



SCIENCE CAFÉ BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

FALL 2017



Fall 2017 will mark our 22nd gathering of H-LSAMP students who love to read, talk about books, and explore ideas about life and science woven into compelling stories.

Book club participants are expected to engage in this activity by paying careful attention to the details in the book, taking the time to learn about the science, history, and/or culture that informs the plot and themes and, importantly, actively contributing to two evening discussions.

On our second discussion evening, we share a home-cooked dinner prior to our discussion, which we hope will not only stimulate appetites but also good conversation. A shared table builds community! That's why we call it Science Café!

H-LSAMP Program Director Susan Romanella, Dr. Greg Passty (Professor, Dept. of Mathematics), and Dr. Karen Lewis (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry), provide discussion questions for a close reading of the chosen text and lead our seminar-style discussions.

****H-LSAMP students can participate in Science Café *instead of attending two workshops*. You must participate in both evening discussions to meet your scholar requirement.****

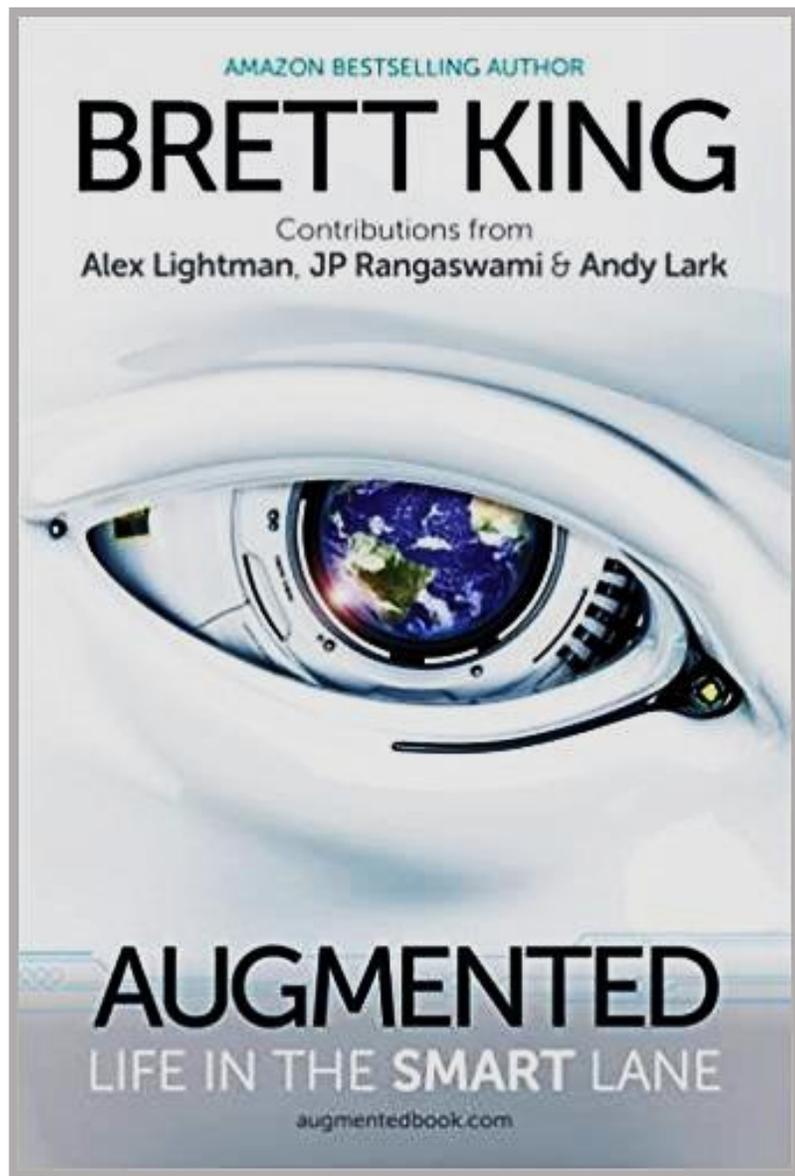
FALL 2017 SCHEDULE: We will meet on two THURSDAY evenings:

Thursday, October 26 - 6:30-7:30PM - in the CLC

This evening will be a student-led discussion of the book (...free thinking, clearing up confusions, idea sharing, and pizza night).

