

Welcome to...

# the 2020 ICMAB Sant Jordi Book Hunting Guide

Find your next read, recommended by one of your fellows.

We just need you to answer a couple of questions! First of all...

## What do you want to read?



A good novel

I want to learn something

I really like comics

I just want to relax

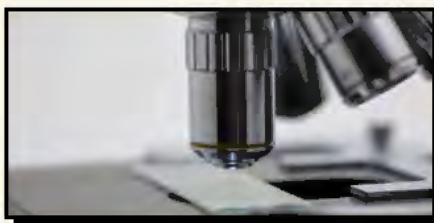


About what?

History

Science

Sociology



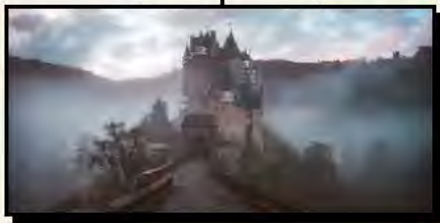
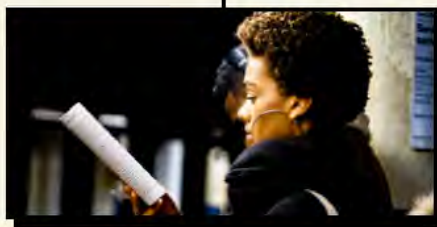
About what?

Sci-Fi

Fantasy

Feminist Literature

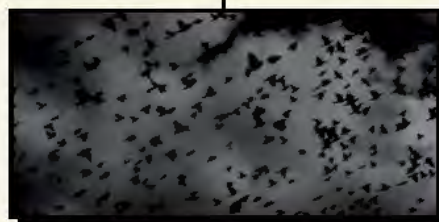
Something else, please



Would you rather read...

Something calm

Something tense!



# Science fiction novels



**Old Man's War** 2005

John Scalzi

“I find interesting the idea that when you retire at 75, you can be recruited to fight a centuries-long war for human colonization of space and get a 25 years old body!”

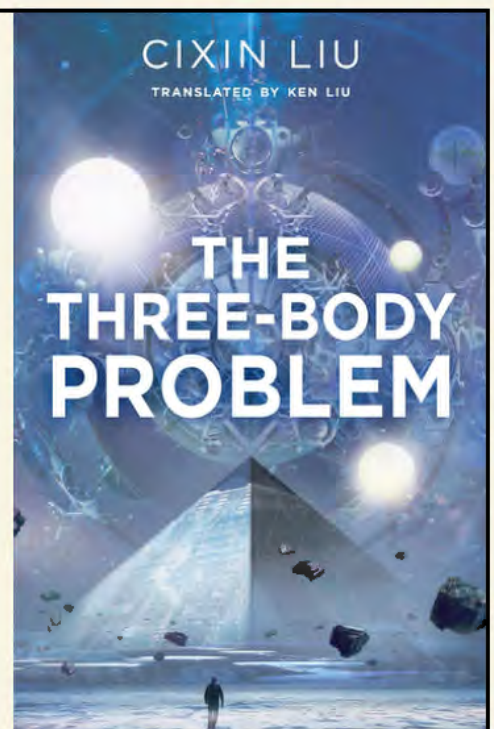
**José Giner Planas**

**三体 (The Three-Body Problem)** 2007

Cixin Liu

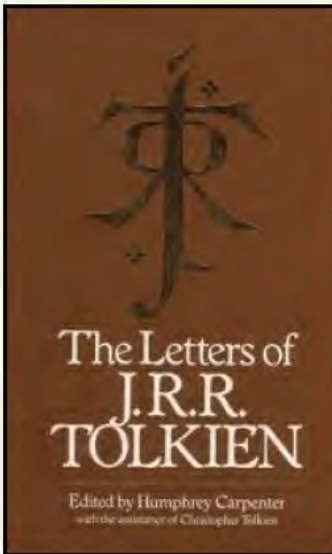
“Ciència Ficció de la bona. És una trilogia.”

