

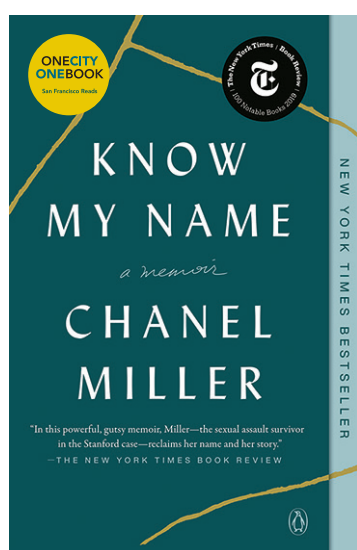
# One City One Book 2021

"When I listened to her, I understood: You have to hold out to see how your life unfolds, because it is most likely beyond what you can imagine... *Good things and bad things come from the universe holding hands. Wait for the good things to come.*"

## One City One Book: San Francisco Reads Is Here!

After so much time apart, it's time for the City to come together for everyone's favorite literary event: One City One Book: San Francisco Reads, which encourages everyone to read the same book at the same time and join in lively discussions through a variety of public programs. We are rolling out the red carpet for Bay Area native Chanel Miller, critically acclaimed author of *Know My Name: A Memoir* (Penguin Random House). This year's program coincides with the Library's annual Asian/Pacific Islander American Heritage Celebration and Sexual Assault Awareness Month—a cause championed by Miller. Start reading and join us in community this spring.

One City One Book (OCOB) is SFPL's largest literary event of the year, and we are pulling out all the stops for our 2021 selection, *Know My Name: A Memoir*. We can't wait to share this important book with our city and to engage in lively discussions with you at the many events we have planned this spring. In addition to our marquee event with OCOB author Chanel Miller, you can also look forward



to a series of related programs for the months of March, Women's History Month, and April, Sexual Violence Awareness Month.

OCOB provides SFPL with a wonderful platform to connect with younger audiences around the critical topics in Miller's book. We are proud to be able to partner with Mission and Balboa High School, City College of San Francisco and University of San Francisco to bring Miller as a special guest to young scholars for their own private author talk. Books are provided to the students and a special curriculum is developed around the topics of sexual assault, consent, feminism, writing, art and more.

On March 16, 6 p.m. don't miss the big event—local journalist Robynn Takayama will facilitate a candid conversation with

Chanel Miller about her book, art and her personal experience with sexual trauma and the California court system. In celebration of their new title, *Guerrilla Girls: The Art of Behaving Badly*, Guerrilla Girls Frida Kahlo and Käthe Kollwitz discuss the book and their legacy, followed by a Q&A session. We will feature a dynamic panel of fierce women artists titled "Feel, What I Felt," which was a post-it quote Miller wrote and kept as inspiration during the writing of her memoir, referenced in an interview with The Daily Show's Trevor Noah. The panel will feature cultural creators Cece Carpio, Diana Gameros, Amara Tabor Smith and Seema Yasmin and will be moderated by Ellen Sebastian Chang. They will discuss Miller's book, art and their artistic practices.



Chanel Miller. Photo: Mariah Tiffany

In March and April we will feature local writers, artists, healers and organizations who assist survivors of sexual assault. Partnering with local organizations and City agencies plays a large part in the OCOB initiative. Look for events with the SF Human Rights Commission's Office of Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention team (SHARP), Department on the Status of Women, SF Women Against Rape, Mirror Memoirs, along with other local organizations, artists, authors and educators.

Find a full line up of programs and presentations throughout March and April on our website.

