anyone, but I have a fondness for thrillers. So

when I saw a glowing review recently for the second detective novel by Joe Ide about a brilliant African-American detective in a bad neighborhood of Los Angeles, I figured I'd save money and just buy the first in the series, **IQ**. It's now in paperback, and I'm cheap. Alas, the story was a page-turner, and I was finished in a day — forcing me to buy the just-published sequel, **RIGHTEOUS**. Both are great yarns, not literary fiction but unembarrassed about having two pages in a row without a chase scene. Gangs, drugs, guns, they all make their appearances, but this is fundamentally a series about a smart, haunted, likable and flawed detective working his way through mayhem. But if anybody asks, I read the series for the sociology."



— NICHOLAS KRISTOF, COLUMNIST, ON WHAT HE'S READING.

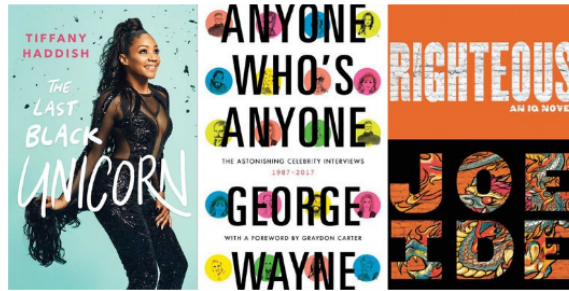
# The New York Times

December 5, 2017  
(Online)

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*In which we ask colleagues at The Times what they’re reading now.*

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— Nicholas Kristof, columnist