Thursday, November 16 - 6:30-8:30PM - in the CLC

This evening will be a "home cooked dinner & dialogue" where we continue our discussion with Ms. Susan Romanella, Dr. Greg Passty, and Dr. Karen Lewis facilitating for the group.

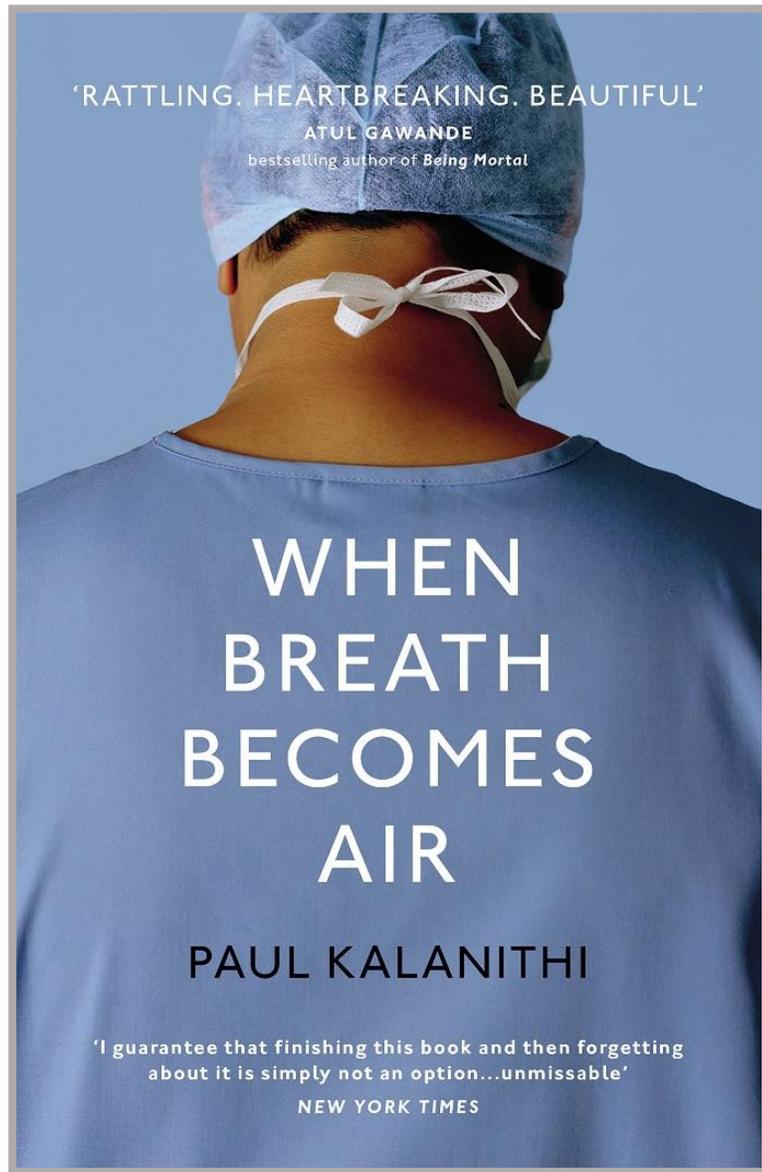


Augmented: Life in The Smart Lane

“This book is about the world that is coming, the changes society will need to make to adapt to that world but, more importantly, *it is about the journey that each of us individually will take to arrive in that future.* We will explore where we’ve come from and how we’ve found ourselves in potentially the most disruptive and innovative age of mankind’s history. What will your life look like in 2025, 2030 and beyond? Augmented is about how your life will change on a day to day basis as data, sensors, machine intelligence and automation enhance our world, and our place in it. It’s about *how you will adapt to live in a smart world.*”

These innovations will force people to ask new ethical questions, such as “Should it be legal for a person to have an otherwise healthy limb amputated in favor of an enhanced prosthetic one?” But many of the thorniest questions in King’s view will revolve around what to do with all those workers displaced by increasingly productive “labor-saving” solutions. Augmented features a sobering table of jobs likely to survive the transition he believes is already underway, and those that are not. “Every business with a traditional business model that has resisted technological change has failed,” King says.