**Author: One City One Book Author Chanel Miller in conversation with journalist Robynn Takayama** – March 16, 6 p.m.

**Panel: Guerrilla Girls: The Art of Behaving Badly with Frida Kahlo and Käthe Kollwitz** – March 24, 7 p.m.

**Panel: "Feel, What I Felt" Women Creators** – March 30, 7 p.m.

**Panel: International Transgender Day of Visibility** – March 29, 7 p.m.  
A partnership with Mirror Memoirs

## Book Club Discussion Questions

- What were your initial expectations of the book? What surprised you? What made the strongest first impression on you?
- Epigraphs—the quotations that appear at the beginning of a book—often set a theme or tone or offer a point of reflection for a reader. Consider the quotations from writers Toni Morrison, Mary Oliver and Alexander Chee at the beginning of *Know My Name*. How do they relate to ideas that Miller sets forth in her introduction?
- Miller remembers concrete details of what happened directly before and after the assault with full clarity. What stands out the most to you and why?
- In Chapter 2, Miller describes some of the comments in the media coverage immediately following the assault. What were some of the comments that caught your attention and why? Have you heard or seen similar examples of criticism and victim-blaming? What is at the root of this?
- Miller identifies one specific line of argument in response to Turner's actions: "that boys simply could not help themselves" (50). This attitude, the "boys will be boys" mentality, is also known as toxic masculinity. How have you most recently observed this mentality in the media, pop culture, current affairs or your own everyday experience? What messages or behaviors would you say are important to pass on to children to avoid these harmful statements and beliefs?
- What is the significance of "Emily Doe" in the book? What purpose does "Emily" serve for Miller?
- What do you notice about the way that Miller describes her body throughout the book and the relationship she has with her physical self?
- What was striking or surprising to you about the biases Miller experienced during her trial?
- While this book can be simplified and characterized as an account of assault and trauma, it also contains many examples of profound ways, both big and small, in which people care for and look after each other. What are some examples that stand out to you?
- One recurring thread through the memoir—the rape, Miller's life in its aftermath, the justice system—is the idea of power. What does having power mean? Who has it? How can it be taken away, and what are ways Miller found to reclaim it?
- One of the most notable features of Miller's writing is her ability to capture emotion. In a 2020 interview with The Cut, Miller reflects, "[W]henver I thought about a really potent emotional memory related to the assault, my editor would challenge me to come up with another memory in my life that had a similar emotional core—even though it may not have been the same experience at all. It could be from childhood, from anywhere. Showing [the reader] that experience would give them a more accessible entry point into that feeling. Instead of saying 'this happened to me,' you identify the emotional core of what happened and figure out other moments in your life that had similar cores, and use those to provide concrete scenes for the reader." What were some entry points into the emotional world of *Know My Name* that stand out to you?
- An exhibition by Miller is currently on view at The Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, easily visible from the street. Miller states that the Museum "was the first institution that approached me to say, 'We know your story. Now, what else would you like to say?' Rather than, 'Rehash your story. And continue to mine that one event for wisdom.'" If you've had the opportunity to see the mural, what do you think Miller is saying through her art?

## Know My Name Book Clubs

### Bite Size Book Club Continues

While our first meeting took place on Jan. 3 with chapters 1-5, there is still plenty of time to take part in the discussion. We will meet on the first Sunday of the month leading up to Chanel Miller's virtual library appearance on March 16. Join us!

#### Suggested Chapters:

Feb. 7 – Chapter 6–12

March 7 – Chapter 13–Victim Impact Statement

### More Opportunities to Join the Conversation

**Book Club: Chanel Miller, *Know My Name*** – Feb 18, 6 p.m.

**Book Club: Chanel Miller, *Know My Name*** – March 13, 11 a.m.

- Watch "I Am With You," a powerful animated film short available on Miller's website: [chanel-miller.com/i-am-with-you](http://chanel-miller.com/i-am-with-you). Consider the way this medium augments the reading experience. How do Miller's illustrations and voiceover add to your understanding of the memoir?

- What change in perspective or understanding about the world has been unlocked in you through reading this book?

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San Francisco Reads





# #onecityonebook

## About the Author

Chanel Miller is a writer and artist who received her BA in Literature from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her critically acclaimed memoir *Know My Name* was a *New York Times* bestseller, a *New York Times Book Review* Notable Book and a National Book Critics Circle Award winner, as well as a best book of 2019 in *Time*, NPR and the *Washington Post*, among others. She is a 2019 Time Next 100 honoree and a 2016 Glamour Woman of the Year honoree under her pseudonym, "Emily Doe."



Artist Chanel Miller with her mural, *I was, I am, I will be*, Chanel Miller (b. 1992), installation 2020. ©Asian Art Museum

visitors to reflect on their own experiences. Visible from Hyde Street outside the Museum—day and night — *I was, I am, I will be* is one of several public artworks commissioned by the Museum to engage the surrounding community.

To complement the installation at the Asian Art Museum, patrons can visit the exterior of the Main Library to see a small exhibit of Miller's work located in the vitrines along Grove Street, near the corner of Hyde.

## Chanel Miller, the Artist

As part of its transformation and expansion, during summer 2020 the Asian Art Museum unveiled *I was, I am, I will be*, a three-part mural by Chanel Miller, who, in addition to being an author, is also a talented artist. Miller represents healing from trauma as an ongoing process: reflecting on the past, being mindful in the present and envisioning the future. The tender, knowing, yet playful "characters" in *I was, I am, I will be* represent different stages of coping with the uncertainties and challenges of life — "unfinished sentences," as the artist calls them, encouraging

## About the Book

Universally acclaimed, rapturously reviewed and an instant *New York Times* bestseller, Chanel Miller's breathtaking memoir "gives readers the privilege of knowing her not just as Emily Doe, but as Chanel Miller the writer, the artist, the survivor, the fighter" (*The Wrap*). Her story of trauma and transcendence illuminates a culture biased to protect perpetrators, indicting a criminal justice system designed to fail the most vulnerable, and, ultimately, shining with the courage required to move through suffering and live a full and beautiful life.

