

# Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Reads

[\\*Suggestions from The Skimm](#)

**Exit West** by Mohsin Hamid

A couple falls in love in a war zone and as their city implodes due to conflict, the two begin a journey to escape. And for them, escaping means living life as a refugee and leaving everything they ever knew behind.

**The Leavers** by Lisa Ko

The book centers on what happens to a Chinese immigrant after he's adopted by a white couple who rename him and try to make him assimilate. It's set in both China and upstate NY and will make you think about what it really means to belong.

**The Joy Luck Club** by Amy Tan

An intimate look inside the lives of eight Chinese mothers and their American daughters. This book broke barriers, eventually being turned into the first studio film to star an all-Asian cast.

**The Sympathizer** by Viet Thanh Nguyen

Follows a conflicted Vietnam War sympathizer as he acts as a double agent. It's set in both America and Vietnam and will make you rethink everything you ever thought about the war.

**Sour Heart** by Jenny Zhang

Short stories centering the experience of growing up in NYC as a Chinese-American. It's a manifesto on girlhood, immigration, life, experimentation, family, and more.

**How to Write an Autobiographical Novel**

by Alexander Chee

A collection of non-fiction essays. Chee reflects on the AIDS crisis, his father's death, sexual trauma, the 2016 presidential election, and more.

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