(Finovate review)

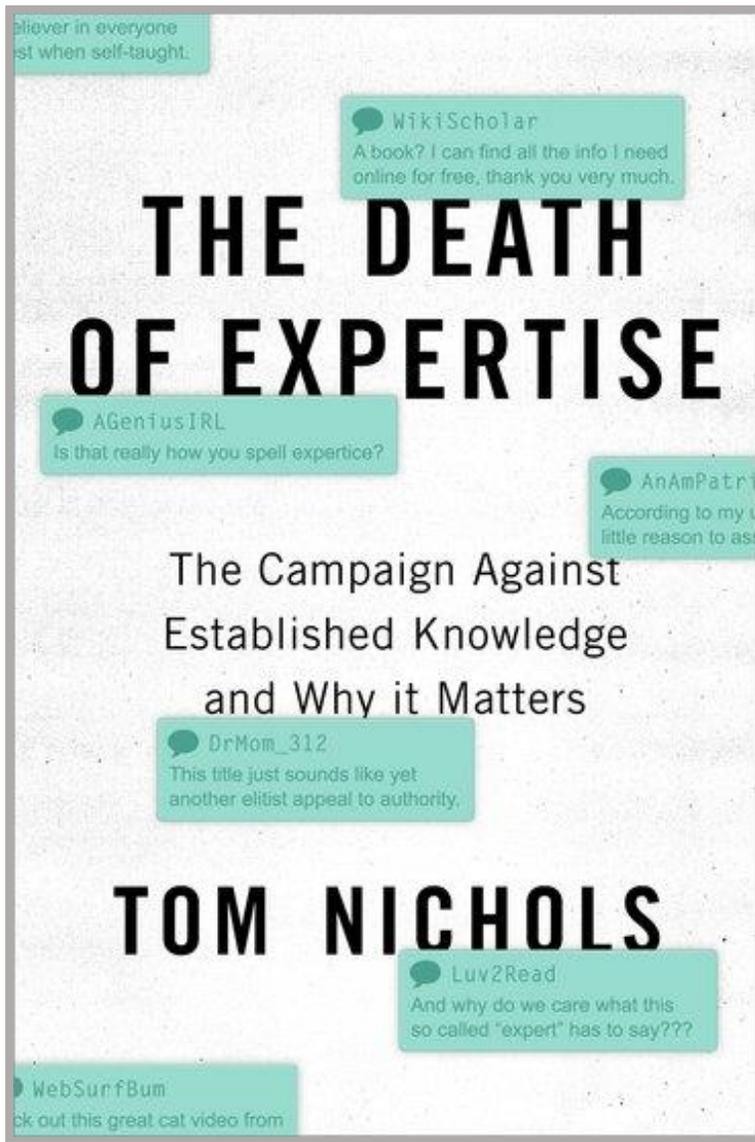


When Breath Becomes Air

At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. *When Breath Becomes Air* chronicles Kalanithi's transformation from a naïve medical student "possessed," as he wrote, "by the question of what, given that all organisms die, makes a virtuous and meaningful life" into a neurosurgeon at Stanford working in the brain, the most critical place for human identity, and finally into a patient and new father confronting his own mortality.

What makes life worth living in the face of death? What do you do when the future, no longer a ladder toward your goals in life, flattens out into a perpetual present? What does it mean to have a child, to nurture a new life as another fades away? These are some of the questions Kalanithi wrestles with in this profoundly moving, exquisitely observed memoir.

