

THE  
**NEW YORKER**

IN **VOGUE**



# LETTER FROM THE CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Over the last few years, I have watched the strength and intensity of my own generation shatter the notions of what young people are capable of within the political landscape of this country. It is this unfaltering strength that has inspired the theme of our special edition *The New Yorker in Vogue* magazine: "Viewing the World through a Gen Z Lens." For too long have the political and creative voices of the younger generation been undermined, dismissed, and undervalued. Through this theme, we hope to amplify the political voices of our generation through the stories and lives of teenage New Yorkers, expressing our opinions and ideas on topics we are most passionate about. Our collective goal?: to amplify the voices of the future in our current media landscape.

We are the future of this city, of this country. We are a part of the conversation. We are up to date. We are in the know. We have sophistication. Our opinions matter.

We are New Yorkers in Vogue.

*Surina Archey*

# CONTRIBUTORS



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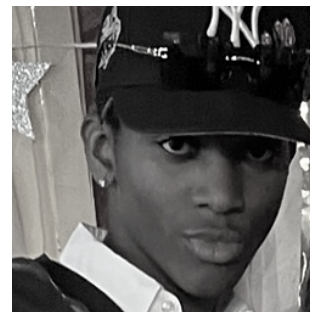
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# THRIFTING IS



BY JORDAN GAY

The last few years have witnessed the popularity surge of sustainable fashion efforts, and this generation's response has been to ditch Forever 21 graphic tees in favor of decades old pieces from their local Goodwill. The words "pre-loved" and "second hand" have been widely integrated into Gen Z vernacular since 2019, and half the time you ask a New York City teen where they bought a pair of cute jeans, they'll reply, "It's thrifted!" Teens suddenly flocked to their nearest L Train Vintage, sifting through endless racks of denim to find the perfect bottoms. Showing off your great finds from thrift stores—perfectly fitting, one of a kind, fashionable items—has become a point of pride for the common city teen. What was once stigmatized as cheap and demeaning is now normalized as fashionably savvy and trendy. So why, all

of a sudden, did every teen in New York City start shopping second hand?

Well, this blooming practice is not necessarily "all of a sudden." Today's idea of "thriftling" has been around for many centuries in modern civilization, as second hand trade is an ancient practice dating back to the Middle Ages; it is a practice that has always served low income communities. The current attitudes towards thriftling can be traced back to the 1970s, as the rise of hippie counterculture opened a door to buying from more environmentally conscious and ethical brands. Over the decades, many organizations and initiatives have been dedicated to making fashion more sustainable, and second hand shopping has always had a decent value in consumerist markets. However, the catalyst for today's renaissance can be attributed to Gen Z's social activism.

In recent years, there has been increased scrutiny towards the fast fashion industry for its detrimental environmental impacts and unethical working conditions in garment factories. The detriments of the industry have reached a wide audience thanks to social media. So, Instagram infographics and 30 second Tik Toks have caused teens to rethink their responsibilities towards society and the earth as consumers. As a result, the number of Gen Z-ers who thrift increased from 30% in 2016 to 40% in 2019, according to ThredUp.

# INVOGUE

New York City is the country's fashion capital, as well as a hub of youth culture and activism, so this city is a key place to observe when looking at the trend of thrifting. Teens in New York have always been not only hyper aware of social issues, but also active participants in combating them—the massive turnout at the 2019 climate strike is a testament to this. Many New York City teens feel passionately about their environmental responsibility, especially when it comes to sustainable fashion. Olivia Ruiz, who is a junior at The Beacon School in Hell's Kitchen, says, "Fast fashion has created an endless cycle of waste in which companies design their products to be thrown out, so consumers are encouraged to purchase more. What is so imperative about thrifting is that individuals can purchase second-hand clothing that adds to their closet and reduces the amount of clothing that ends up in landfills and contributes to carbon emissions." Thus, thrifting is considered a better, greener option because of the whole concept of recycled fashion. Considering this, teens also feel it is important to give as much as they take. Nia Menniefield, a senior at Essex Street



Academy on the Lower East Side, particularly appreciates the cyclic nature of thrifting. She says, "I feel like there are two parts to thrifting: the buying and receiving. I think it's important to donate the clothes you no longer wear or need back into the stores you thrift at. It's like a cycle so everyone can enjoy it."

