

# What to read next: McKinsey's 2024 annual book recommendations

Looking for your next book? Each year, McKinsey seeks out the best books in business, technology, workplace culture, and more. Here's our 2024 list, recommended by CEOs, founders, editors in chief, and other global leaders.



## Biography & memoir

### *An Amerikan Family: The Shakurs and the Nation They Created*

Santi Elijah Holley, Mariner Books/HarperCollins Publishers, May 2023

**Recommended by:** Janeen Uzzell, CEO, National Society of Black Engineers

### *Chasing Hope: A Reporter's Life*

Nicholas D. Kristof, Alfred A. Knopf/Penguin Random House, May 2024

**Recommended by:** Mina Al-Oraibi, editor in chief, *National*; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

### *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race*

Walter Isaacson, Simon & Schuster, May 2022

**Recommended by:** Michael Ensser, chair, Egon Zehnder

### *Fever Pitch*

Nick Hornby, Riverhead Books/Penguin Random House, March 1998

**Recommended by:** Emma Tucker, editor in chief, *Wall Street Journal*/Evan Gershkovich, reporter, *Wall Street Journal*

### *Grief Is for People*

Sloane Crosley, MCD and Farrar, Straus and Giroux/Macmillan Publishers, February 2024

**Recommended by:** Kaitlin Christine, founder and CEO, Gabbi

### *Nephew: A Memoir in 4-Part Harmony*

M. K. Asante, Amistad/HarperCollins Publishers, May 2024

**Recommended by:** Stephanie Mehta, CEO and chief content officer, Mansueto Ventures (publisher of *Inc.* and *Fast Company*)

### *Playing from the Rough: A Personal Journey Through America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses*

Jimmie James, Simon & Schuster, June 2024

**Recommended by:** LaSharah S. Bunting, CEO and executive director, Online News Association

### *The Rigor of Angels: Borges, Heisenberg, Kant, and the Ultimate Nature of Reality*

William Egginton, Pantheon/Penguin Random House, August 2023

**Recommended by:** Maryana Iskander, CEO, Wikimedia Foundation

### *Trace*

Jenny Holzer, Guggenheim Museum Publications, July 2024

**Recommended by:** Mariët Westermann, CEO and director, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation, New York; former vice chancellor, New York University Abu Dhabi

### *Walk Through Fire: A Memoir of Love, Loss, and Triumph*

Sheila Johnson, with Lisa Dickey, Simon & Schuster, September 2023

**Recommended by:** LaSharah S. Bunting, CEO and executive director, Online News Association

## Business & economics

### *Design Social Change: Take Action, Work Toward Equity, and Challenge the Status Quo*

Lesley-Ann Noel, Ten Speed Press/Penguin Random House, November 2023

**Recommended by:** Lila Ibrahim, COO, Google DeepMind; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

### *The Formula: How Rogues, Geniuses, and Speed Freaks Reengineered F1 into the World's Fastest-Growing Sport*

Joshua Robinson and Jonathan Clegg, Mariner Books/HarperCollins Publishers, March 2024

**Recommended by:** Homayoun Hatami, senior partner, McKinsey

### *Inner Drive: From Underdog to Global Company*

Arsen Tomsky, Zerde Publishing, 2023

**Recommended by:** Assel Zhanassova, CEO, Kazpost

*The Journey of Leadership: How CEOs Learn to Lead from the Inside Out*

Dana Maor, Hans-Werner Kaas, Kurt Strovink, and Ramesh Srinivasan, Portfolio/Penguin Random House, September 2024

**Recommended by:**

Homayoun Hatami, senior partner, McKinsey  
Raju Narisetti, leader of global publishing, McKinsey; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

*How Legendary Leaders Speak: 451 Proven Communication Strategies of the World's Top Leaders*

Peter D. Andrei, April 2020

**Recommended by:** Assel Zhanassova, CEO, Kazpost

*Possible: How We Survive (and Thrive) in an Age of Conflict*

William Ury, Harper Business/HarperCollins Publishers, February 2024

**Recommended by:** Álvaro Rodríguez Arregui, cofounder and managing partner, IGNIA; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

*Trillion Dollar Coach: The Leadership Playbook of Silicon Valley's Bill Campbell*

Eric Schmidt, Jonathan Rosenberg, and Alan Eagle, Harper Business/HarperCollins Publishers, April 2019

**Recommended by:** May Habib, cofounder and CEO, Writer; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

*What I Learned About Investing from Darwin*

Pulak Prasad, Columbia Business School Publishing/Columbia University Press, May 2023

