

# Soulful Songs and Stories



**With a song and your stories, we co-create a soft place for hard conversations and a brave space for personal and spiritual growth.**

Hi *Soulful Song Lovers and Story Tellers*,

This is the first of Friday emails that we're sending out about songs, stories, storytelling, community, or personal/spiritual growth until we meet again. Nothing too religious or hall-marky here. Just pieces that we hope will inspire and uplift, and keep you champing at the bit for the resumption of Soulful Songs & Stories. In the meantime stay informed of the pandemic via trusted sources, take care of yourself, and stay in touch.

If you want to invite anyone to our gatherings when they resume, you can direct them to [www.j.mp/uucsr-sss](http://www.j.mp/uucsr-sss), a new page on the UUCSR website for Soulful Songs & Stories. Thanks to Jen Sappell and Linda McCarthy for that. This group is obviously not for everyone (quite a few people have come only once or twice), but we're here for those who want to get in touch with themselves, with others, and maybe even the holy. We always welcome new people as long as they know we insist on respect and kindness, no phones, and no grandstanding.

Steve has liked most of Rebecca Solnit's writing for a very long time. In this one hour podcast (with transcript) she talks about her new book, *Recollections of My Nonexistence*, and tells her story about growing up, about place, about men, about writing, about reclaiming herself, about her gratitude for the queer community. The term mansplaining was inspired by her essay, "Men Explain Things to Me: Facts Didn't Get in Their Way," published on *TomDispatch.com* on April 13, 2008.

If you have the time, we *strongly* recommend that you listen to the podcast rather than reading the transcript. The interviewers are wonderful and give Solnit the space to tell her own story. What Rebecca Solnit does here is sort of what we do in Soulful Songs & Stories writ large, and an inspiration for us to continue telling our own stories. It's a delight to hear Solnit in her own voice. An exquisite wordsmith. Passionate. Powerful. Enjoy!

Namasté,

*Alice and Steve*

# Rebecca Solnit on the Intersection of Activism and Writing

In Conversation with Whitney Terrell and V.V. Ganeshanathan  
on *Fiction/Non/Fiction* (Lit Hub), Mar 12, 2020

In this episode, writer, historian, and activist Rebecca Solnit reflects on her new memoir *Recollections of My Nonexistence*. Solnit talks to *Fiction/Non/Fiction* podcast co-hosts V.V. Ganeshanathan and Whitney Terrell about the deep impact of gendered violence on daily life and what it means to be treated as unreliable witnesses to our own individual and collective experiences, as well as how her activism arose out of a deep love and what she calls “a positive engagement with uncertainty.” She also reminisces about her earliest writing spaces and formative experiences in political and artistic communities.



<https://lithub.com/rebecca-solnit-on-the-intersection-of-activism-and-writing>