**Susagna Ricart Miró**



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# Fantasy novels



**The Letters of J. R. R. Tolkien 1981**  
Humphrey Carpenter with Christopher Tolkien

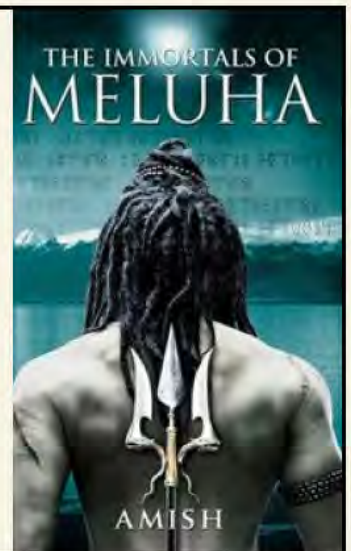
“If you like The Lord of the Rings, here is a very enjoyable book to know more about the genesis of the Middle-earth, its theology and languages and so much more.”

**Dolores Bueno López**

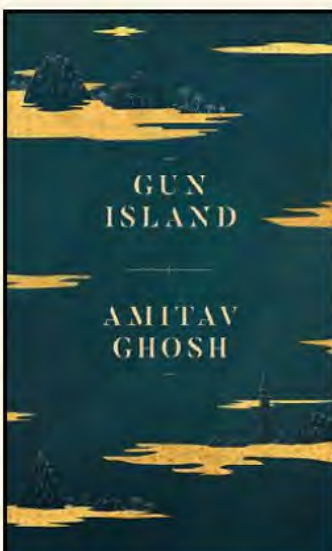
**The Immortals of Meluha 2010**  
Amish Tripathi

“The work deals with Indian mythology but it’s interpreted in a more real life scenario than mythic. I really enjoyed going through it and you would also have a fun read.”

**Jewel Ann Maria Xavier**



**And if you like mythos like this one, you will like...**



**Gun Island 2019**  
Amitav Ghosh

“És una novel·la que barreja mite i cultura amb consciència crítica social i ecològica. Hi apareixen els dos grans temes que preocupen a l’autor: la migració i el canvi climàtic. Es devora molt ràpidament, per l’habilitat narrativa d’Amitav Ghosh, un escriptor bengalès autor de grans novel·les com The Glass Palace o The Hungry Tide (que també recomanaria).”

**Lourdes Fàbrega**

# Feminist Literature



## **La tresse (The Braid) 2017**

Laetitia Colombani

“El recomano perquè es tracta d'un llibre preciós que a través dels cabells, un símbol històricament associat a la feminitat, entrellaça les vides de les tres protagonistes. Són tres dones amb destins molt, molt diferents però totes diuen “NO”.”

**Imma Ratera**

## **Mientras Vivimos (As we live) 2001**

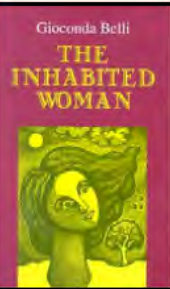
Maruja Torres

“Ja l'havia llegit fa temps i és un llibre que em va agradar perquè tracta les relacions entre dones.”

**Pietat Sierra**



Maruja Torres  
Mientras vivimos



## **La Mujer Habitada (The Inhabited Woman) 1988**

Gioconda Belli

“Un libro que abarca grandes temas; crítica y compromiso político y social, feminismo, amor, relaciones interpersonales y estatus social. En este libro, la liberación social y la de la mujer se mezclan con una visión mágica-histórica. La lucha de los oprimidos contra los opresores se prolonga a través de la historia, desde el genocidio de la conquista de América hasta una revolución contra un régimen militar sudamericano.”

