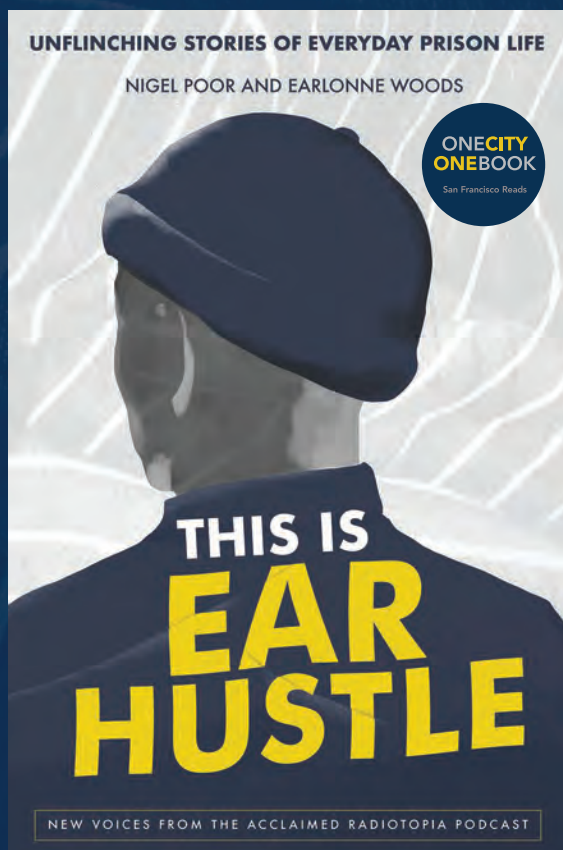


SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

ONECITY ONEBOOK

San Francisco Reads



FALL 2022 sfpl.org/onecityonebook

*We honor and acknowledge the many
Ohlone tribal groups and families,
including the Ramaytush and Chochenyo,
as well as the Coast and Bay Miwok,
Southern Pomo, Wappo and Patwin peoples
as the rightful stewards of the lands
on which we reside.*

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Welcome



Michael Lambert

For decades, San Francisco Public Library has provided library and reference by mail service to individuals in the carceral system. Every month, our stellar Jail and Reentry Services librarians Rachel Kinnon and Dr. Jeanie Austin bring a collection of books to the jails and are greeted by a chorus of “the librarians are here!” that reverberates from cell to cell.

Many might wonder why people in jails deserve this kind of access to books. As Rachel and Jeanie like to say, not everyone in jail has been convicted of a crime; many, in fact, are awaiting trial, which can sometimes take up to several years. Guilty or not, the racial disparities in our jail and prison system are emblematic of the deeply entrenched systemic racism and lack of equitable education in our country. Research shows that poverty coupled with low literacy are primary contributors to the prison pipeline. To quote SF Sheriff Paul Miyamoto, “For those who are incarcerated, access to literature can be the difference between rehabilitation or rearrest.”

This year’s One City One Book: San Francisco Reads selection, *This Is Ear Hustle: Unflinching Stories of Everyday Prison Life* by Nigel Poor and Earlonne Woods, lifts the curtain on prison life and reveals the humanity of those on the inside. The goal of One City One Book is to build bridges between communities and generations through reading and discussion of a single book, and to encourage reading as a lifelong pursuit and an essential act of empathy. My reading of *This Is Ear Hustle* was personally transformative and fundamentally changed the way I think about our judicial and penitentiary systems. It also affirmed the work we do to support our justice-involved community in San Francisco. I’m happy to report that earlier this year, our Jails and Reentry team received a \$2 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to partner with the American Library Association to expand access to library services and information nationwide.

Over the years, Rachel and Jeannie have seen former patrons leave the jails and go on to build wonderful lives for themselves. Some have started successful businesses that were sparked by their intellectual pursuits while incarcerated. They have also received countless letters of gratitude; one inmate wrote, “I am truly grateful that you took me seriously and treated me like a human being. You have given me a rare gift.” BOOKS CHANGE LIVES. *This Is Ear Hustle* will change yours. Please join us and your fellow San Franciscans in this communal reading celebration.

See you there!

Michael Lambert, City Librarian

Together, we read.