Stores like Buffalo Exchange and Beacon's Closet have become regular hotspots, lines outside filled with woke youth wanting to do their part in saving the Earth. Teens have taken advantage of the accessibility NYC offers for thrift stores and vintage shops to counter the environmental waste and exploitative treatment of the fast fashion industry. To teens in NYC, thrifting has become a lifestyle, an inspirational way of normalizing eco conscious practices in their daily lives. Sustainable fashion is in vogue.

A

# THRIFTED VISION

An Entirely thrifted outfit with secondhand items!



#### DETAILS

University of Michigan varsity jacket; American Eagle long sleeve tee; New Balance sneakers; Levi's baseball cap; Calvin Klein underwear; jeans from an unknown brand; sunglasses from an unknown brand



# *BEAUTY WITH IMPACT*

Rare Beauty, founded by singer and actress Selena Gomez, is a makeup brand committed to promoting mental health awareness, inclusivity, and eco-consciousness. The brand's distinguishing campaign is Rare Impact, which is dedicated to mental health education and supporting those who struggle through online resources and a financial fund. The brand also ensures to incorporate environmentally responsible and ethical practices into the creation of their products. On the website, Selena Gomez notes, "I think Rare Beauty can be more than a beauty brand—it can make an impact." All Rare Beauty products are available on [rarebeauty.com](http://rarebeauty.com) and in-store or online at Sephora.

#### DETAILS

Perfect Strokes Universal  
Volumizing Mascara Mini  
(\$11); Perfect Strokes Matte  
Liquid Liner (\$19); Positive  
Light Liquid Luminizer No.  
Mesmerize (\$22)





## *A GENERATION OF PROTESTERS*

"I am passionate about inclusivity and freedom, whether it be freedom of choice about bodily autonomy, the right to think for ourselves, or for our voices to be heard. We are born with the God given right to freedom and equality [...] I will not stand by and watch the dissolution of a minority of people.

I will not fade silently into blind obedience."

HELENA LINES



# THE VOICE OF THE YOUTH

BY DEVIN WU

Amidst a tumultuous year that saw millions of Americans from across the country return to in-person activities, issues once cloaked by lackluster societal attention, and later the coronavirus pandemic, sprang to the forefront of mainstream society. As the United States becomes more deeply divided on issues including gun control and abortion rights, there is often one voice that is left out from these political discussions. The youth.

The perspectives of the younger generation have rarely ever been taken seriously. The majority of voters in America are middle aged and retired. Many politicians seem to be out of touch with the public, lacking the aptitude to deal with a rapidly changing world. The return to a sense of normalcy following months of quarantine, have reinvigorated the space for discussion. A newfound sense of addressing problems in society and becoming more civically engaged, have begun shifting away the stigma against adolescents and activism.

Dahee Lee, a youth organizer at the Minkwon Center, a community based advocacy organization located in Flushing, NY, stresses the importance of youth involvement in aspects of social justice and expressing their opinions. "Young people are still in the midst of not only figuring out the world around them, but also their relationship with themselves, their families, friends, and strangers. I think youth are one of the most if not the most essential group to

engage with and involve when it comes to politics and social change

Lee describes how the youth has been able to have a significant impact on society. "Movements like National School desegregation, the DREAM Act, The Hong Kong and Taiwan independence movements, gun reform in the US, and many more are all examples of either student led or student fueled change."

The empowerment of young and ethnically diverse individuals has amplified a wider range of perspectives to be heard.

Youth in underrepresented communities and historically oppressed groups in the U.S have finally been given the platform to speak their minds. Jonathan Lam, a youth activist working with the NYCLU, recognizes the benefits of listening to other teenagers from different backgrounds. "Hearing from the youth is so

empowering as we're directly witnessing issues in our own households and schools that have significantly impacted our experience growing up."