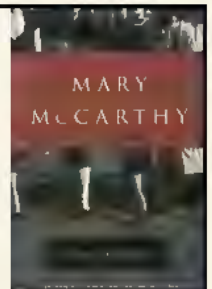
**Pamela Machado**

## **The Group 1963**

Mary McCarthy

“Intelligent novel by an intelligent author to get inside women minds.”

**Anna Roig**



## **Historia de una Flor (A Flower's History) 2019**

Claudia Casanova

“Explica una història molt delicada sobre una de les primeres botàniques espanyoles.”

**Irene Anton Sales**

# Tense Novels pt. 1



## Todo lo que sucedió con Miranda Huff (Everything that Happened with Miranda Huff) 2019

Javier Castillo

“I strongly recommend “Todo lo que sucedió con Miranda Huff” because of three reasons: the writer is from Málaga (like me :)), it is not written by a journalist but an economist with a thriller writing style limiting the descriptive language and focusing on actions. Finally, the plot is very well designed catching you from the very first moment. Once you start reading I can ensure that you cannot put the book down until you finish up. Watch out very addictive book. Read it carefully).”

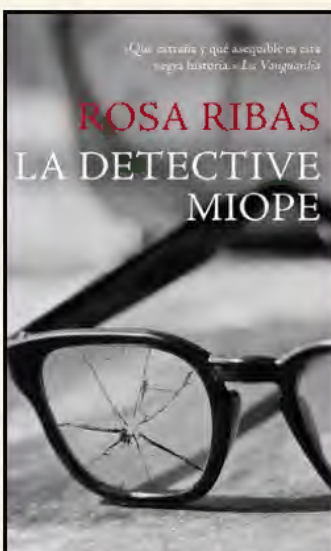
Enrique Pascual San José

## La Suerte de los Idiotas (Idiot's Luck) 2019

Roberto Martínez Guzmán

“Novel·la negra entretinguda.”

Pietat Sierra



## La Detective Miope (The Short-sighted Detective) 2019

Rosa Ribes

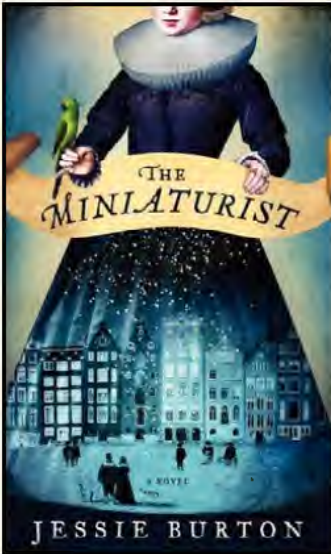
“Bona novel·la negra a Barcelona.”

Susagna Ricart Miró

More Tense Novels

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# Tense Novels pt.2



## **The Miniaturist 2014** Jessie Burton

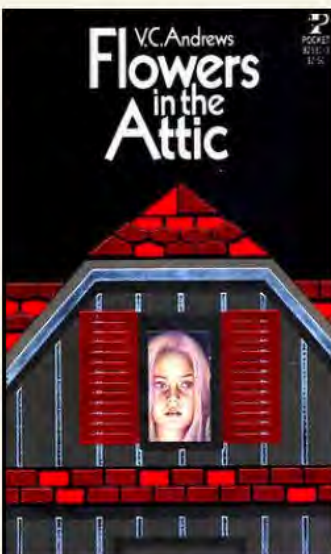
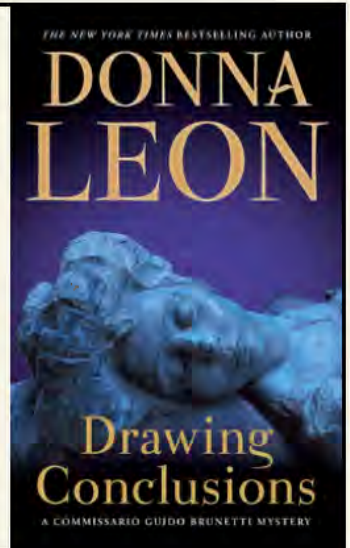
The atmosphere and the characters of 17th century Amsterdam. The plot is scary (by more than one reason) but I could not stop reading it. Later, I learnt it had been filmed. This I haven't seen."