Praise for *This Is Ear Hustle*

The Media Lab

was the heartbeat of
San Quentin...It was an
atmosphere of creativity,
ideas, respect, bickering,
love, hate, creative vision,
conflicts...definitely
fertile ground for comedy.
And even though
we were a group of
incarcerated individuals,
we were a group of
incarcerated individuals
who were interested
in learning about how
we might change the
narrative about our own
environment.
— Earlonne

"Profound, sometimes hilarious, often heartbreaking."
—*The New York Times*

"A must-read for fans of the legendary podcast and all those who seek to understand crime, punishment, and mass incarceration in America." —Piper Kerman, author of *Orange Is the New Black: My Year in a Woman's Prison*

"[H]umanize[s] a largely ignored population without resorting to sensationalism or sentimentality. It refuses the black and white answers, the taking sides, the absolutes. It's not pro-prisoner or anti-prison; it is staunchly pro-human—messiness, paradoxes and all." —*San Francisco Chronicle*

"*This Is Ear Hustle* is a jewel. Nigel Poor and Earlonne Woods are gifted storytellers, and their ability to draw intimate, authentic stories out of others is extraordinary. With grace and humor they walk through what life is really like behind bars, showing the humanity and depth of those they meet inside." —Catherine Burns, artistic director, *The Moth*

"[E]vocative first-person accounts from those who previously served in prison and those who remain there today in a starkly honest series of conversations." —*Newsweek*

"Even readers unfamiliar with the podcast will be absorbed by Poor and Woods's storytelling and their ability to draw out intimate conversations on hope and humanity." —*Library Journal*



Introduction

That *Ear Hustle* even exists is a small miracle. Back in 2016, Nigel Poor happened to be volunteering in the Media Lab at San Quentin State Prison, where she met Earlonne Woods and Antwan Williams, both incarcerated at the time. The three happened to share a deep interest in storytelling and creativity. That same year, the podcast network Radiotopia happened to run a contest, Podquest, to discover its next show. Nigel happened to hear about Podquest, and requested permission to submit an idea with Earlonne and Antwan.

Podquest attracted 1,537 entries from around the world; *Ear Hustle* topped them all, promising stories of daily life inside prison shared by those living it. Radiotopia had never heard anything like their pitch, and the *Ear Hustle* team barely knew what a podcast was back then. Six years and 10 seasons later, *Ear Hustle* has evolved in ways no one anticipated. It has won nearly every industry award and is a trusted window into prison culture and life post-incarceration for vast audiences worldwide.

The extraordinary power and impact of this podcast are undeniable. *Ear Hustle* cultivates relationships: between the show and its listeners, amongst its dedicated team, across the



sprawling culture of criminal justice and injustice in America and beyond. At the core of this unexpected success story is a particular relationship: Nigel and Earlonne's enduring friendship and remarkable colleagueship. This bond has driven the show since day one, and drawn listeners in from the first episode. Their mutual respect and admiration is evident. Their fondness for each other is audible. Their chemistry is magic.

Through their book, Nigel and Earlonne have deepened their relationship with each other and listeners, and are now forging new connections—with readers. *This Is Ear Hustle* offers the hallmarks of their singular podcast; it's honest, revealing, artful and provocative. Readers tell us they can hear the book, which they love, and we love. And that they see the world and think about incarceration differently after reading the book, which we're honored to learn. Information and stories change people, encourage empathy, invite joy and stoke serious reflection. This transformation is timeless and crucial; *Ear Hustle* is waiting to take you inside.

Julie Shapiro, former and founding Executive Producer, Ear Hustle

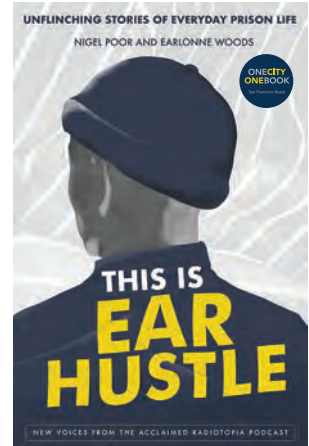


About the Book

While prison can certainly be a difficult place, we were interested in revealing more than the hell that prison can be. And while Earlonne is indeed a guide of sorts, the intricacies of the stories we tell have always required us to be partners, together exploring emotionally complex territory, each bringing our own experiences, sensitivities, and questions to the work at hand. We regularly find ourselves in completely unknown territory, but when we're approaching those situations together, that synergy provides the necessary light that allows us to get on with our job.
– Nigel

When Nigel Poor and Earlonne Woods met, Nigel was a photography professor volunteering with the Prison University Project and Earlonne was serving 31 years to life at California's San Quentin State Prison. Initially drawn to each other by their shared interest in storytelling, neither had podcast production experience when they decided to enter Radiotopia's contest for new shows . . . and won. Using the prize for seed money, Nigel and Earlonne launched *Ear Hustle*, named after the prison term for "eavesdropping." It was the first podcast created and produced entirely within prison and would go on to be heard millions of times worldwide, garner Peabody and Pulitzer award nominations, and help earn Earlonne his freedom when his sentence was commuted in 2018.