Change and action require diligence over a prolonged period of time. As the next generation of people become more informed on the variables that control our lives and the structures that have controlled society, achieving progress in the areas that align with the youth agenda have become closer to reality. The youth have begun to involve themselves in these serious conversations, and are not going anywhere, anytime soon.

We are going to change  
the fate of humanity,  
whether you like it or  
not."

- Greta Thunberg

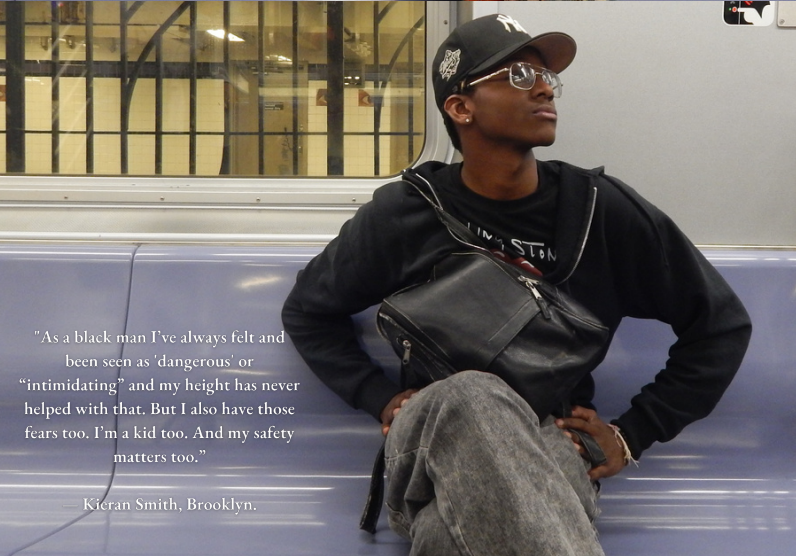
# THE OMNIPRESENT VIOLENCE OF NEW YORK CITY



I am a New Yorker through and through. I long for safety in this city so more people can like me and can live free of fear.  
— Sanai Rashid, Brooklyn.



"I am more anxious on a day-to-day basis, especially since I take the train to get to school, and because many incidents of anti-Asian hate crimes occur on public transportation."  
— Natalie Ma, Queens.



"As a black man I've always felt and been seen as 'dangerous' or 'intimidating' and my height has never helped with that. But I also have those fears too. I'm a kid too. And my safety matters too."

Kieran Smith, Brooklyn.



"I am constantly feeling unsafe in a city that's supposed to be home."  
— Jordan Gay, Brooklyn.



"The violence in this country has become so pervasive and normalized; it's hard to feel safe anywhere."  
— Surina Archey, Manhattan.



"I want to be able to obtain my education in an environment that is safe, and one where guns cannot be obtained so easily."  
— Devin Wu, Queens.

BY SANAI RASHID

January 15, 2022, was another chilly winter morning for Upper West Side resident Michelle Alyssa Go. She walked into the subway station, hoping to catch the R train in time to begin her weekend plans. However, before Ms. Go could shimmy into the sliding doors and take a seat on the cold bench of the train car that pulled into the station, a 61-year-old man pushed her onto the train tracks. She died instantly.

It is scary being a woman in today's world. It is even more terrifying to be a woman in New York City. As a young woman finding herself on the concrete slabs of West 44th St, I have to face this reality every day. My best friends and I, who attend Beacon High School in Midtown Manhattan, send pictures of ourselves in our group chat during our morning commute, standing behind the large poles on the subway platform so we avoid getting shoved onto the tracks. Days later, we may laugh when we see a woman tie herself with rope onto one of those same poles on the platform to prevent the same fate, thinking she's absurd. But underneath our chuckles is the fear that one wrong stranger can break us into pieces, exposing how fragile we are in an already crumbling world.

After our morning commutes, like high schoolers across the city, my friends and I hope to find a haven in our schools. From 8 am to 2 pm, we see a strange comfort in our school buildings, where time stops, and we are protected from the world's chaos. But even now, our schools' protection is withering away.

On April 13, 2022, as Frank James shot ten people in the 36th Street subway station in Brooklyn's Sunset Park neighborhood, I was sitting in History class when a public safety alert about the mass shooting rang on my iPhone.