**Isabel Alonso**

## **Drawing Conclusions 2011** Donna Leon

"I recommend the inspector Brunetti collection of Donna Leon. Well written detective novels with Venice as cultural and touristic landscape. Very entertaining."

**Anna Roig**



## **Flowers in the Attic 1979** V. C. Andrews

"És molt actual per la situació actual de quarantena, son uns nens aïllats tres anys."

**Sonia Roldan Pueyo**

# Calm Novels



**Oceano mare (Ocean Sea) 1993**

Alessandro Baricco

“Uno de mis libros favoritos, que leí hace muchísimo y lo recuerdo con mucho cariño”

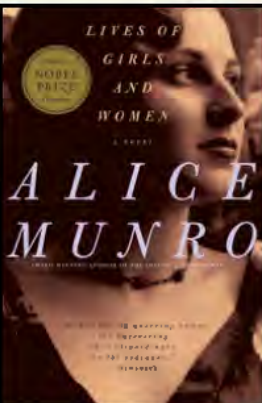
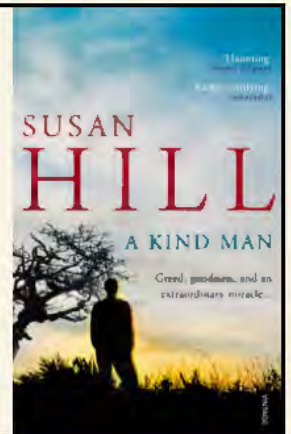
**Roberta Ceravola**

**A Kind Man 2011**

Susan Hill

“A moving, poetic short novel.”

**Anna Roig**



**Lives of Girls and Women 1971**

Alice Munro

“The only novel of this woman Nobel Prize whose short stories already seem complete novels.”

**Carmen Ocal**

**Tot el bé i tot el mal (All good and evil) 2018**

Care Santos

“Amè i fa pensar.”

**Mariona de Palau**



# History



明朝那些事儿 (Ming Dynasty) 2006  
当年明月 (Shi Yue)

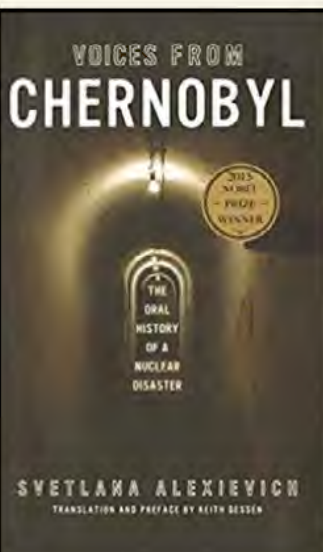
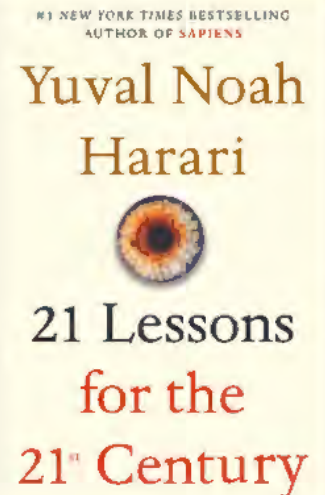
“This book tells the history of China’s Ming Dynasty in humorous language. It tells us the good and evil of our humanity. It prompts us to think how to view the world and how to live our lives.”

Xiaodong Zhang

21 Lessons for the 21st Century 2018  
Yuval Noah Harari

“I liked previous books by the author because they changed my view of humankind history providing a new macro- perspective of history. I have also very much enjoyed articles by the author during the current pandemic.”