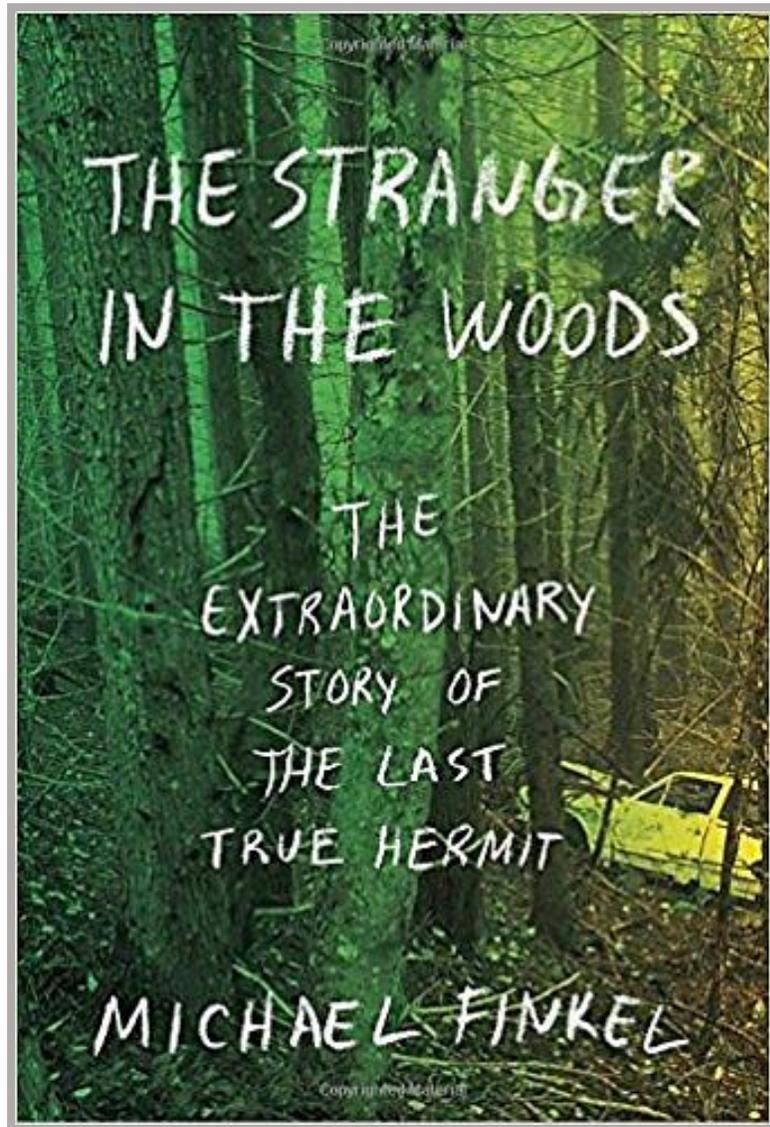
Paul Kalanithi died in March 2015, while working on this book, yet his words live on as a guide and a gift to us all. "I began to realize that coming face to face with my own mortality, in a sense, had changed nothing and everything," he wrote. (Dzanc Books review)



The Death of Expertise: The Campaign Against Established Knowledge and Why it Matters

Today, everyone knows everything: with only a quick trip through WebMD or Wikipedia, average citizens believe themselves to be on an equal intellectual footing with doctors and diplomats. All voices, even the most ridiculous, demand to be taken with equal seriousness, and any claim to the contrary is dismissed as undemocratic elitism. As Tom Nichols shows in *The Death of Expertise*, this rejection of experts has occurred for many reasons, including the openness of the internet, the emergence of a customer satisfaction model in higher education, and the transformation of the news industry into a 24-hour entertainment machine. Paradoxically, the increasingly democratic dissemination of information, rather than producing an educated public, has instead created an army of ill-informed and angry citizens who denounce intellectual achievement.

