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Best of 2010 - Books

best of 2010

Best Fiction Books

In a year that produced an embarrassment of riches, our list of the season's best fiction runs the gamut from deft literary thrillers to sprawling family sagas and genre gems. Outstanding picks include Tana French's atmospheric crime novel *Faithful Place*; *Great House*, a finely-wrought novel of memory and history by Nicole Krauss; and *Matterhorn*, Karl Marlantes' "novelized" account of his experiences in Vietnam. Add to the mix dazzling works from literary powerhouses like Jonathan Franzen, David Grossman, and Gary Shteyngart, and you begin to understand why we consider 2010 a banner year!

- [To the End of the Land](#) by David Grossman
- [The Surrendered](#) by Chang-rae Lee
- [The Wake of Forgiveness](#) by Bruce Machart
- [Freedom](#) by Jonathan Franzen
- [Great House](#) by Nicole Krauss
- [Super Sad True Love Story](#) by Gary Shteyngart
- [How to Read the Air](#) by Dinaw Mengestu
- [Bitter in the Mouth](#) by Monique Truong
- [Faithful Place](#) by Tana French
- [Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War](#) by Karl Marlantes
- See all [25 of the Best Fiction Books of the Year](#)

Best Nonfiction Books

All over the map (in the best sense), this year's nonfiction bests include tantalizing titles from science, biography, business, history, and beyond. We discovered space travelers who have miraculously adapted to an "off-Earth environment" in their junkets to places like Mars. We met the Wall Street whizzes who bet against the economy (and made in a mint in the process). And, from across the pond, we met Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the theologian who stood up to Hitler. We also got the dish on the top chefs with Anthony Bourdain, and relived one of the greatest migrations in history. All in all, it was a trip not to be missed!

- [The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration](#) by Isabel Wilkerson
- [Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void](#) by Mary Roach
- [Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption](#) by Laura Hillenbrand
- [Medium Raw: A Bloody Valentine to the World of Food and the People Who Cook](#) by Anthony Bourdain
- [Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy](#) by Eric Metaxas
- [Life](#) by Keith Richards
- [The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer](#) by Siddhartha Mukherjee
- [The Essential New York Times Cookbook: Classic Recipes for a New Century](#) by Amanda Hesser
- [Cleopatra: A Life](#) by Stacy Schiff
- [The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine](#) by Michael Lewis
- See all [25 of the Best Nonfiction Book of the Year](#)

Best Kids' Books

Friendship, magic, and laugh-out-loud humor dominated the landscape, as 2010 yielded a bumper crop of remarkable children's books for all ages and interests. Strikingly original picture books showcased the talents of first-class illustrators and storytellers; others touched on unique lessons. Older readers shared in the year's literary bounty with exciting episodes of new series as well as noteworthy novels.

- [The Lost Hero \(Heroes of Olympus Series #1\)](#) by Rick Riordan
- [Children Make Terrible Pets](#) by Peter Brown
- [The Quiet Book](#) by Deborah Underwood
- [Bink and Gollie](#) by Kate DiCamillo
- [Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters](#) by Barack Obama
- [The Strange Case of Origami Yoda](#) by Tom Angleberger
- [Art & Max](#) by David Wiesner
- [Knuffle Bunny Free: An Unexpected Diversion](#) by Mo Willems
- [Chick 'n' Pug](#) by Jennifer Sattler
- [Big Nate: In a Class by Himself](#) by Lincoln Peirce

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