Before long, the same signal went off on my classmates' phones, the symphony of dings amplifying the apocalyptic reality we all live in. Though my teacher tried to continue teaching us about the failures of the Articles of Confederation, my classmates and I were much too busy checking our news feeds. On top of that, we had to answer calls from our parents telling us to avoid taking the trains home that afternoon for fears that we would not come out of the station alive.

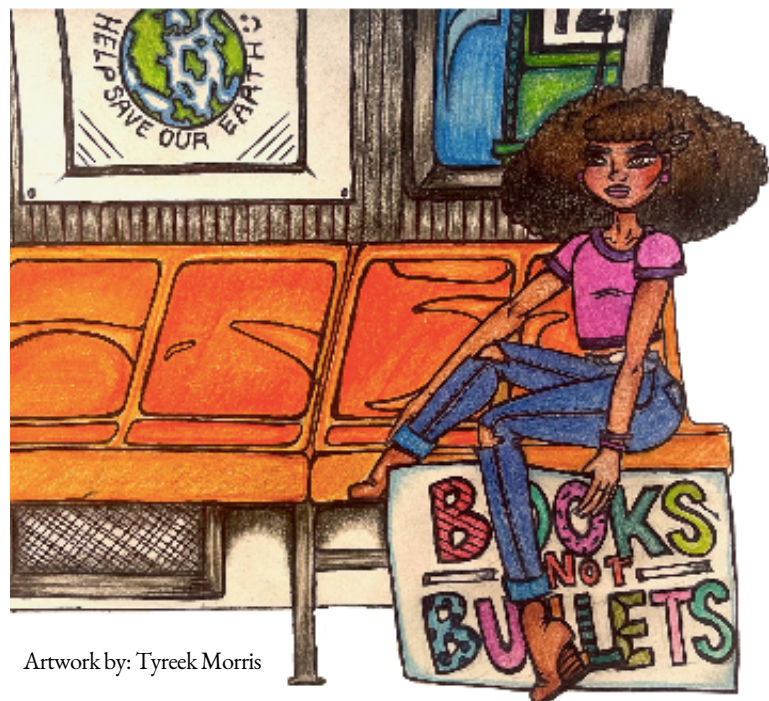
As if danger could not creep even closer to our lives, the continuous uptake of mass shootings across America has New York City students like myself wondering where on earth we can feel safe when violence is behind every corner of our reality.

Over the past five years, fatal shootings on school properties have occurred nationwide. In Uvalde, Texas, nineteen children and two teachers were killed in an elementary school shooting. In Parkland, Florida, seventeen people died in a high school shooting. In Newtown, Connecticut, twenty-six seven-year-olds and six teachers were shot and killed in Sandy Hook elementary school.

Children across America face violence in their schools, and we New York high schoolers are no exception. The active-shooter lockdown drills in our schools once a year are starting to feel all too likely to happen.

We leave our homes and go on the subway, where we are afraid that every sketchy stranger may take our lives. Then, finally, we exit the station and walk to school, suddenly feeling uneasy about the strange bulge in our classmates' backpacks. "Is that what I think it is? Or am I crazy?," you end up asking yourself.

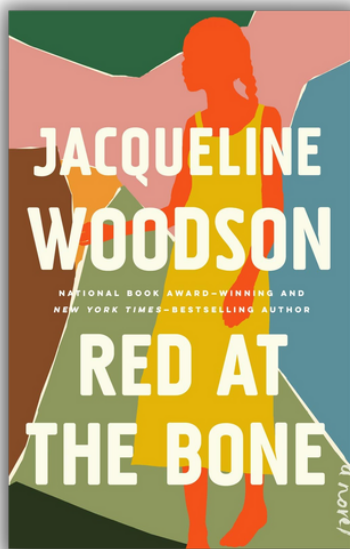
As the next generation of New Yorkers, we inhabit a world of fear but are determined to create a future of hope. It is up to us to change the cards we have dealt with, and only the next few years can tell what our future will hold.