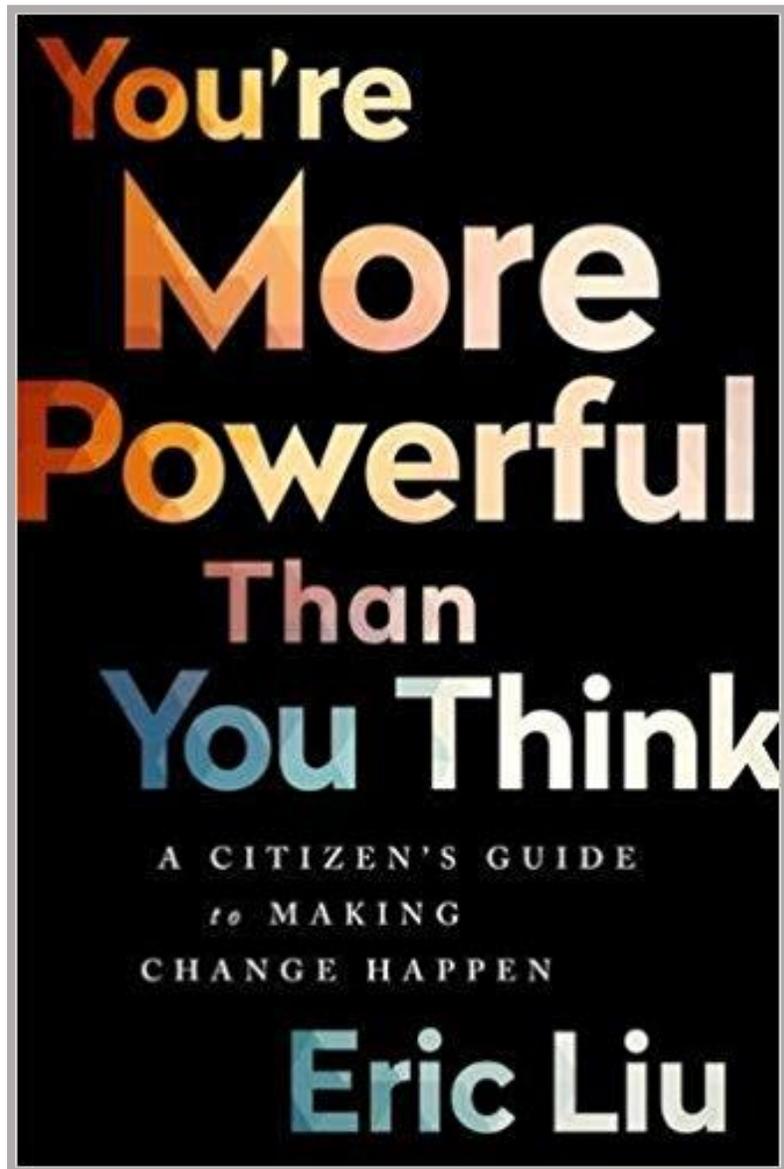
"Tom Nichols has written a brilliant, timely, witty, and very original book. He shows how the digital revolution, social media, and the internet have helped to foster a cult of ignorance. (Robert J. Lieber, Georgetown University, and author of *Retreat and Its Consequences*)



The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit

In 1986, a shy and intelligent twenty-year-old named Christopher Knight left his home in Massachusetts, drove to Maine, and disappeared into the forest. He would not have a conversation with another human being until nearly three decades later, when he was arrested for stealing food. Living in a tent even through brutal winters, he had survived by his wits and courage, developing ingenious ways to store edibles and water, and to avoid freezing to death. He broke into nearby cottages for food, clothing, reading material, and other provisions, taking only what he needed but terrifying a community never able to solve the mysterious burglaries.

Based on extensive interviews with Knight himself, this is a vividly detailed account of his secluded life—why did he leave? what did he learn?—as well as the challenges he has faced since returning to the world. It is a gripping story of survival that asks fundamental questions about solitude, community, and what makes a good life, and a deeply moving portrait of a man who was determined to live his own way, and succeeded. (Amazon review)