**Recommended by:** Aakrit Vaish, cofounder and CEO, Jio Haptik Technologies; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

*What Went Wrong with Capitalism*

Ruchir Sharma, Simon & Schuster, June 2024

**Recommended by:** Ravi Krishnan, editor in chief, *Mint*

## Fiction

### 2054

Elliot Ackerman and Admiral James Stavridis, Penguin Press/Penguin Random House, March 2024

**Recommended by:** Bob Sternfels, global managing partner, McKinsey

### *The Assassin*

Tom Fletcher, Canelo, March 2024

**Recommended by:** Mina Al-Oraibi, editor in chief, *National*; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

### *Birnam Wood*

Eleanor Catton, Farrar, Straus and Giroux/Macmillan Publishers, March 2023

**Recommended by:** Tracy Francis, senior partner, McKinsey

### *The Books of Jacob*

Olga Tokarczuk, translated by Jennifer Croft, Riverhead Books/Penguin Random House, February 2022

**Recommended by:** Yuval Atsmon, senior partner, McKinsey

### *Bournville*

Jonathan Coe, Viking/Penguin Books/Penguin Random House, November 2022

**Recommended by:** Dmitry Shishkin, CEO, Ringier Media International

### *Demon Copperhead*

Barbara Kingsolver, Harper/HarperCollins Publishers, October 2022

**Recommended by:** Kweilin Ellingrud, senior partner, McKinsey

### *Fathers and Sons*

Ivan Turgenev, translated by Richard Freeborn, Oxford University Press, June 2008

**Recommended by:** Azeem Azhar, creator, *Exponential View*

*God's Debris: A Thought Experiment*  
Scott Adams, Andrews McMeel Publishing,  
September 2001

**Recommended by:** Sven Smit, senior partner, McKinsey

*I Have Some Questions for You*  
Rebecca Makkai, Viking/Penguin Random House,  
February 2023

**Recommended by:** M. Scott Havens, president of business operations, New York Mets

*The Island of Missing Trees*  
Elif Shafak, Bloomsbury Publishing, November 2021

**Recommended by:** Rozina Breen, CEO and editor in chief, Bureau of Investigative Journalism; board chair, Leeds Playhouse

*James*  
Percival Everett, Doubleday/Penguin Random House, March 2024

**Recommended by:** Janeen Uzzell, CEO, National Society of Black Engineers

*Letters to Alice: On First Reading Jane Austen*  
Fay Weldon, Sceptre/Hachette Australia,  
January 1992

**Recommended by:** Khadija Patel, journalist in residence, IFPIM; former chair, International Press Institute

*The Maniac*  
Benjamín Labatut, Penguin Press/Penguin Random House, October 2023

**Recommended by:** Madeline McIntosh, cofounder, CEO, and publisher, Authors Equity; former CEO, Penguin Random House US  
Rodney Zempel, senior partner, McKinsey

*The Meursault Investigation*  
Kamel Daoud, translated by John Cullen, Other Press, June 2015

**Recommended by:** Sophie Schmidt, founder and publisher, *Rest of World*; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

*Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*  
Gabrielle Zevin, Alfred A. Knopf/Penguin Random House, July 2022

**Recommended by:** Rozina Breen, CEO and editor in chief, Bureau of Investigative Journalism; board chair, Leeds Playhouse

*The Wizard of the Kremlin*  
Giuliano da Empoli, translated by Willard Wood, Other Press, November 2023

**Recommended by:** Philip Meissner, founder and director, European Center for Digital Competitiveness; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

## Health

*The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness*

Jonathan Haidt, Penguin Press/Penguin Random House, March 2024

**Recommended by:** Jen L. Wong, COO, Reddit; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum  
May Habib, cofounder and CEO, Writer

*Good Energy: The Surprising Connection Between Metabolism and Limitless Health*

Casey Means, with Calley Means, Avery/Penguin Random House, May 2024

**Recommended by:** Andrea Wasmuth, CEO, Handelsblatt Media

*My Father's Brain: Life in the Shadow of Alzheimer's*

Sandeep Jauhar, Farrar, Straus and Giroux/Macmillan Publishers, April 2023

**Recommended by:** Raju Narisetti, leader of global publishing, McKinsey; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

*Lifespan: Why We Age—and Why We Don't Have to*  
David A. Sinclair, with Matthew D. LaPlante, Atria Books/Simon & Schuster, September 2019

