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NONFICTION
THE SECRET HISTORY OF WONDER WOMAN
by Jill Lepore (\$30)

The Original Girl Superhero

“Wonder Woman isn’t only an Amazonian princess with badass boots,” Lepore explains. “She’s the missing link in a chain of events that begins with the woman suffrage campaigns of the 1910s.”

This captivating, sometimes racy, charmingly illustrated history is one part biography of the character and one part biography of her fascinating creator, psychologist and inventor William Moulton Marston—an early feminist who believed, way before his time, that the world would be a better place if only women were running it. “Not even girls want to be girls,” Marston wrote in 1943, “so long as our feminine archetype lacks force, strength and power.”

Marston “lived with three women and, by two of them, had four children,” Lepore writes, postulating that the girl hero he invented was a composite of his lovers. And his creation was an instant hit: By 1942, Wonder Woman had beaten out Batman and Superman as DC Comics readers’ favorite and had her own comic book series; by 1944, she had 10 million fans.

A Harvard professor, Lepore seems an unlikely biographer of a comic book character. But in the process of bringing her “superhero” to life in this very carefully researched, witty secret “herstory,” Lepore herself emerges as a kind of superheroine: a woman on a mission—as energetic, powerful, brilliant and provocative as her subject.

—Meredith Maran



MUST-READ MEMOIRS

Three tales of self-discovery and personal triumph

The Woman I Wanted to Be

by Diane von Furstenberg (\$26)

The wrap-dress doyenne traces her path to fashion stardom, beginning with the story of her Auschwitz-survivor mom, Lily.

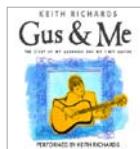
Who Knows Tomorrow
by Lisa Lovatt-Smith (\$26) Former *Vogue* editor Lovatt-Smith left her glitzy life behind to volunteer at an orphanage in Ghana—and never looked back.

Hand to Mouth
by Linda Tirado (\$26) Working-class mom Tirado—whose searing essay on the realities of living below the poverty line went viral last year—reveals more about her life in this powerful book.

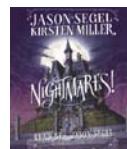
LARA ROBBY/Studio D (book stack)

HEY, MOM: LISTEN TO THIS!

Traveling with kids this holiday season? Keep 'em occupied on the way to



Gus & Me
by Keith Richards (\$18, ages 3–6) The Rolling Stones legend reads his book about his grandpa Gus, who inspired him to take up music.



Nightmares!
by Jason Segel and Kirsten Miller (\$40, ages 8–12) In the *How I Met Your Mother* alum's new book, a boy's night terrors become all too real. Segel's narration is fun.