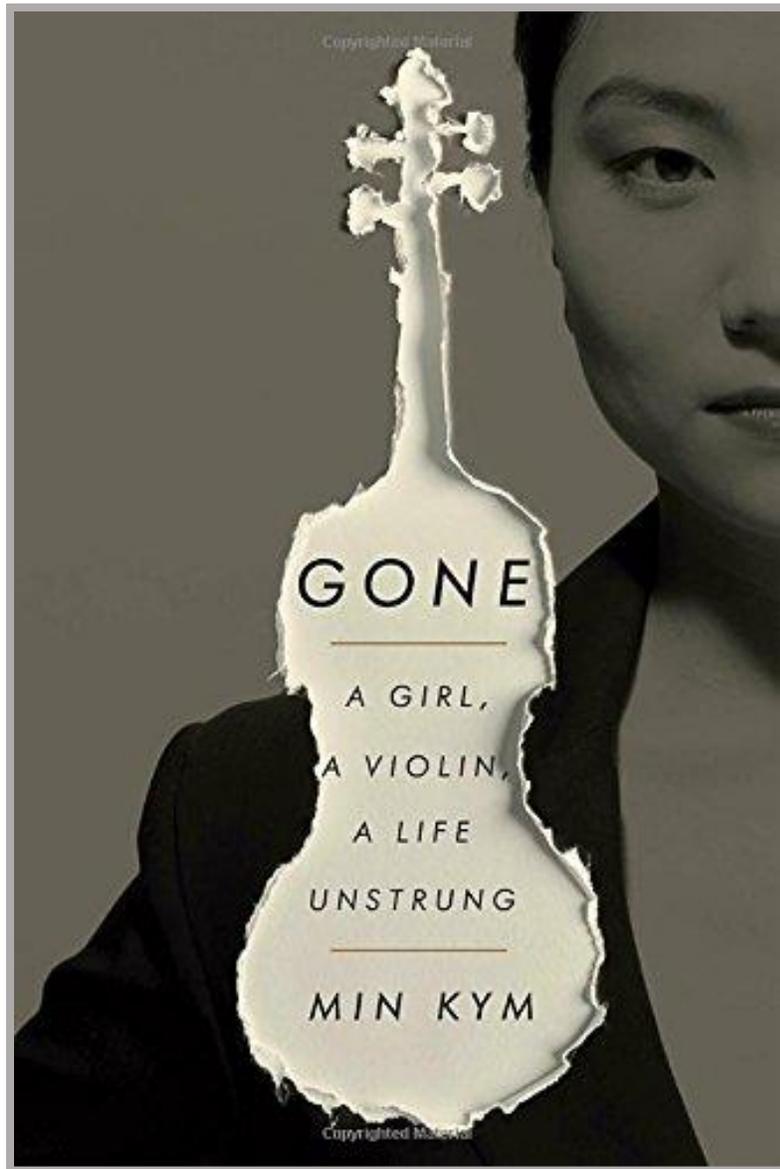


You're More Powerful than You Think: A Citizen's Guide to Making Change Happen

Is this the America you want? If not, here's how to claim the power to change your country.

We are in an age of epic political turbulence in America. Old hierarchies and institutions are collapsing. From the election of Donald Trump to the upending of the major political parties to the spread of grassroots movements like Black Lives Matter and \$15 Now, people across the country and across the political spectrum are reclaiming power.