M. Rosa Palacin



Чернобыльская молитва (Voices from Chernobyl) 2010  
Svetlana Alexievich

“Aquest llibre tracta sobre l’accident de la central nuclear de Txernòbil i el recomano perquè explica a través de diferents testimonis com va afectar la tragèdia, a la gent, a la natura i al territori.”

Judith Oró Solé

Would you rather read Historical Fiction?

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# Historical Fiction



## **Soldados de Salamina (Soldiers of Salamis) 2001**

Javier Cercas

“I love books that are based on true facts, on interesting stories about our past. This is inspired in the Spanish Civil war, which had an enormous impact in our life. It is a great story of heroes that cannot be missed. Because, what makes someone a hero?”

**Anna May Masnou**

## **La Sospecha de Sofía (Sofía's Suspicion) 2019**

Paloma Sánchez-Garnica

“Yo recomiendo este libro porque te envuelve en la historia desde el principio y cuando crees que sabes lo que va a pasar, te sorprende. Aparte de la historia misteriosa de los personajes, hace un viaje por la historia de España y Alemania desde 1968 narrando eventos importantes como la caída del muro de Berlín. Además, hace un guiño a una gran científica española: Margarita Salas.”

**Amanda Muñoz Juan**



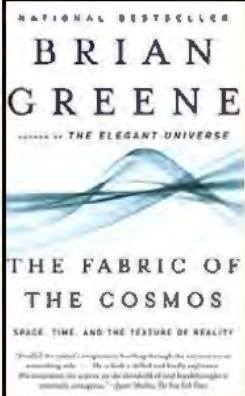
## **Largo pétalo de mar (A Long Petal of the Sea) 2019**

Isabel Allende

“Interessant conèixer l'exili d'alguns catalans a Xile durant la Guerra Civil espanyola. Fantàsticament escrit.”

**Mariona de Palau**

# Science



## **The Fabric of the Cosmos** 2004

Brian Greene

“Este libro explica de manera sintética y pedagógica la realidad física que, según la ciencia contemporánea, forma el cosmos. Trata sobre la relatividad, el mundo cuántico, la naturaleza del espacio y el tiempo, y el origen del universo.”

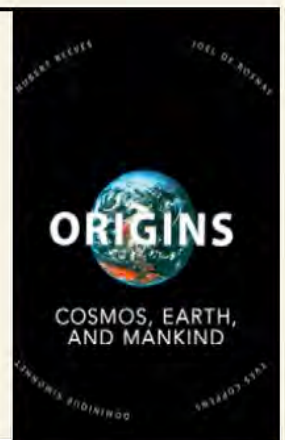
Ángel Pérez del Pino

## **Origins: Cosmos, Earth, and Mankind** 2011

Yves Coppens, Hubert Reeves, Joel De Rosnay, Dominique Simonnet

“The story of our origins always fascinated me and this book summarizes it. The book is divided in three chapters: how the universe was created, how life appeared and how humanity was born. The way it is written (interviews) makes it entertaining and clear. If you enjoy this book, I also recommend you the song “The greatest show on Earth” by Nightwish which is on the same topic. Interestingly, the song title could be a translation of the French title of the book.”

Raphaëlle Houdeville



## **“Matière et matériaux” De quoeie est fait le monde? (Matter and materials: What is the world made of?)** 2010

Étienne Guyon

“Excel·lent llibre de divulgació, em venen ganes de fer la traducció al català o castellà! El podeu trobar a la Biblioteca de l'ICMAB!”

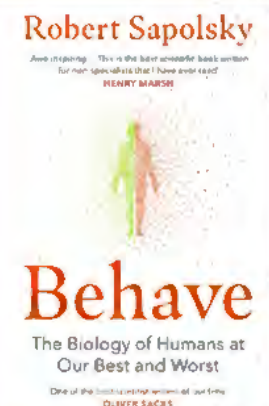
Xavier Obradors

## **Behave: The Biology of Humans at Our Best and Worst** 2017

Robert Morris Sapolsky

“This is an amazing book written by an American neuroendocrinologist that explains the origin of our behaviour from the point of view of studies in neurobiology, primatology; it allows you to understand how our brain works and all the multiple factors that affect it. It is a great pleasure to read it! ”

Esther Barrena



# Sociology



## Brave New World 1958

Aldous Huxley

“Despite being a book that was written more than 50 years ago, the topics it addresses and the comparisons it makes to our society and that are exposed in the dystopian novel “Brave new world” are still consistent with the global situation today.”