In *This Is Ear Hustle*, Nigel and Earlonne share their own stories of how they came to San Quentin, how they created their phenomenally popular podcast amid extreme limitations, and what has kept them collaborating season after season. They present new stories, all with the same insight, balance and rapport that distinguish the podcast. In an era when more than two million people are incarcerated across the United States—a number that grows by 600,000 annually—Nigel and Earlonne explore the full and often surprising realities of prison life.



About the Authors

NIGEL POOR is the co-creator, co-host, and co-producer of *Ear Hustle* (PRX & Radiotopia). A visual artist and photography professor at California State University, Sacramento, Nigel has had her work exhibited nationally and internationally, including at SFMOMA and the de Young Museum and the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. In 2011, Nigel got involved with San Quentin State Prison as a volunteer teacher for the Prison University Project.

EARLONNE WOODS is the co-creator, co-host and co-producer of *Ear Hustle* (PRX & Radiotopia). In 1997, Earlonne was sentenced to 31 years to life in prison. While incarcerated, he received his GED, attended Coastline Community College and completed many vocational programs. He also founded CHOOSE1, which aims to repeal the California Three Strikes Law, the statute under which he was sentenced. In November 2018, then-California Governor Jerry Brown commuted Earlonne's sentence after 21 years of incarceration and Earlonne became a full-time producer for *Ear Hustle*. His efforts with CHOOSE1 continue, as he advocates for restorative justice and works to place a repeal initiative on the ballot in 2022.



Earlonne Woods and Nigel Poor. Photo: Francesca Leonardi

Whenever we get on the mics, we warm up by singing "our" song, "Hello, It's Me."...Our silly mic check warm-up routine had started with Lionel Richie's "Hello." It evolved over time to include other "hello" songs. But the routine doesn't just test our mics and sound levels; it also signals our presence to each other. It's a means of connecting, getting onto the same wavelength, and essentially saying, "I am fully here."
- Earlonne

This adventure has moved us in unexpected directions. But no matter what challenge confronts us, no matter what story we encounter, we're always able to look at each other and say, "Okay, let's do this."
- Nigel



Main Event & Discussion Groups



Earlonne Woods, Nigel Poor and Piper Kerman

MAIN EVENT

**Earlonne Woods and Nigel Poor,
moderated by Piper Kerman**

Thursday, Nov. 3, 6-7:30 p.m.,
Koret Auditorium, Main Library, Lower Level,
and Virtual Library

A not-to-miss evening with Nigel Poor and Earlonne Woods in celebration of their book *This Is Ear Hustle: Unflinching Stories of Everyday Prison Life*, moderated by Piper Kerman, author of *Orange Is the New Black: My Year in A Woman's Prison*.



Meeet and discuss *This Is Ear Hustle*. In Book Clubs, be ready to discuss the whole book. In our Bite Size Book Clubs, discuss certain sections, taking a deep dive into life inside over three meetings leading up to the main event with Poor and Woods on Nov. 3.

BITE SIZE BOOK CLUBS

- Monday, Oct. 3, 7-8 p.m., Virtual Library
Part I: Let's Do This and
Part II: We're Going to Take You Inside,
chapters 4-5
- Monday, Oct. 17, 7-8 p.m., Virtual Library
Part II: We're Going to Take You Inside,
chapters 6-9
- Monday, Oct. 24, 7-8 p.m., Virtual Library
Part III: Inside Out

BOOK CLUBS

- Tuesday, Oct. 11, 7-8 p.m.,
Virtual Library
- Sunday, Oct. 23, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.,
Virtual Library