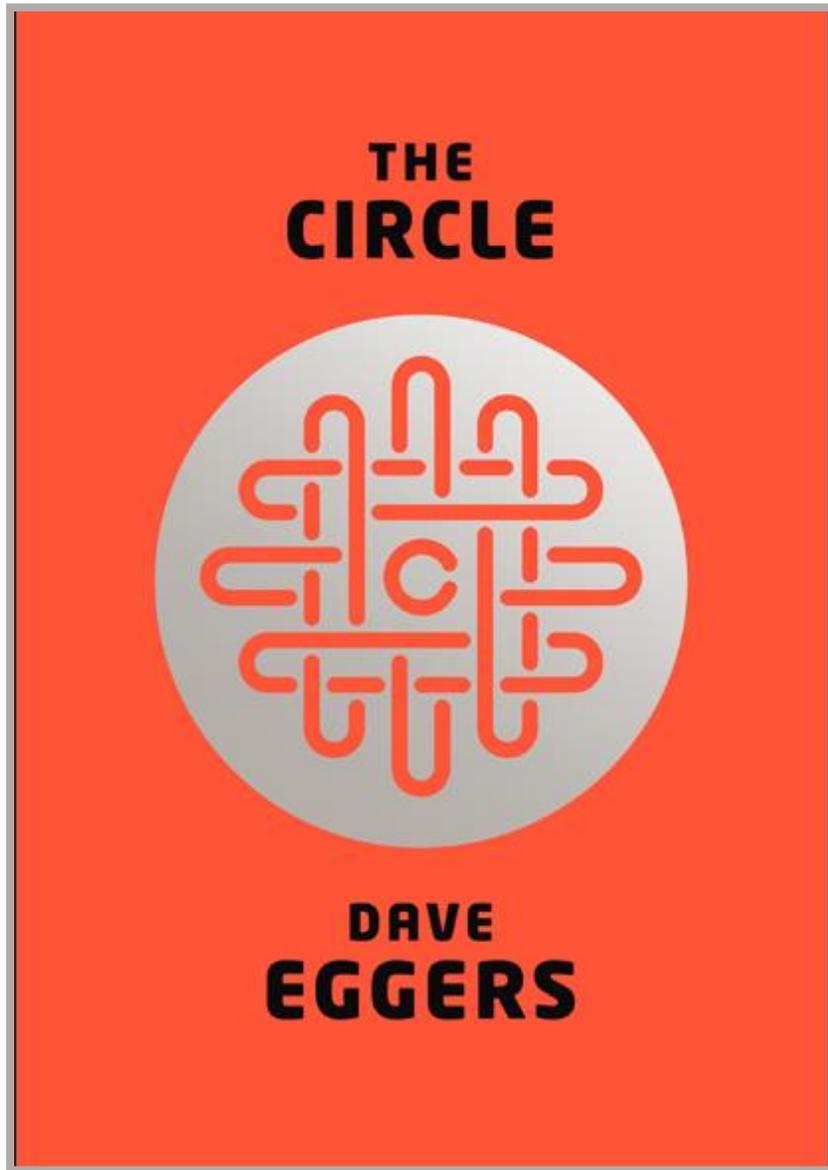
Eric Liu, who has spent a career practicing and teaching civic power, lays out the answers in this incisive, inspiring, and provocative book. Using examples from the left and the right, past and present, he reveals the core laws of power. He shows that all of us can generate power-and then, step by step, he shows us how. The strategies of reform and revolution he lays out will help every reader make sense of our world today. If you want to be more than a spectator in this new era, you need to read this book.
(Amazon review)



Gone – a girl, a violin, a life unstrung

Her first violin was tiny, harsh, factory-made; her first piece was “Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star.” But from the very beginning, Min Kym knew that music was the element in which she could swim and dive and soar. At seven years old, she was a prodigy, the youngest ever student at the famed Purcell School. At eleven, she won her first international prize; at eighteen, violinist great Ruggiero Ricci called her “the most talented violinist I’ve ever taught.” And at twenty-one, she found “the one,” the violin she would play as a soloist: a rare 1696 Stradivarius. Her career took off. She recorded the Brahms concerto and a world tour was planned. Then, in a London café, her violin was stolen. She felt as though she had lost her soulmate, and with it her sense of who she was. Overnight she became unable to play or function, stunned into silence.