Jose Catalan

## Animal Farm 1945

George Orwell

“It is a satire meant to be entertaining while at the same time reflect on how Communism works”

Andrea Stephany Díaz



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

“A fun, engaging look at early human history...  
you'll have a hard time putting it down.”  
—BILL GATES

Yuval Noah Harari

# Sapiens

## A Brief History of Humankind

## תושונאה תודלות רוציק Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind 2011

Yuval Noah Harari

“Es un libro muy ameno que habla del comportamiento humano de una forma muy clara, sin tecnicismos y fácil de entender.”

Ana Begoña Buades Martín

“No és un llibre de ficció, sinó un llibre històric. Et presenta una visió històrica de l'evolució humana, una interpretació de la humanitat. Crec que és un llibre que t'obre la ment i et fa pensar en moltes coses. Un llibre que hauria de ser de lectura obligada. Al final, podem aprendre moltes coses de la nostra evolució.”

Marc Cervantes Orús

“Este libro da una visión amplia y con gran perspicacia sobre la evolución de la especie humana, el devenir de la sociedad y el impacto sobre el planeta.”

Ángel Pérez del Pino

# Comics

If you want something lighter...



**Andanzas de un hombre en pijama 2014**  
Paco Roca

“En estos tiempos, el título lo dice todo.”

Ana López

If you want something heavier...

**El eternauta (The Eternaut) 1957-1959**  
Héctor Germán Oesterheld

“Es el mejor comic de ciencia ficción que he leído. Sus autores son Héctor Germán Oesterheld, guión y Francisco Solano López dibujos. En blanco y negro, un dibujo duro y un guion sin concesiones, El Eternauta es un icono cultural, social y político. Tiene implicaciones políticas muy fuertes para la época en que fue escrito originalmente, a finales de los 50 del sXX, época de la Guerra Fría y de dictaduras militares en Argentina, la última de las cuales en 1976 causó más de 30.000 desaparecidos, entre ellos el guionista de este libro y toda su familia.”

Susana Garelik



JAVIER CERCAS  
**SOLDADOS DE SALAMINA**  
JOSÉ PABLO GARCÍA

**Soldados de Salamina (Soldiers of Salamis) 2001**  
Javier Cercas, José Pablo García

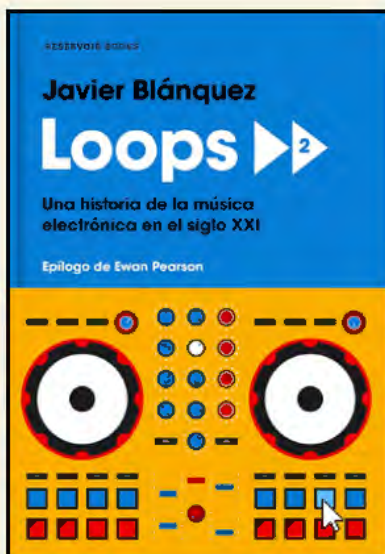
“This is the comic version of the novel. It follows the novel as it is, but it adds the magic of illustration, and all that it implies: happiness, looks, fear, joy... I love comics, and this one, inspired in the Spanish Civil War, will definitely move you.”

Anna May Masnou



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# Relax pt. 1



## Loops: Una historia de la música electrónica (Loops: a History of Electronic Music) 2002 and 2018

Javier Blánquez

“Porque es la biblia de la música electrónica. Te permite conocer todos los aparatos y fenómenos asociados de un estilo musical muchas veces difícil de comprender. Explica qué pasó y que influencias hubo en distintas partes del mundo; donde estamos; hacia dónde se dirige esta música y qué áreas de reflexión quedan por descubrir.”