This Is Ear Hustle Readers' Guide

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your belief about the purpose of prison before reading this story? Has *This Is Ear Hustle* changed your perception?
2. Earlonne says, "People see things differently in this world. Some see no value in discarded things or people. Nigel looks more closely, sees the what if." Why do you think Earlonne and Nigel so easily connected in the Media Lab? What do they see in each other?
3. Nigel had an interesting path that led her to San Quentin. What odd clues or seeds have appeared in your life that have or could have shaped your career, hobbies or projects?
4. Earlonne does not shy away from his responsibility as he tells his story. But it becomes evident that the system did not do him any favors. Are there any events or interactions that stand out in which, had someone in authority responded differently, Earlonne's life before incarceration might have been nudged in a different direction?
5. Earlonne writes, "There's a saying that's been important, and rung true, in my life: If you know better, you'll do better. This was something that I had heard in my community, though I'm not sure who originally said it. Point was, I didn't know better." Why do you think Earlonne's interaction with a total stranger—a stranger he held up at gunpoint—made him wake up in a way he hadn't before?
6. Earlonne addresses an important but little discussed topic when it comes to incarceration: mental health. Why do you think he breaks the taboo and asks to see a psychiatrist? What were the benefits for him? How do you think a mental health counselor could be beneficial for prisoners?
7. The book discusses "convict etiquette." What "rules" about prison life surprise you most? Are there similar dynamics that exist in the outside world?
8. Whose prison experience stood out to you? Why is that?
9. After reading *This Is Ear Hustle*, are there topics from the book that you want to explore more? If so, which ones?
10. Why do you think a podcast—and now book—like *Ear Hustle* is important? What do you think people can learn from these stories?
11. Are there any commonalities that you find between yourself and anyone in the book? Are there any shared experiences or thought patterns that you could identify with?
12. Nigel believes that focusing your efforts on small changes in places you can touch is what makes a difference. Others believe that engaging in larger global change is what makes the true difference. What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of each approach? How do you see social involvement playing out in your life?



Events

How Does Journalism Happen Inside Prisons?

Tuesday, Nov. 1, 5–6 p.m., Virtual Library

The realities of incarcerated peoples' lives aren't regularly covered by major news outlets. But there are publications dedicated to showcasing news from inside prisons—written and sometimes produced by those living inside prisons. Panelists Jesse Vasquez and Yukari Kane describe the challenges of this kind of reporting and the great work that's being done.



Earlonne Woods, Nigel Poor and Piper Kerman

Earlonne Woods and Nigel Poor, moderated by Piper Kerman

Thursday, Nov. 3, 6–7:30 p.m., Koret Auditorium, Main Library, Lower Level, and Virtual Library

A not-to-miss evening with Nigel Poor and Earlonne Woods in celebration of their book *This Is Ear Hustle: Unflinching Stories of Everyday Prison Life*, moderated by Piper Kerman, author of *Orange Is the New Black: My Year in a Woman's Prison*.

Justice Teams: What Actually Keeps Community Safe

Monday, Nov. 7, 7–8:30 p.m., Virtual Library

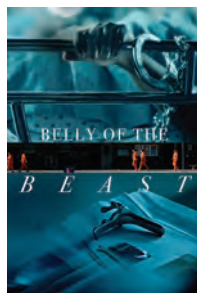
A panel featuring members from the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights and Stop San Quentin Outbreak Zine Project, along with formerly incarcerated and currently incarcerated folks discussing their work in coordinating resources, advocacy, grassroots organizing and policy change in California.



Zara Stone and Joe Loya in Conversation, *Killer Looks: The Forgotten History of Plastic Surgery in Prisons*

Saturday, Nov. 12, 2–3:30 p.m., Saroyan Gallery, Main Library, 6th Floor

Zara Stone discusses her book, *Killer Looks: The Forgotten History of Plastic Surgery in Prisons*, which looks at the history of prison reform through the lens of beauty.



Belly of the Beast, Film Screening and Panel Discussion

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2–4:30 p.m., Virtual Library

Activists against coerced sterilization in California women's prisons, Kelli

Dillon and Cynthia Chandler, discuss their work after an online screening of the film which documents their battle with the Department of Corrections.

Damien Linnane, Illustrator of *This Is Ear Hustle*

Monday, Nov. 14, 7–8 p.m., Virtual Library

Damien Linnane, artist, author, scholar, PhD candidate and formerly incarcerated, speaks about his life and his work with *Ear Hustle* and beyond.



Events



Tamara Perkins' *Rebound*, Film Screening and Director Talk

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 7-8:30 p.m., Virtual Library

Together watch this film about the story of two women in rebound from incarceration. Each overcoming their years of addiction and abuse to pursue the promise of higher education. These aspiring scholars navigate parole, raising young children and self-healing.



Kristin Henning and Reginald Dwayne Betts in Conversation, *The Rage of Innocence*

Thursday, Nov. 17, 7-8 p.m., Virtual Library

Kristin Henning and Reginald Dwayne Betts discuss *The Rage of Innocence: How America Criminalizes Black Youth*, a brilliant analysis of the foundations of racist policing in America.