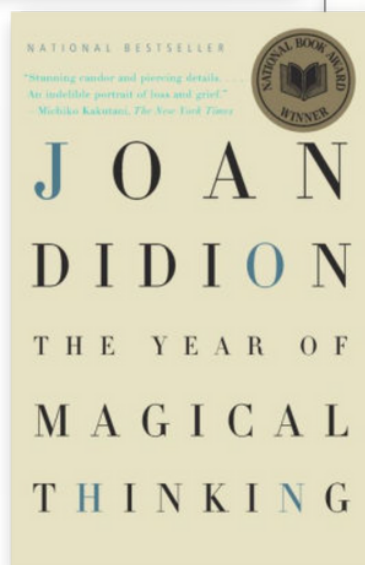
Artwork by: Tyreek Morris

# TIMELY READS

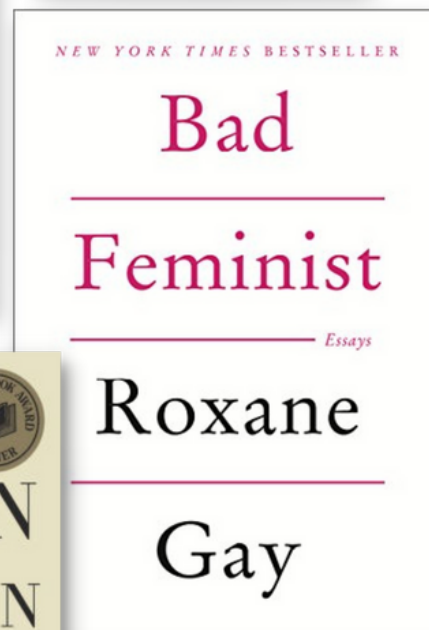
Written by the author of more than two dozen New York Times best-selling books, Jacqueline Woodson weaves in themes of sexual identity, family, class, education, and gentrification into a book that will leave you breathless for ages.



Didion's book *The Year of Magical Thinking* takes us through her own process of mourning and dealing with grief as she reflects on the loss of her husband.



In *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*, a debut novel by Vietnamese-American poet Ocean Vuong, he explores the topics of generational trauma, LGBTQ+ youth, and the experience of first generation immigrants.



In Gay's book *Bad Feminist*, she tackles all issues surrounding the feminist cause in the 21st century and how there is no "one way" to be a woman in today's world.

# *WE ARE CHANGEMAKERS*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALIYA SHOIBEKOVA



# *THE RE-EMERGENCE OF DISTRESSED CLOTHING*

BY NATALIE MA

Slashed threads, grunge, the 70s, rock-and-roll. Distressed denims and the cultural punk movement went hand in hand. The desire to rebel from the status quo was embodied by the British youth. Fashion icons such as Johnny Rotten and Vivienne Westwood established the scene for generations to come by sporting ripped jeans and torn consumer items. They set the stage for subversive fashion, which centers mesh, knitwear with loose threads, sheer fabric with geometric cutouts, and tastefully revealed undergarments. This style serves to feature the beauty of the human silhouette through cutouts and repositioning of staple items. Tank tops worn backwards, button-down shirts worn off the shoulder, and mesh stockings ripped and strewn about the body in a haphazard yet curated manner.



Once looked down on as a symbol of poverty, distressed fabric becomes a staple of streetwear, embracing the uniqueness, the boldness, and roughness brought by tattered clothing. What was once “sloppy” is now “effortlessly cool,” and what was once “over-worn” is now “well-loved.” The perception behind buying distressed clothing, or even secondhand shopping for clothing to distress at home, has rapidly changed in recent years. Although the typical pair of ripped jeans was a best-seller at places like American Eagle for years, the idea of buying a tattered sweater from a thrift store would still have been seen as unsanitary or looked down upon. However, now it is seen as a more tasteful choice, a statement to be made at the whim of the person wearing the clothing. This change promotes creativity and individualism, with each person buying unique garments from secondhand stores and fraying, cropping, beating, and altering them to their desired look. In the age of trends, commercialization, and fast fashion, this worn-down aesthetic may be beneficial both environmentally and creatively.



