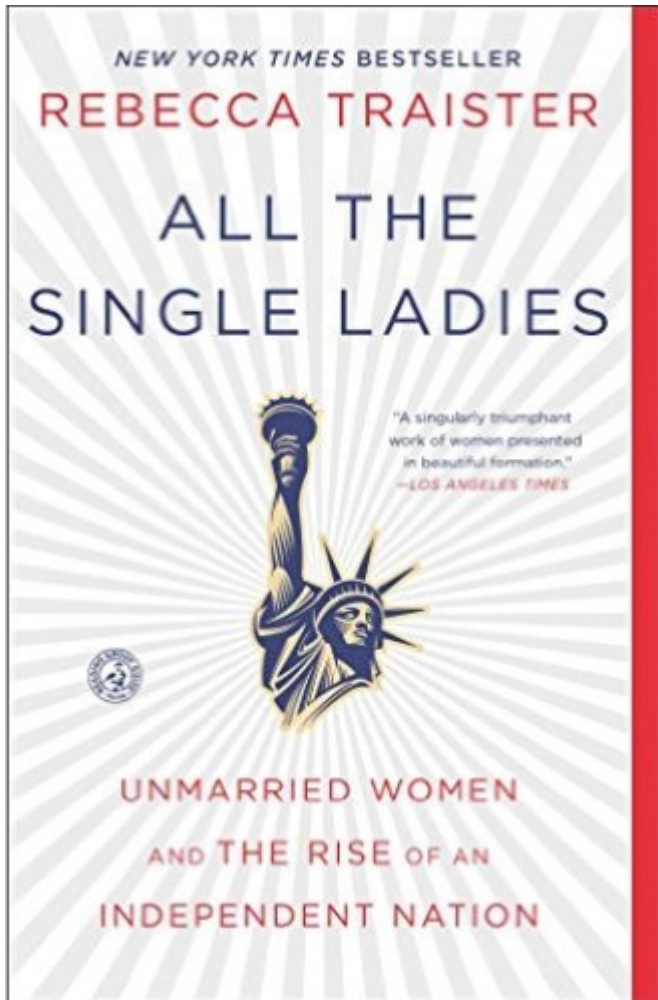


Rachel Pyle's Christmas picks

selected by [Rachel Pyle](#) in the [December 7, 2016](#) issue

In Review



All the Single Ladies

by Rebecca Traister
Simon & Schuster



Lemonade

by Beyoncé
Columbia Records



Sing Street

by John Carney



Hello Humans

by Sam Lamott

www.hellohumans.co

Rebecca Traister gives an in-depth look into how single women have carved out a role for themselves in modern America in *All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation* (Simon & Schuster). Well researched and approachable, the book presents portraits of unhitched women and shows how their choices have added to society.

Perhaps the most talked-about piece of media this year was Beyoncé's visual album *Lemonade* (Columbia Records). It marries an eclectic mix of musical styles with thought-provoking lyrics that range in theme from rage to forgiveness. The album doesn't settle on one specific message. Instead, it reflects on (among other topics) racial discourse, the politics of gender, and the messiness of romantic relationships.

At first blush, the indie film *Sing Street* (written and directed by John Carney) looks like a typical story of adolescent misfits banding together to put on a show at their high school dance. The film spotlights '80s music and fashion, but the story is bittersweet as it follows students negotiating their identities in the community while dealing with letdowns at home and in the classroom.

To give a great gift that doesn't cost money, send someone a link to Sam Lamott's blog Hello Humans (www.hellohumans.co). The online chronicle feels like a personal therapy session as Sam (son of Anne Lamott) processes the recent demise of a long-term relationship. Irreverent at times, Hello Humans contains some of the rawest, funniest, and most honest writing I've stumbled upon in a long time.

Read the other 2016 Christmas picks [here](#).