A.B.O. + Flying Over Walls, Prison Letter Writing 101

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2-3:30 p.m., Hormel LGBTQIA Center, Main Library,



3rd Floor

Connect with LGBTQ+ prisoners. Come learn the basics of writing to

people in prison from two prisoner advocacy organizations based in the Bay Area: A.B.O. Comix Collective and Flying Over Walls.

Fire Across the Walls—California Coalition for Women Prisoners



Sunday, Nov. 20, 2-3 p.m., Koret Auditorium, Main Library, Lower Level, and Virtual Library

The California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP) presents a conversation with formerly incarcerated

leaders who began their advocacy with CCWP from inside women's prisons. Hear about CCWP's many programs, including *The Fire Inside* newsletter, published since 1996, and our Writing Warriors correspondence program.



Women Saving Their Own Lives Through the Creative Process

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 7-8:30 p.m., Virtual Library

A theater workshop for social transformation. A discussion with Rhodessa Jones, founder of The Medea Project: Theater for Incarcerated Women.

Prisoners Literature Project

Thursday, Dec. 1, 7-8:30 p.m., Virtual Library

A panel of volunteers with the Prisoners Literature Project candidly discuss the restrictions our criminal legal system places on reading and what we do to get books inside. Hear about lessons learned from nearly 40 years of sending books to prisoners across the country, and about battles waged against prison censorship.



Events

Facing Life: Pendarvis Harshaw and Brandon Tauszik in Conversation with Nigel Poor and Earlonne Woods

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2-3:30 p.m.,
Koret Auditorium, Main Library, Lower Level,
and Virtual Library



KQED columnist and host of *Rightnowish*, Pendarvis Harshaw and documentary photographer and filmmaker Brandon Tauszik discuss the multimedia documentary project *Facing Life* about people who served decades behind bars. Joining

the conversation is Lynn Acosta, a *Facing Life* participant, who shares her story.

He Had Wings, Film and Discussion

Sunday, Dec. 4, 1-2:30 p.m., Koret Auditorium,
Main Library, Lower Level

Documentary about the late San Francisco artist Ronnie Goodman. Panel discussion with filmmaker Jeanne Marie Hallacy follows.

Prison Arts Project

Monday, Dec. 5,
7-8:30 p.m.,
Virtual Library



Hear about the important work of the Prison Arts Project (PAP), which brings arts education to incarcerated individuals.

Teleway 411: Queer Perspectives on the Prison Industrial Complex

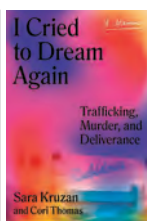
Tuesday, Dec. 6, 7-8:30 p.m., Virtual Library

A panel of formerly-incarcerated comrades in conversation around the experiences of queer and trans people impacted by the U.S. prison system. Panelists Sirbrian Spease, Brian Meegan and Jeferson Borba de Souza are celebrated contributors to the A.B.O. Comix library of publications and guests on the A.B.O. Comix podcast, *Teleway 411*.

Practitioner of Justice: The Legacy of New College Law School, Film Screening and Discussion

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2-4:30 p.m. Koret Auditorium, Main Library, Lower Level

Watch the documentary about the radical, SF-based New College of California School of Law, followed by a panel discussion with former professors and students.



Sara Kruzan and Cori Thomas in Conversation, I Cried to Dream Again

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2-3:30 p.m., Koret Auditorium,
Main Library, Lower Level, and Virtual Library

Sara Kruzan and co-author Cori Thomas discuss Kruzan's gripping memoir, *I Cried to Dream Again: Trafficking, Murder, and Deliverance*.

Brothers in Pen, Reading and Discussion

Monday, Dec. 12, 7-8:30 p.m., Virtual Library

Members of San Quentin's Brothers in Pen class, along with teacher Zoe Mullery, share some funny, intense, surprising and memorable short works of memoir and fiction, with time for dialogue and questions about writing in prison, the power of the creative process and what makes a story a story.

Inspiration, Knowledge and Curiosity While Incarcerated

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7-8:30 p.m., Virtual Library

Panelists share best practices and insights from their own endeavors and highlight the role of information access in maintaining inspiration in carceral contexts.

Exhibits

Facing Life with Pendarvis Harshaw & Brandon Tauszik



Facing Life is a multimedia web-based project that chronicles the experiences of eight individuals living through reentry after serving life prison sentences in California. The visuals are by Brandon Tauszik, and the words are by Pendarvis Harshaw.

