

Shaylyn Romney Garrett

AUTHOR, SPEAKER, CHANGEMAKER



Shaylyn Romney Garrett is the coauthor with Robert D. Putnam of *The Upswing: How America Came Together A Century Ago and How We Can Do It Again* (Simon & Schuster 2020), which has been hailed as “a magnificent and visionary book,” and “a must-read for those who wonder how we can reclaim our nation’s promise.”

Shaylyn’s writing also includes uniquely revealing portraits of religious communities across the United States in *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*, which won Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson Award for best political science book of 2010-11. She writes about her personal journey back to community at [Project Reconnect](#). Shaylyn is a passionate believer in everyday interactions as the place where we do the “heart work” required to transform our culture and reclaim the power of “We.”

Shaylyn has shared her opinions, writing, and research in numerous outlets including [TIME Magazine](#), [The New York Times](#), [National Public Radio](#), [BBC Radio](#), and the [PBS Newshour](#). She has also been an expert commentator for various [documentary films](#). A seasoned public speaker, Shaylyn has given dozens of presentations to a wide range of audiences including policymakers, philanthropists, civic organizations, students and community groups; and has consulted for groups ranging from Facebook, to the Salvation Army, to current and former elected officials.

A passionate advocate for positive change, Shaylyn has also enjoyed a successful career as a social entrepreneur. She is a founding contributor to David Brooks’ Aspen Institute initiative, [Weave: The Social Fabric Project](#), and is a member of Citizen University’s Civic Collaboratory and the Braver Angels Scholars Council.

With her husband, James Garrett, she co-founded [Think Unlimited](#), a nonprofit venture working to catalyze social innovation in the Middle East. Shaylyn speaks fluent Spanish and functional Arabic. She lived in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for six years, during which time she created an original Arabic language curriculum on creativity and critical thinking, and partnered with Queen Rania Al-Abdullah to bring it to Jordanian public schools. Her nonprofit work has been featured by *The New York Times*, FastCompany, LinkedIn, Harvard Business Review, and Arab Investor. In 2011 she was honored with the Draper Richards Kaplan Social Entrepreneurship Fellowship, and was a finalist in the global Echoing Green Competition. She was twice awarded a membership to the Clinton Global Initiative, and has been a speaker at TEDx.

Shaylyn holds a BA in Government from Harvard University, and is a returned Peace Corps volunteer. She’s also a permaculturalist who thinks a lot about healthy soils as a model for thriving human communities. She lives in the beautiful red rock desert of Southern Utah with her husband, two children, and beloved Dewey dog, named after her favorite Progressive-era reformer, John Dewey.

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