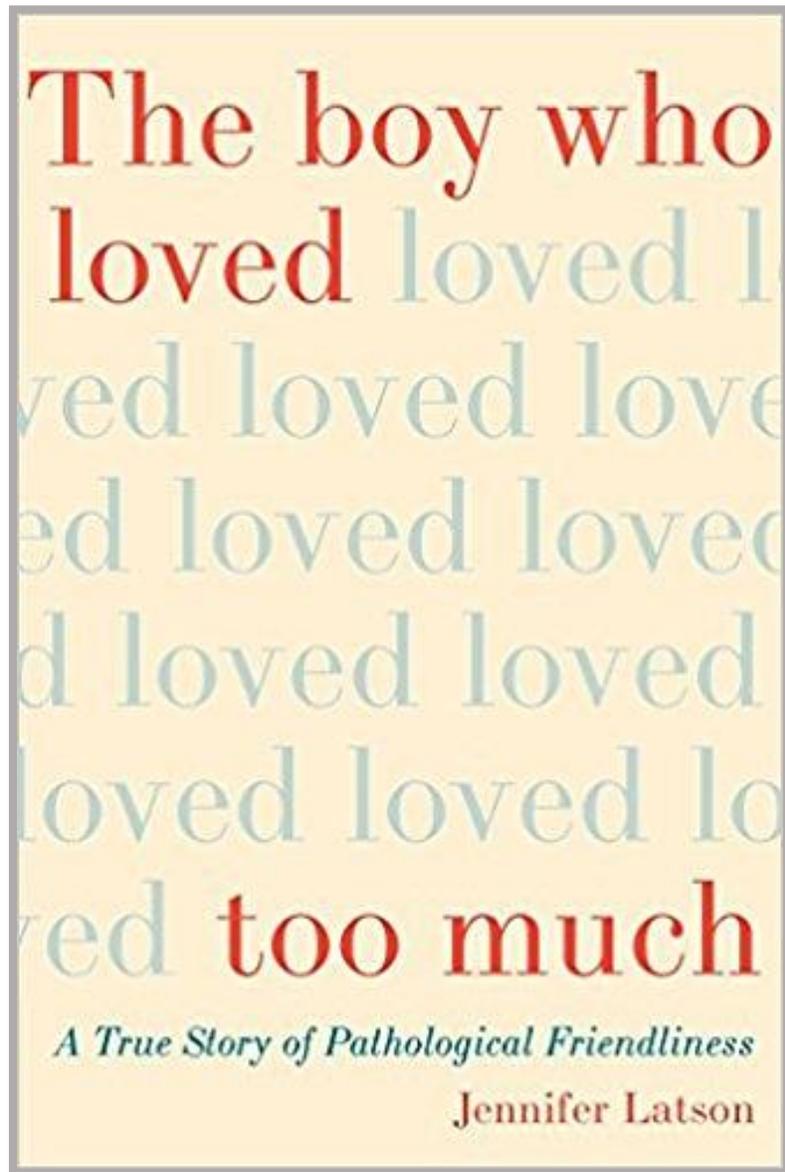
In this lucid and transfixing memoir, Kym reckons with the space left by her violin’s absence. She sees with new eyes her past as a child prodigy, with its isolation and crushing expectations; her combustible relationships with teachers and with a domineering boyfriend; and her navigation of two very different worlds, her traditional Korean family and her music. And in the stark yet clarifying light of her loss, she rediscovers her voice and herself. (Amazon review)



The Circle

When Mae Holland is hired to work for the Circle, the world's most powerful internet company, she feels she's been given the opportunity of a lifetime. The Circle, run out of a sprawling California campus, links users' personal emails, social media, banking, and purchasing with their universal operating system, resulting in one online identity and a new age of civility and transparency. As Mae tours the open-plan office spaces, the towering glass dining facilities, the cozy dorms for those who spend nights at work, she is thrilled with the company's modernity and activity. There are parties that last through the night, there are famous musicians playing on the lawn, there are athletic activities and clubs and brunches, and even an aquarium of rare fish retrieved from the Marianas Trench by the CEO.

Mae can't believe her luck, her great fortune to work for the most influential company in the world—even as life beyond the campus grows distant, even as a strange encounter with a colleague leaves her shaken, even as her role at the Circle becomes increasingly public. What begins as the captivating story of one woman's ambition and idealism soon becomes a heart-racing novel of suspense, raising questions about memory, history, privacy, democracy, and the limits of human knowledge. (Amazon review)



The Boy Who Loved Too Much

The poignant story of a boy's coming-of-age complicated by Williams syndrome, a genetic disorder that makes people biologically incapable of distrust.

What would it be like to see everyone as a friend? Twelve-year-old Eli D'Angelo has a genetic disorder that obliterates social inhibitions, making him irrepressibly friendly, indiscriminately trusting, and unconditionally loving toward everyone he meets. It also makes him enormously vulnerable. Eli lacks the innate skepticism that will help his peers navigate adolescence more safely—and vastly more successfully.

Journalist Jennifer Latson follows Eli over three critical years of his life as his mother, Gayle, must decide whether to shield Eli entirely from the world and its dangers or give him the freedom to find his own way and become his own person. By intertwining Eli and Gayle's story with the science and history of Williams syndrome, the book explores the genetic basis of behavior and the quirks of human nature. More than a case study of a rare disorder, however, *The Boy Who Loved Too Much* is a universal tale about the joys and struggles of raising a child, of growing up, and of being different. (Amazon review)