

Give-a-way books for Session 5:

[Criptiques](#), edited by Caitlin Wood

Criptiques is a groundbreaking collection of essays by authors with disabilities examining the often overlooked, provocative sides of disability. Exploring themes of gender, sexuality, disability/crip culture, identity, ableism and much more, Criptiques is for people invested in crip culture, the ones just discovering it, and those completely unfamiliar with the term.

[But You Look Good: How to Encourage and Understand People Living With Illness and Pain](#), by Wayne & Sherri Connell, founders, Invisible Disabilities Association

“Some parts of the popular American culture are intensely hostile to those who suffer from chronic illnesses, especially invisible disabilities. That, of course, is not what we Americans think about ourselves.” Dr. Jeffrey Boyd, p. xix.

This book reminds us that millions of people and their loved ones struggle with challenges that may not be physically visible, but are nonetheless devastating. It illuminates the challenges people face, the lack of real understanding and compassion, the plight going forward, and ultimately the great reason for hope.

[Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice](#), by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarsinha,

Award-winning writer, longtime activist and performance artist, the author explores the politics and realities of disability justice—a movement that centers the lives and leadership of queer, trans, Black, and brown people who suffer sickness and disabilities. But the author offers knowledge and gifts for all.

This book serves as a tool kit for everyone who wants to build radically resilient, sustainable communities of liberation where no one is left behind. Powerful and passionate, Care Work is a crucial and necessary call to arms.

[Sitting At Eye Level: My Life as An Advocate, A Professional, A Woman, A Mom and A Person with A Significant Disability](#), by Santa Elia Perez

Santa Perez describes her life as a woman with physical disabilities—specifically Cerebral Palsy. She says she’s had an extraordinary life, and her hope is this book will help you see all people for who they are, and not only for their disability. She says too often we have preconceived notions about people with developmental and intellectual disabilities, and forget about their humanity.

[**Littly Miss Somebody: A Novel**](#), by Christy Lynn Abram

Christy Abram, one of our panelists today, wrote this novel inspired by a true story. The protagonist is 14-year-old Nikki, who is trying to find her way despite the vicious cycle of her mother's abuse and abandonment and extended family dysfunction. In spite of it all, Nikki strives to find loving connections with people, rise above her surroundings and family history, and **to be somebody!**

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month:

[**We Became Mexican Americans: How Our Immigrant Family Survived to Pursue the American Dream**](#), by Carlos B. Gil, Ph.D.

Carlos Gil, Emeritus Professor of the University of Washington, tells a novel-like story of his ancestor's decision to leave Mexico and take the difficult journey north to the U.S. Mexican border in the 1920s. Drawing on a broader context of historical, economic and social factors, he describes what pushed his family out of Mexico and what pulled them into the United States. In writing the book, he says he came to realize that coming to America is a complicated experience—"taking up your life in a new land is akin to reforging one's personality or sense of self..."