Over two years, Tauszik and Harshaw followed their subjects as they faced everyday challenges associated with reentry. *Facing Life* is comprised of cinemagraphs, videos, 360VR clips and text, giving an intimate and extensive look into the lives of eight individuals living through reentry. This project was made possible with support from the Pulitzer Center.

Harshaw is a renowned journalist and educator based in Sacramento and Oakland. He has taught journalism to high school students as well as incarcerated men. He is a staff writer and podcast producer at KQED, as well as a graduate of UC Berkeley's School of Journalism. His first book, *OG Told Me*, is a memoir-style collection of essays about Harshaw's coming-of-age experience as a black man in America.

Tauszik is a documentary photographer and filmmaker based in Los Angeles and Oakland. His long-term projects examine elements of America's social periphery. His most recent works have incorporated the largely unexplored medium of cinemagraphs, a delicate hybrid between the still image and film. This work has received reviews from *TIME*, *Slate*, *VICE* and *Medium*, among others.

Exhibit: Portraits and Stories from *Facing Life* – Oct. 1-Dec. 29, 2022, Main Library, The Bridge at Main, 5th Floor

Related Event: *Facing Life*: Pendarvis Harshaw & Brandon Tauszik in conversation with Nigel Poor and Earlonne Woods – Saturday, Dec. 3, 2 p.m., Koret Auditorium/Streaming

Illustrations by Damien Linnane from *This Is Ear Hustle*

Damien Linnane, artist, author, librarian, Ph.D. candidate and formerly incarcerated, speaks about his life and his work with *Ear Hustle* and beyond.

Linnane was born in Sydney, Australia. His debut novel, *Scarred*, was written by hand while he was in prison serving a two-year sentence for crimes the sentencing magistrate described as "vigilante action".

Since his release from prison, he has become editor of the prison magazine *Paper Chained*, and is currently completing a PhD in law. He is also an illustrator, freelance writer and activist for incarcerated persons.

Exhibit: One City One Book: Illustrations by Damien Linnane from *This Is Ear Hustle* – Oct. 1-Dec. 29, Main Library Atrium

Related Event: Damien Linnane, Illustrator of *This Is Ear Hustle* – Mon., Nov. 14, 7 p.m.



Resources

JAIL AND REENTRY SERVICES (JARS) AT THE LIBRARY

Since 2018, SFPL's award-winning Jail and Reentry Services program has provided dedicated library service to incarcerated adults. JARS offers in-jail library service, getting books directly in the hands of their patrons. JARS librarians also provide a popular reference by mail program and reentry support, and have been serving youth at the Juvenile Justice Center for almost 20 years.

Jail Library Service

Through a partnership with the San Francisco Sheriff's Office, JARS conducts weekly library service inside San Francisco's county jails. Librarians select and purchase new books for the jails and provide personalized book recommendations to patrons during their visits. Librarians use a mobile book truck to serve almost 1,000 incarcerated people each month. Books include biographies, sci-fi/fantasy, comic books, young adult novels, self-help, history and job/education-related subjects. JARS provides books in English, Spanish and several other languages upon request.



Additionally, JARS partners with SFPL's Talking Books and Braille Center to provide "talking books" for patrons who are unable to read a print book. In the Juvenile Justice Center, youth in custody visit the dynamic library regularly as part of their SFUSD English Language Arts class.



SFPL has in-person and online reentry resources available.
on.sfpl.org/ocob-reentry

Reference by Mail

JARS services extend far past the borders of San Francisco. Our librarians coordinate Reference by Mail for people who are incarcerated throughout California, responding to approximately 300 letters per month. These letters request information ranging from pop culture to housing to job readiness tools, and our mailed replies help to fill urgent information needs within the prisons.

Incarcerated people can request information by writing to:

Jail and Reentry Services
100 Larkin St., San Francisco, CA 94102



Reentry Support

JARS librarians conduct outreach at reentry-related events for recently incarcerated people, helping to connect people in reentry with resources at the library as well as other local community resources. Partnering with local reentry organizations such as the Reentry Council, the Prisoner Reentry Network, the Community Assessment Service Center (CASC) and Women's Resource Center, our staff works to increase awareness of and access to SFPL for people reentering the community after a period of incarceration.

Looking Towards the Future

JARS is a landmark program that has inspired other library systems nationwide to offer similar services to their incarcerated and formerly incarcerated populations. We are currently working to identify and enhance library services to incarcerated people nationwide through the Enhancing Information Access to Incarcerated People project, generously funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

To find out more, visit: sfpl.org/expanding-information-access-incarcerated-people-initiative.