Request a copy of *Know My Name* and pick up at any SFPL To Go site or purchase your own copy at [friendsfpl.org/shop.html](https://friendsfpl.org/shop.html).

"Compelling and essential... Miller reminds us that our stories are worth telling, that the names and the lives attached to those names matter."  
—*San Francisco Chronicle*

"Triumphant... *Know My Name* evokes a woman whose spirit hasn't been broken—a study in what it means to strike back, not in revenge, but in reclamation."  
—*O Magazine*

## Moved by *Know My Name*? Here Are Some Other Suggestions



**Michelle Bowdler's *Is Rape a Crime? A Memoir, An Investigation, and A Manifesto***

In 1984, the Boston Sexual Assault Unit was formed as a result of a series of break-ins and rapes that terrorized the city, of which Bowdler's own horrific rape was the last. Twenty years later, after a career of working with victims like herself, Michelle decides to find out what happened to her case and why she never heard from the police again after one brief interview.



**Jeannie Vanasco's *Things We Didn't Talk About When I Was a Girl: A Memoir***

A part-memoir, part-true-crime account and testament to female friendship describes how the author navigated sexual trauma by contacting her former friend and rapist, who agreed to come forward and explore how biases shape sexual violence and its perceptions.

**Tatyana Fazlalizadeh's *Stop***



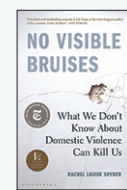
***Telling Women to Smile: Stories of Street Harassment and How We're Taking Back Our Power***

Sitting at the cross-section of social activism, art, community engagement and feminism, this title brings to the page the author's stunning street art, featuring the faces and voices of everyday women as they talk about the experience of living in communities that are supposed to be their homes yet are frequently hostile.



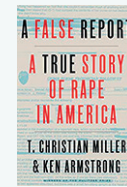
**Jodi Kantor's and Megan Twohey's *She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement***

The Pulitzer Prize-winning reporters who broke the story of Harvey Weinstein's sexual abuses discuss the suspenseful untold story of their investigation, the way it changed their careers and whether or not the #MeToo movement changed things for the better.



**Rachel Louise Snyder's *No Visible Bruises: What We Don't Know About Domestic Violence Can Kill Us***

A journalist explores America's epidemic of domestic violence and how it has been misunderstood, sharing insights into what domestic violence portends about other types of violence and what counter-measures are needed today.



**T. Christian Miller's and Ken Armstrong's *A False Report: A True Story of Rape in America***

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists present the true story of two detectives who teamed up to discern the truth about a case involving a teen who was charged with falsely reporting a rape, an investigation that revealed the work of a serial rapist in multiple states.



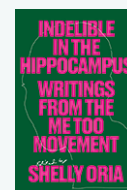
**Edited by Roxane Gay, *Not That Bad: Dispatches From Rape Culture***

This collection of first-person essays selected and edited by the author of *Bad Feminist* discusses rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment with contributions from Ally Sheedy, Gabrielle Union, Amy Jo Burns, Claire Schwartz and Bob Shacochis.



***Drawing Power Women's Stories of Sexual Violence, Harassment, and Survival: A Comics Anthology***

More than 60 female comics creators share their personal experiences with sexual violence and harassment through new and original comics.



***Indelible in the Hippocampus: Writings From the Me Too Movement***

Among the first books to emerge from the #MeToo movement, this book is a truly intersectional collection of essays, fiction and poetry by Black, Latinx, Asian, queer and trans writers.

## Thank you to Our 2020/2021 OCOB Selection Committee and Partners

### Selection Committee

- Michelle Jeffers, Chief of Community, Programs and Partnerships, SFPL
- Alejandro Gallegos, Adult Engagement Manager, SFPL
- Denise Schmidt, Collections & Cataloging Manager, SFPL
- Anissa Malady, Adult Engagement Coordinator, SFPL
- Susan Mall, Vice President, San Francisco Library Commission

- Byron Spooner, Literary Director, Friends of the San Francisco Public Library
- Lamonte Stamps, Director of First-Year Programs and Family Engagement Division of Student Life, University of San Francisco
- Connie Wolf, Art, Culture, Education Consultant
- Ann Seaton, Director of Operations California Independent Booksellers Alliance
- Bob Deloria, Books Inc.

### Selection Criteria

We search for a book that meets as many of the following criteria as possible:

- High literary quality;
- Reflective of universal issues facing San Franciscans;
- Mirrors the diversity of San Francisco;
- Connects to San Francisco either through the content or perhaps because the author is from San Francisco;

- Available in key languages;
- Currently in print and available in large quantities;
- Appeals to adults and high-schoolers;
- Available in paperback;
- Capable of sparking provocative discussions;
- Lends itself to engaging public programs around the book.

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