**Recommended by:** Sven Smit, senior partner, McKinsey

*Outlive: The Science & Art of Longevity*

Peter Attia, with Bill Gifford, Harmony/Penguin  
Random House, March 2023

**Recommended by:**

Boris Gartner, CEO, LALIGA North America;  
president and partner, Relevent

Ginni Rometty, cochair, OneTen; former chair  
and CEO, IBM

Jen L. Wong, COO, Reddit

Ravi Krishnan, editor in chief, *Mint*

Stephan Scholl, CEO, Alight

*Unwell Women: Misdiagnosis and Myth in  
a Man-Made World*

Elinor Cleghorn, Dutton/Penguin Random House,  
June 2022

**Recommended by:** Kevin Ali, CEO and board  
member, Organon

*Why We Remember: Unlocking Memory's Power  
to Hold On to What Matters*

Charan Ranganath, Doubleday/Penguin Random  
House, February 2024

**Recommended by:** Tracy Francis, senior  
partner, McKinsey

## History

*Culture: The Story of Us, from Cave Art to K-Pop*

Martin Puchner, W. W. Norton, February 2023

**Recommended by:** Mariët Westermann, CEO and  
director, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and  
Foundation, New York; former vice chancellor, New  
York University Abu Dhabi

*Eyeliners: A Cultural History*

Zahra Hankir, Penguin Books/Penguin Random  
House, November 2023

**Recommended by:** Khadija Patel, journalist  
in residence, IFPIM; former chair, International  
Press Institute

*The Five: The Untold Lives of the Women Killed  
by Jack the Ripper*

Hallie Rubenhold, Black Swan/Penguin Random  
House, February 2020

**Recommended by:** Kate Smaje, senior  
partner, McKinsey

*The Game: Inside the Secret World of Major  
League Baseball's Power Brokers*

Jon Pessah, Back Bay Books/Hachette Book,  
May 2016

**Recommended by:** M. Scott Havens, president of  
business operations, New York Mets

*One Fine Day: Britain's Empire on the Brink—  
September 29, 1923*

Matthew Parker, PublicAffairs/Hachette Book,  
September 2023

**Recommended by:** Bob Sternfels, global managing  
partner, McKinsey

*Painting for Profit: The Economic Lives of  
Seventeenth-Century Italian Painters*

Richard E. Spear and Philip Sohm, Yale University  
Press, July 2010

**Recommended by:** Benedict Evans, founder,  
*Benedict's Newsletter*

*The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money & Power*

Daniel Yergin, Free Press/Simon & Schuster,  
December 2008

**Recommended by:** Azeem Azhar, creator,  
*Exponential View*

*The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's  
Shining Women*

Kate Moore, Sourcebooks, March 2018

**Recommended by:** Ginni Rometty, cochair, OneTen;  
former chair and CEO, IBM

*Religion and the Decline of Magic: Studies in  
Popular Beliefs in Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-  
Century England*

Keith Thomas, Penguin/Penguin Random House,  
January 2003

**Recommended by:** Benedict Evans, founder,  
*Benedict's Newsletter*

*An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History  
of the 1960s*

Doris Kearns Goodwin, Simon & Schuster,  
April 2024

**Recommended by:** Nicholas Kristof, columnist,  
*New York Times*

## Personal development

*Anatomy of a Breakthrough: How to Get Unstuck When It Matters Most*

Adam Alter, Simon & Schuster, May 2023

**Recommended by:** Boris Gartner, CEO, LALIGA North America; president and partner, Relevent

*The Art of Explanation: How to Communicate with Clarity and Confidence*

Ros Atkins, Wildfire/Hachette Australia, August 2023

**Recommended by:** Dmitry Shishkin, CEO, Ringier Media International

*The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters*

Priya Parker, Riverhead Books/Penguin Random House, May 2018

**Recommended by:** Kaitlin Christine, founder and CEO, Gabbi

*Der Kreativitäts-Code: 25 Erfolgsregeln für Ihre Kreativität (The Creativity Code: 25 rules for success for your creativity)*

Josef Brunner and Christian Sellmann, Vahlen/Verlog Franz Vahlen, July 2024

**Recommended by:** Andrea Wasmuth, CEO, Handelsblatt Media

*Don't Believe Everything You Think: Why Your Thinking Is the Beginning & End of Suffering*

Joseph Nguyen, independently published, March 2022

**Recommended by:**

Madeline McIntosh, cofounder, CEO, and publisher, Authors Equity; former CEO, Penguin Random House US

Sahar Albazar, deputy chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, Egypt House of Representatives; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

*Homecoming: Reclaiming and Healing Your Inner Child*

John Bradshaw, Bantam/Penguin Random House, February 1992

**Recommended by:** Álvaro Rodríguez Arregui, cofounder and managing partner, IGNIA; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