The Mic's Hot: Essential *Ear Hustle* Episodes

New to *Ear Hustle*? Earlonne and Nigel have selected a set of essential episodes for you.

Episode 1: "Cellies" (S1)

Finding a roommate can be tough. Finding someone to share a 4' x 9' space with is a whole 'nother story.

Episode 3: "Looking Out" (S1)

Meet Rauch, a man incarcerated at San Quentin who has figured out how to "look out" for dozens of critters around the place.

Episode 13: "Dirty Water" (S2)

Sex trafficking crimes are hard to talk about. In this episode, Sara and LA share their individual experiences of being "in the life."

Episode 26: "Bittersweet" (S3)

In prison, life's major milestones usually pass at a distance.

Episode 28: "Respect the Paper" (S4)

Hardly anyone writes letters anymore...except in (and to) prison.

Episode 29: "Kissing the Concrete" (S4)

Everyone in prison dreams about the moment they'll get out, but it's the days, weeks and months after that make or break you.

Episode 36: "Tell Christy I Love Her" (S4)

The violent encounter in 1997 between Tom, a cop, and Jason, a teenager in a gang, was inevitable. The decades-long aftermath was anything but.

Episode 37: "Myths & Monikers" (S5)

Gator, Razor, Kill Switch, Mother Dearest — the stories and legends behind prison nicknames.

Episode 60: "Home for Me Is Really a Memory" (S7)

How do you live a meaningful life when nearly all of it is spent behind bars?

Episode 68: "Camp Grace" (S8)

The roses and thorns of being a dad from prison.



Listen now:
[on.sfpl.org/
earhustle-podcast](https://on.sfpl.org/earhustle-podcast)



Suggested Reading



Children's Books Dealing with Incarceration

on.sfpl.org/ocob-kids



Milo Imagines the World by Matt de la Peña

On a long

subway ride to visit his mother in prison, Milo imagines the lives of all the different passengers and then realizes that you can't assume where people are going based on what they look like.



Dad Bakes by Katie Yamasaki

Inspired by families affected by incarceration,

this simple book follows a dad as he wakes up early to go bake bread at the Rise Up bakery and then comes home to spend time baking with his daughter.



Mango Moon: When Deportation Divides a Family by Diane De Anda

When a father is taken away from his family and facing deportation, his children are left to grieve and wonder about what comes next.



From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks

On her twelfth birthday, Zoe Washington receives a letter from Marcus, the biological father she's never met, who has been serving time for murder since just before she was born. Now she wants to discover the truth about his crime.



Dream Catchers: POPS the Club Anthology by Amy Friedman and Dennis Danziger

A unique and inspiring collection of art, prose, and poetry by high school students who have incarcerated loved ones, and some have themselves been in detention.



Punching the Air by Ibi Zoboi

A powerful novel in verse about a wrongfully incarcerated teen

and the effects of institutional racism and mass incarceration.



Restorative Justice-From Grassroots Organizations to Legal Protections and Beyond

on.sfpl.org/restorative-justice



Restorative Justice: An Alternative to Punishment by The New York Times Editorial Staff

Based on indigenous practices and motivated by inequities in our current system, restorative justice is premised on a radical redefinition of social harm.



The Little Book of Race and Restorative Justice: Black Lives, Healing, and US Social Transformation

by Fania Davis

Davis addresses the intersectionality of race and the US criminal justice system by exploring how restorative justice has the capacity to disrupt patterns of mass incarceration through effective, equitable and transformative approaches.



Justice on Both Sides: Transforming Education Through Restorative Justice by Maisha T. Winn

A thoughtful and comprehensive account of the value of restorative justice and how our schools can implement effective practices to address inequalities associated with race, class and gender.



Still Doing Life: 22 Lifers, 25 Years Later by Howard Zehr and Barb Toews

A stunning

compilation of interviews and photographs of people serving life sentences in prison. This book shows the remarkable resilience of people sentenced to die in prison and raises profound questions about a system of punishment that has no means of recognizing the potential of people to change.



Lessons in Liberation: An Abolitionist Toolkit for Educators edited by The Education for Liberation

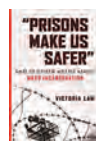
Network & Critical Resistance Editorial Collective

Offers entry points to build critical and intentional bridges between educational practice and the growing movement for abolition.



