The Black Cabinet by Jill Watts

In the early 20th century, a group of African American intellectuals became Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s Black Cabinet, forming an advisory panel to lobby on behalf of the community’s needs. Never officially recognized by the President, it disappeared from history with the demise of the New Deal.

Can’t Hurt Me by David Goggins

For David Goggins, childhood was a nightmare. Poverty, prejudice and physical abuse filled his days and haunted his nights. He transformed himself from a depressed, overweight young man into the only man in history to complete training as a Navy Seal, Army Ranger, and Air Force Tactical Air Controller.

A Good Provider is One Who Leaves by Jason DeParle

One in four children in the United States is an immigrant or the child of one. DeParle weaves a story from a personal and panoramic perspective about three generations of an unforgettable family of migrant workers who struggle to escape poverty.

The Growing Season by Sarah Frey

When the family farm faced foreclosure, Frey gave up on her dreams of escaping to the “big city” and began talking her way into boardrooms to make deals with the nation’s largest retailers. Her early negotiations were so legendary that Harvard Business School published some of them as case studies.

Heartland by Sarah Smarsh

During Smarsh’s childhood in Kansas, the forces of cyclical poverty and the country’s economic policies solidified her family’s place among the working poor. Her personal history affirms the corrosive impact intergenerational poverty can have on individuals and communities.

Hill Women by Cassie Chambers

Owsley County is the poorest county in Kentucky and the second poorest in the country. Chambers uses the stories of “hill women,” paired with her own journey to Harvard Law and back again, to break down the myth of the “hillbilly” and illuminate a region of poor communities trying to keep their towns together.
Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich
How does anyone survive or even hope to prosper on poverty-level wages? Ehrenreich, inspired by stories of welfare reform, writes of working as a waitress, hotel maid and sales clerk and found out that one job was not enough and how “prosperity” looks from the bottom of the ladder.

Maid by Stephanie Land
Land writes about life as a single mother and the often-unheard stories of pursuing the American dream from the poverty line, living on food stamps, being shamed for receiving assistance and trying to overcome the deep-rooted stigmas of the working poor.

Tightrope by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn
Poignant yet dispassionate, Tightrope tells the story of “the other America” through the lives of children who grew up in a prosperous area in Oregon that was devastated in the last few decades as blue-collar jobs disappeared and one-quarter of their group died in adulthood from drugs, alcohol or suicide.

Troop 6000 by Nikita Stewart
Girl Scout Troop 6000 was formed by Giselle Burgess, who know that homeless girls, including her own daughters, needed something to be a part of where they didn’t need to feel the shame and stigma of being homeless, but could develop skills and develop a community they could be proud of.

You Ought to Do a Story About Me by Ted Jackson
While covering a story about homelessness, Jackson encountered a drug addict sleeping under a bridge. The man looked Jackson in the eye and said, “You ought to do a story about me.” When asked why, the man answered “Because I’ve played in three Super Bowls.”