*How Big Things Get Done: The Surprising Factors That Determine the Fate of Every Project, from Home Renovations to Space Exploration and Everything In Between*

Bent Flyvbjerg and Dan Gardner, Currency/Penguin Random House, February 2023

**Recommended by:** Anthony Smaré, executive chair, TrueNorth Capital, Papua New Guinea; chair, Paradise Foods; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

*Man's Search for Meaning*

Viktor E. Frankl, Beacon Press, June 2006

**Recommended by:** Sahar Albazar, deputy chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, Egypt House of Representatives; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

*Mindset: The New Psychology of Success; How We Can Learn to Fulfill Our Potential*

Carol S. Dweck, Random House/Penguin Random House, February 2006

**Recommended by:** Sahar Albazar, deputy chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, Egypt House of Representatives; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

*Playing Big: Practical Wisdom for Women Who Want to Speak Up, Create, and Lead*

Tara Mohr, Avery/Penguin Random House, December 2015

**Recommended by:** Liz Tenety, cofounder, Motherly; CEO, Founding Women

*Says Who? A Kinder, Funner Usage Guide for Everyone Who Cares About Words*

Anne Curzan, Crown/Penguin Random House, March 2024

**Recommended by:** Manoush Zomorodi, cofounder, Stable Genius Productions; host, *TED Radio Hour* by NPR

*Slow Productivity: The Lost Art of Accomplishment Without Burnout*

Cal Newport, Portfolio/Penguin Random House, March 2024

**Recommended by:** Liz Tenety, cofounder, Motherly; CEO, Founding Women

*Somehow: Thoughts on Love*

Anne Lamott, Riverhead Books/Penguin Random House, April 2024

**Recommended by:** Maryana Iskander, CEO, Wikimedia Foundation

*To My Sisters: A Guide to Building*

*Lifelong Friendships*

Renée Kapuku and Courtney Daniella Boateng, Bluebird/Pan Macmillan Australia, August 2023

**Recommended by:** Daisy Veerasingham, CEO and president, Associated Press

*What I Know for Sure*

Oprah Winfrey, Flatiron Books/Macmillan Publishers, September 2014

**Recommended by:** Aakrit Vaish, cofounder and CEO, Jio Haptik Technologies; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

*Age of Revolutions: Progress and Backlash from 1600 to the Present*

Fareed Zakaria, W. W. Norton, March 2024

**Recommended by:** Philip Meissner, founder and director, European Center for Digital Competitiveness; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

*Eat the Buddha: Life and Death in a Tibetan Town*

Barbara Demick, Random House/Penguin Random House, May 2021

**Recommended by:** Sophie Schmidt, founder and publisher, *Rest of World*; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

*How Infrastructure Works: Inside the Systems That Shape Our World*

Deb Chachra, Riverhead Books/Penguin Random House, October 2023

**Recommended by:** Azeem Azhar, creator, *Exponential View*

*Leadership: Six Studies in World Strategy*

Henry Kissinger, Penguin Press/Penguin Random House, July 2022

**Recommended by:** Michael Ensser, chair, Egon Zehnder

*Ours Was the Shining Future: The Story of the American Dream*

David Leonhardt, Random House/Penguin Random House, October 2023

**Recommended by:** Nicholas Kristof, columnist, *New York Times*

*The Politics Industry: How Political Innovation Can Break Partisan Gridlock and Save Our Democracy*

Katherine M. Gehl and Michael E. Porter, Harvard Business Review Press/Harvard Business Publishing, June 2020

**Recommended by:** Reid Hoffman, cofounder, LinkedIn; partner, Greylock Partners

*Prisoner: My 544 Days in an Iranian Prison—Solitary Confinement, a Sham Trial, High-Stakes Diplomacy, and the Extraordinary Efforts It Took to Get Me Out*

Jason Rezaian, Anthony Bourdain/Ecco/HarperCollins Publishers, January 2020

**Recommended by:** Emma Tucker, editor in chief, *Wall Street Journal*/Evan Gershkovich, reporter, *Wall Street Journal*

*'Whatever It Is, I'm Against It': Resistance to Change in Higher Education*

Brian Rosenberg, Harvard Education Press, September 2023

**Recommended by:** Martin Schmidt, president, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

## Sustainability

*Blue Machine: How the Ocean Shapes Our World*

Helen Czerski, Torva/Penguin Random House, June 2023

**Recommended by:** Birgit Skarstein, cofounder and board member, Stiftelsen VI; Paralympic Games champion and World Championship medalist; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