Rethinking Incarceration

on.sfpl.org/rethink-incarceration



"Prisons Make Us Safer": And 20 Other Myths About Mass Incarceration by Victoria Law

Utilizing narrative, statistics and history, this book identifies and dispels 21 popularly held myths about mass incarceration.



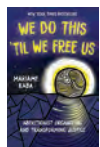
***Bending the Arc:
My Journey From
Prison to Politics*
by Keeda J. Haynes**

Imprisoned for a crime she didn't commit, Haynes suffered the abuses of our prison system. After her release, she became a public defender, and ultimately staged a highly publicized campaign for Congress.



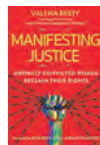
***Abolition for
the People:
The Movement for
A Future Without
Policing & Prisons*
by Colin Kaepernick**

The former NFL star turned social activist presents 30 essays from political prisoners, grassroots organizers and scholars such as Angela Davis and Dereck Purnell that focus on the police and incarceration abolition movement.



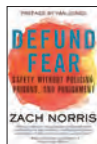
***We Do This 'Til We
Free Us: Abolitionist
Organizing and
Transforming Justice*
by Mariame Kaba**

Kaba offers chapters on seeking justice beyond the punishment system, transforming how we deal with harm and accountability, and finding hope in collective struggle for abolition.



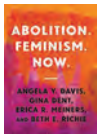
***Manifesting Justice:
Wrongly Convicted
Women Reclaim
Their Rights*
by Valena E. Beety**

Working with the Innocence Movement and Leigh Stubbs, a woman denied a fair trial largely due to her sexual orientation, Beety, a former federal prosecutor, weaves Leigh's story through the broader story of a broken criminal system.



***Defund Fear:
Safety Without
Policing, Prisons,
and Punishment*
by Zach Norris**

Community leader and lawyer Zach Norris lays out a radical way to shift the conversation about public safety away from fear and punishment and toward growth and support systems for our families and communities.



***Abolition. Feminism.
Now.* by Angela Y.
Davis, Gina Dent,
Erica R. Meiners,
and Beth E. Richie**

A celebration of freedom work, a movement genealogy, a call to action and a challenge to those who think of abolition and feminism as separate—even incompatible—political projects.



MEMOIR

[on.sfpl.org/
ocob-memoir](https://on.sfpl.org/ocob-memoir)



***Bird Uncaged: An Abolitionist's Freedom Song*
by Marlon Peterson**

A leading advocate for prison abolition and transformative justice shares insights from the author's firsthand experiences of growing up in a violent neighborhood and surviving a brutal incarceration.



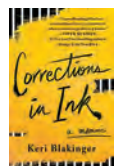
***United States of Grace:
A Memoir of Home-
lessness, Addiction,
Incarceration, and Hope*
by Lenny Duncan**

The author of *Dear Church* presents a deeply personal story about growing up Black and queer in the U.S., examining pressing issues like poverty, mass incarceration, white supremacy and LGBTQ inclusion through an intimate portrayal of his life's struggles and joys.



***I Cried to Dream
Again: Trafficking,
Murder, and
Deliverance*
by Sara Kruzan
and Cori Thomas**

A powerful memoir from a survivor of sex trafficking who killed her trafficker after five years of abuse, only to be sentenced as a juvenile to life in prison without parole.



***Corrections in Ink*
by Keri Blakinger**

A memoir discusses a woman's journey—from the ice rink to addiction and

a prison sentence to the news-room—and how she emerged with a fierce determination to expose the broken system she experienced.



***Free Cyntoia:
My Search for
Redemption in the
American Prison
System* by Cyntoia
Brown-Long**

In her own words, Cyntoia Brown explains how she changed her life for the better while in prison, finding hope through faith after a traumatic adolescence of drug addiction, rape and sex trafficking led to a murder conviction.



***A Redemptive
Path Forward:
From Incarceration
to a Life of Activism*
by Antong Lucky**

The formerly incarcerated leader of the Dallas Bloods gang tells the story of his spiritual transformation in prison and subsequent efforts to spread peace and non-violence in his old neighborhood after being released.



Acknowledgments

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Illustrations by Damien Linnane

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Facing Page: *Rowboat* Part III, Chapter 11



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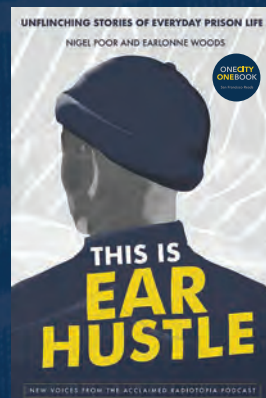
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