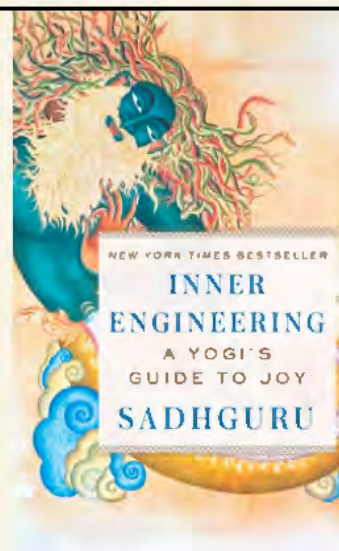
Laura Cabana Jiménez

## Inner Engineering: A Yogi's Guide to Joy 2016

Jaggi Vasudev (Sadhguru)

“This book is filled with moments of wonder, awe, and intellectual challenge. I highly recommend it for anyone interested in self-transformation”

Fabião Santos



## Slow Life: Vive de forma más consciente (Slow Life: Live more conciously) 2019

Helen Flix

“Es un libro interesante, aunque quizá con una base no muy científica, pero nos da pautas y consejos para aprender a vivir de forma más consciente y con un ritmo más pausado. Aprovechando el confinamiento me ha parecido que podría ayudarme a reflexionar sobre qué tipo de vida llevamos e intentar modificarlo si es necesario, en la medida que sea posible, para tener una calidad de vida mejor, disfrutando más de todo lo que hacemos, tanto de nuestro trabajo, de la vida familiar, de las relaciones sociales, etc.”

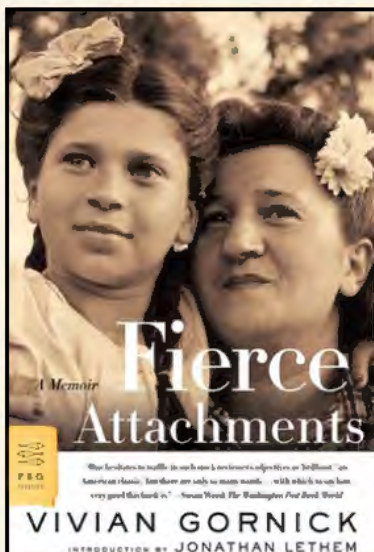
Rosario Núñez



More books

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# Relax pt.2



## **Fierce Attachments: A Memoir 2005**

Vivian Gornick

“I liked the way the author talks about the intense and suffocating attachment to her mother. And more... the immigrant and working class experience in New York, the confines of marriage, the patriarchal control...”

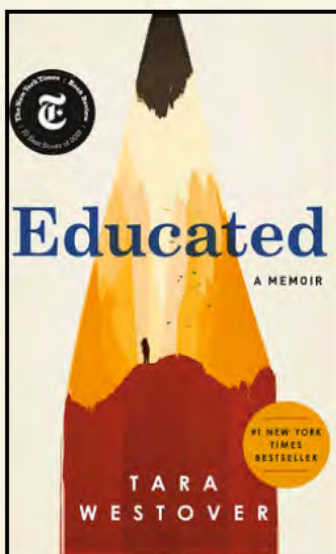
**Jaume Gazquez**

## **Joana E. 1992**

Maria Antònia Oliver

“Història autobiogràfica d’Oliver”

**Pietat Sierra**



## **Una educación (Educated) 2018**

Tara Westover

“És un llibre que no deixa indiferent i sobretot que et fa reflexionar les diferències que encara existeixen actualment per tenir accés per igual a l’educació. Com demostra la seva autora, el sexe o bé la religió hi juguen un paper crucial. ”

**Judit Morlà Folch**