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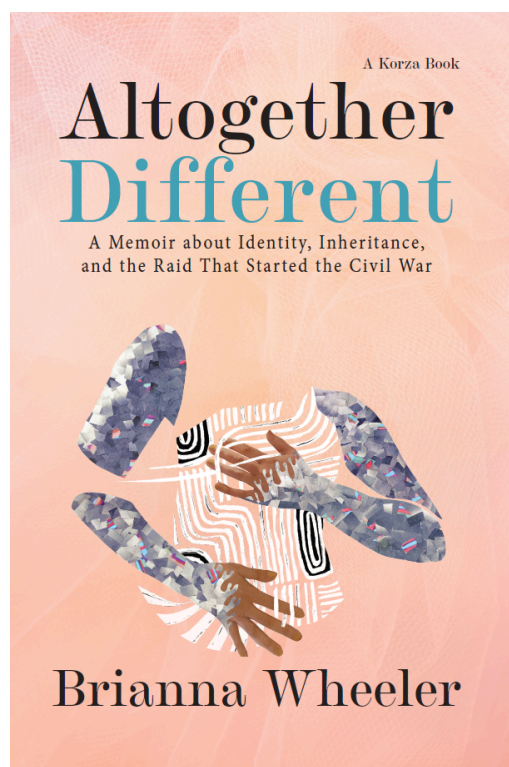
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Altogether Different: A Memoir About Identity, Inheritance, and the Raid That Started the Civil War

(Korza Books, On-sale: July 31, 2024, Pages 231, ISBN 9781957024059)

“Wheeler deftly connects the dots to redefine her racial identity by drawing on her family's long forgotten past rooted in the actions of her heroic mixed-race ancestor Dangerfield Newby.”

– Eugene L. Meyer, author of *Five for Freedom: The African American Soldiers in John Brown's Army*



PORTLAND, OR (June 25, 2024) — Debut author [Brianna Wheeler](#) celebrates the release of the second edition of her memoir, *Altogether Different* ([Korza Books](#)). This expanded edition includes a book club and classroom discussion guide and an interview with the author. Wheeler is interviewed by Ryan Ritchie, a writer and educator who taught *Altogether Different* in his Creative Nonfiction class at El Camino Community College, and touches on the questions and observations that came up in classroom discussions.

Written during the racial reckoning of 2020, *Altogether Different* is a hybrid work of historical non-fiction, personal memoir, and diary illustration. This examination of biracial identity, inheritance, and ancestral duty reflects Wheeler’s own narrative against the life story of her most esteemed ancestor, Dangerfield Newby. Newby was the first of John Brown's raiders to die during the raid on Harpers Ferry, the historic battle that preceded the American Civil War.

Additional themes in *Altogether Different* include motherhood, sisterhood, death and grief, LGBTQ parenting, autism

advocacy, cannabis advocacy, generational trauma, civil unrest, and migration from enslaved Virginia to free Ohio.

When Brianna Wheeler was a child, she rejected her grandmother's birthday gift of a Black Barbie, and in doing so, rejected her own biracial identity. After her grandmother's death more than 30 years later, Wheeler inherited shares of a family trust and her family matriarch's extensive genealogy research. While Wheeler organized her grandmother's work, other inheritors fought amongst themselves to fortify their own inheritances. Brianna Wheeler braids her grandmother's research into a timeline that travels between the battles that preceded the civil war, and her own family's battles with legacy, entitlement, and heritage.

Told through a decidedly Black, interracial, femme voice, *Altogether Different* untangles the complex connection between the stories we tell ourselves and the histories preserved for us.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Brianna Wheeler is an essayist, illustrator, and features writer in Portland, Oregon. In addition to writing the cannabis column for the Pulitzer Prize winning Willamette Week, she is also a frequent contributor to Portland City Cast, an author for Weedmaps News, and locally celebrated live speaker/storyteller. Her creative nonfiction work has appeared in The Nasiona, Midnight and Indigo, and has been featured in Medium's Human Parts newsletter. Wheeler's debut book, *Altogether Different: A Memoir About Identity, Inheritance, and the Raid That Started the Civil War* (Korza Books), was published in 2023. View her work at www.briannawheeler.com.

PRAISE FOR *ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT*:

"Wheeler has a beautiful gift of a voice: accessible and warm and vulnerable, with razor-sharp insights. The generous way she reflects on her upbringing and struggles with understanding her own identity gains your trust and makes you want to keep reading. By the end, I felt a genuine appreciation for her thoughtful (and well-researched) story and even teared up a little. A beautiful memoir."

– Kevin Sampsell, publisher of Future Tense Books

"*Altogether Different* is a compelling read. Moreover, author Brianna Wheeler deftly connects the dots to redefine her racial identity by drawing on her family's long forgotten past rooted in the actions of her heroic mixed-race ancestor Dangerfield Newby. He died in October 1859 at Harper's Ferry in the fight to abolish slavery, but his spirit lives on in Wheeler's memoir."

– Eugene L. Meyer, author of *Five for Freedom: The African American Soldiers in John Brown's Army*

"*Altogether Different* explores the contradictions of mixed-race heritage, Newby's legacy, and all notions of inheritance with unflinching self-awareness."

– Lauren Yoshiko Terry, contributor at Willamette Week

"I knew of Brianna Wheeler through her vital work as a cannabis journalist. I wasn't expecting her incredibly welcome pickaxe to perceptions of race in the USA, and particularly to the polite liberal ignorance of Portland, Oregon, site of my own adolescence. We have barely begun to dissect the summer of 2020 in the City of Roses, with all its grief, fear, violence and white hubris. Thankfully, Wheeler shoulders that work."

– Caitlin Donohue, author of *WEED: Cannabis Culture in the Americas*

"In *Altogether Different*, Brianna Wheeler creates a narrative energy and control uniquely her own, pulling back the curtains on both personal history and American history as a whole, making sure the reader comes out of the book changed."

– Joshua James Amberson, author of *How To Forget Almost Everything and Staring Contest: Essays About Eyes*

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