"UNRAVELLED" BY JIVAN WEST

# *AT A POINT OF NO RETURN: THE FALL OF ROE V. WADE*



BY SANAI RASHID

Frustration. Anger. Grief. Disbelief  
There are so many things to say, yet no word seems enough in such trying times. On Friday, June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, effectively eliminating the constitutional right to an abortion in a 6-to-3 ruling. In more than twenty states abortion will become illegal or highly restricted in the upcoming weeks. Even though a draft opinion reverberating the same message was leaked to the public in May, the official order still shocked most Americans. The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* serves as a reminder that the elected officials chosen to uphold the democracy set before us are no longer serving the citizens of this nation they are serving

their own interests, their own antiquated agendas.

According to a Wall Street Journal poll taken in early June, more than two-thirds of Americans were in favor of upholding *Roe*, and fifty-seven per cent affirmed a woman's right to abortion for any reason. Support for abortion has never been higher, yet these wishes seem to fall on deaf ears when it comes to our Supreme Court Justices. As New York teens, inhabiting a world where our cries are not only ignored by our government, but actively suppressed by those in power, is not only frustrating but can lead to deadly consequences. However, it is an immense privilege to live in New York right now where



abortion is still legally protected. Yet the fact that crossing over a few state lines may mean that our bodies are out of our control as if we are property to the state — our autonomy no longer our own is terrifying. I am scared for my future. I am scared for

the future of my little sister and my little cousin. I am afraid for the women I do not even know who are suffering from this news, that what they choose to do with their bodies is now under surveillance, more than ever.



Illustration by Chloe Cushman

## *WE SHOULD DEMAND MORE.*

"We will need to be full-throated and unconditional about abortion as a necessary precondition to justice and equal rights if we want even a chance of someday getting somewhere better."

—

Jia Tolentino, *The New Yorker*



PHOTOGRAPHY BY EAGLE ZHOU

"The forest and the light have a special relationship, almost like a dance. The light kisses the trees and as the wind blows the trees sway to the rhythm of the light, softening its intensity to the forest below. It's rhythm changes from minute to minute and with it, the shadows and composition wait for us to follow and find them."

HELENA LINES

*WE ARE ONE WITH  
THE WORLD.*

*WE MUST TREAT IT AS  
SUCH.*



# *ONE LAST RIDE*

## *ON THE CYCLONE*

BY SANAI RASHID

We can't remember his name  
but we remember his impact.  
The man who rode the cyclone  
wooden and breaking and crumbling  
all by himself.

On the eve of his 40th birthday.  
A firefighter with two daughters  
a man with decades of life left to live  
relishing in the promises of today  
the hope of tomorrow.

For him, there would be no tomorrow.

Or for Alvin Bergsohn, Yeneneh Betru, Irina Buslo,  
and the thousands of other names  
I can not list on this paper.  
Because even if you didn't stop caring  
at some point  
you would stop reading.

May their names rest in the clouds above your head  
beckoning respect and providing courage  
when you need it the most.

They were mothers, they were fathers, they were daughters.

They were New Yorkers.

Since that day where the clouds  
pulsed red with blood  
gray with anguish  
and orange with fear  
thousands of more New Yorkers were born.

Me, my friends  
— you.

But we did not replace those who were lost.  
We grew from the concrete they walked  
rose from the subway benches they sat upon  
flourished out of all they left behind  
without ever forgetting the stories they left behind.

New York 2022

New York 2001

same difference,

right?

Even though our city feels  
just as broken,  
an open wound exposed to the  
salt of distrust and hate  
on a daily basis  
we all must take  
one more ride on the cyclone.

Wooden and breaking and crumbling,  
we sit on the roller coaster seat  
with the crown of our heads tipping to the sky  
to the spirit of New Yorkers past  
who fuel us with the spirit to be  
the New Yorkers of now  
living out the destinies they were not afforded.

We don't scream as the cyclone takes us  
through its tumbles.

We just breathe.

Breathe the sapphire promise  
that with the entire city in our hands  
we can mold a future  
they couldn't even dream of.  
A future we can see.

**WE ARE THE FUTURE**