*Children of a Modest Star: Planetary Thinking for an Age of Crises*

Jonathan S. Blake and Nils Gilman, Stanford University Press, April 2024

**Recommended by:** Nicholas Dirks, CEO and president, New York Academy of Sciences; former chancellor, University of California, Berkeley

*The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming*  
David Wallace-Wells, Crown/Penguin Random House, March 2020

**Recommended by:** Anthony Smaré, executive chair, TrueNorth Capital, Papua New Guinea; chair, Paradise Foods; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

## Technology

*AI Needs You: How We Can Change AI's Future and Save Our Own*

Verity Harding, Princeton University Press, March 2024

**Recommended by:** Lila Ibrahim, COO, Google DeepMind; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

*Chip War: The Fight for the World's Most Critical Technology*

Chris Miller, Scribner/Simon & Schuster, October 2022

**Recommended by:** Lareina Yee, senior partner, McKinsey  
Martin Schmidt, president, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

*Co-intelligence: Living and Working with AI*  
Ethan Mollick, Portfolio/Penguin Random House, April 2024

**Recommended by:** Lareina Yee, senior partner, McKinsey  
Reid Hoffman, cofounder, LinkedIn; partner, Greylock Partners

*The Coming Wave: Technology, Power, and the Twenty-First Century's Greatest Dilemma*  
Mustafa Suleyman, with Michael Bhaskar, Crown/Penguin Random House, September 2023

**Recommended by:** Lareina Yee, senior partner, McKinsey

*God, Human, Animal, Machine: Technology, Metaphor, and the Search for Meaning*  
Meghan O'Gieblyn, Anchor/Penguin Random House, July 2022

**Recommended by:** Nicholas Dirks, CEO and president, New York Academy of Sciences; former chancellor, University of California, Berkeley

*Hit Refresh: The Quest to Rediscover Microsoft's Soul and Imagine a Better Future for Everyone*  
Satya Nadella, Greg Shaw, and Jill Tracie Nichols, Harper Business/HarperCollins Publishers, September 2017

**Recommended by:** Stephanie Mehta, CEO and chief content officer, Mansueto Ventures (publisher of *Inc.* and *Fast Company*)

*Ideas That Created the Future: Classic Papers of Computer Science*

Harry R. Lewis, editor, MIT Press, February 2021

**Recommended by:** Amy Webb, founder and CEO, Future Today Institute

*Inventor of the Future: The Visionary Life of Buckminster Fuller*

Alec Nevala-Lee, Dey Street Books/HarperCollins Publishers, August 2022

**Recommended by:** Amy Webb, founder and CEO, Future Today Institute

*The Singularity Is Nearer: When We Merge with AI*  
Ray Kurzweil, Viking/Penguin Random House, June 2024

**Recommended by:** Yuval Atsmon, senior partner, McKinsey

## Workplace culture

*The Case for Good Jobs: How Great Companies Bring Dignity, Pay, and Meaning to Everyone's Work*

Zeynep Ton, Harvard Business Review Press/Harvard Business Publishing, June 2023

**Recommended by:** Abbie Lundberg, editor in chief, *MIT Sloan Management Review*

*Culture Is the Way: How Leaders at Every Level Build an Organization for Speed, Impact, and Excellence*

Matt Mayberry, Wiley/John Wiley & Sons, February 2023

**Recommended by:** Stephan Scholl, CEO, Alight

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*Loonshots: How to Nurture the Crazy Ideas That Win Wars, Cure Diseases, and Transform Industries*

Safi Bahcall, St. Martin's Press/Macmillan Publishers, March 2019

**Recommended by:** Kevin Ali, CEO and board member, Organon

*The Surprising Science of Meetings: How You Can Lead Your Team to Peak Performance*

Steven G. Rogelberg, Oxford University Press, January 2019

**Recommended by:** Birgit Skarstein, cofounder and board member, Stiftelsen VI; Paralympic Games champion and World Championship medalist; Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum

*Tribal Leadership: Leveraging Natural Groups to Build a Thriving Organization*

Dave Logan, John King, and Halee Fischer-Wright, Harper Business/HarperCollins Publishers, June 2011

**Recommended by:** Kweilin Ellingrud, senior partner, McKinsey

*What You Do Is Who You Are: How to Create Your Business Culture*

Ben Horowitz, Harper Business/HarperCollins Publishers, October 2019

**Recommended by:** Assel Zhanassova, CEO, Kazpost

*Work Here Now: Think like a Human and Build a Powerhouse Workplace*

Melissa Swift, Wiley/John Wiley & Sons, January 2023

**Recommended by:** Abbie Lundberg, editor in chief, *MIT Sloan Management Review*

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