Mary Kate Schaeffer

How will you feel if Donald Trump becomes president again?

The United States is "teetering on the brink of fascism," warns Liz Cheney. Donald Trump has already apparently looked on with glee at the January 6 insurrection, and he has promised to pardon the participants if he wins the election. Donald Trump has openly called for vengeance, violence, and a dangerous escalation of presidential power. As a recent Washington Post editorial said, "Trump's return would be a nightmare for democracy and the rule of law."

The New Republic has been defending American democracy for more than 100 years, and we have never cared as much about our country as we do now. We are going all in, launching a new Election 2024 section and flooding the zone with our best writers and reporters. We will be covering every angle of this election, documenting what we do or do not do to save our country, from helpwanted ads to obituaries.

But we can't do it without your help. If everyone reading this chips in just $25, we can raise the $50,000 we need to fund our election coverage. If you can't chip in, please at least sign up for our newsletter. We promise we won't be posting any fight-against-Donald-Trump and the dangerous contempt-for-legal-process stuff on Mondays.

Yes, I'll Help!

The New Republic | December 18, 2023

The *New Republic*'s Books of the Year

A far-from-exhaustive guide to the books that our writers and editors enjoyed in 2023

Illustration by Lia Kantrowitz

Your inbox is your home page, and The New Republic makes it warm to. Sign up now for your free newsletter.

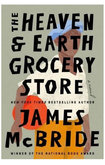
In early December 1938, the critic and editor Malcolm Cowley set out to compile a list of the best books of the year. He asked 50 "well-informed readers to write friends cooking to compile a list of twenty "books that I happened (on Monday)." They didn't always know what it would mean to call their choices the best. The books simply needed to have made them think in a new way.

Illustration by Lia Kantrowitz

Jenny Erpenbeck's novel of a love affair in East Germany focuses on "a decisive moment in these small lives, but it's also a novel about a moment in history," contributing editor Rumaan Alam wrote in his review in June.

—Laura Marsh

Read our full review.



***The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride**
Riverhead Books, 400 pp., $28.00

In a novel that I will remember for decades, James McBride conjures up the world of an impoverished Black community and immigrant Jews in Chicken Hill in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, during the 1930s. With wit, compassion and a deft hand at plotting, McBride manages to make that enclosed geographic area come so alive that it encompasses the name of the tiny store at the center of the story—Heaven & Earth.

—Walter Shapiro

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***Crook Manifesto* by Colson Whitehead**
Doubleday, 336 pp., $29.00

"From 'the character of light on 125th Street' in the summertime to the graffiti that 'exploded on the train cars in balloon letters and sharp-angled glyphs,' *Crook Manifesto* is filled with precisely observed visual impressions of New York City—evocative writing suffused with nostalgia for the gritty New York of the '70s," Evan Kindley wrote in his review in August.

—Laura Marsh

Read our full review.

HELP TNR DEFEND THE REPUBLIC IN 2024

America is racing headlong toward a full-scale disaster. Donald Trump is now leading in many presidential polls, despite facing 91 felony charges and openly promising to upend our democracy. His allies are already actively recruiting thousands of loyalists, forming a government in waiting that will help him deliver on such cruel and anti-democratic promises as persecuting political enemies, reviving the separation of children from their families, expanding abortion bans, kicking millions of Americans off health care—and appointing a tsunami of extremist judges to make his drastic changes last for decades.

We wish we were exaggerating all this. But Trump has been quite open about his plans—often posting them in unhinged, all-caps rants. When will we start actually believing him?

The New Republic has been defending democracy for more than a century, and we've never seen a more dangerous time for our republic. That's why we're massively expanding our coverage of this high-stakes election. We are launching a new Election 2024 section and aiming our reporters and writers straight at Donald Trump and his Republican enablers.

We have a great track record of breaking political news and influencing public opinion. But we can't do it without your help.

If all our readers contribute at least $25, we can raise the $50,000 we need to meet this moment and tackle this dangerous demagogue. We will be covering threats to voting rights, misinformation, and lies, as well as mounting events throughout the country, all in a concerted effort to stop Donald Trump from regaining power.

This is a VERY achievable goal—if people like you join us by donating today. Please help.

Yes, I'll help!

Read More: Culture, 2023 Year In Review, Books, Naomi Klein, Colson Whitehead, Jenny Erpenbeck, Vincent Bevins, Malcolm Harris, Henry Grabar, Kerry Howley, Jeff Sharlet, Theda Skocpol, Lainey Newman, Nathan Thrall, Antony Loewenstein, David Leonhardt, Ryan J. Reilly, Sigrid Nunez, James McBride

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(Investing Magazine)

FROM THE WEB
The Best Men's Shoes for Walking and Standing All Day
(Comfort Men Shoes)

Recommended by Outbrain

Our Books of the Year, Reviewed

DOUBLE VISION /
Naomi Klein's Journey Into the Unnerving World of Naomi Wolf
Laura Marsh

COLD COMFORT /

Jenny Erpenbeck's Reckoning With Cold War Deceptions
Rumaan Alam

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