

# Amanda Ripley

Amanda Ripley is a *New York Times* bestselling author and an investigative journalist who writes for the *Atlantic*, *Politico* and the *Washington Post*. She is the author of [High Conflict: Why We Get Trapped and How We Get Out](#), [The Smartest Kids in the World--and How They Got That Way](#) and [The Unthinkable: Who Survives When Disaster Strikes, and Why](#).

In her books and magazine writing, Amanda explores human behavior through the science and stories of people who have experienced a transformation.

*The Unthinkable* chronicled the stories and wisdom of people who have survived disasters of all kinds. It was published in 15 countries, turned into a PBS documentary and selected by Hudson Booksellers as one of the Top 10 Nonfiction Books of the year.

*The Smartest Kids in the World* followed three American teenagers who spent one year far from home, attending public high school in the countries with the strongest education systems in the world. A *New York Times* bestseller, it was published in 15 countries and chosen by *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and Amazon as one of the most notable books of the year.

*High Conflict* (published in April 2021) describes what happens when regular conflict distills into a good-versus-evil kind of feud, the type with an "us" and a "them." In this state, the brain behaves differently, and the normal rules do not apply. *High Conflict* accompanies four people who get trapped in very different kinds of conflict, from the personal to the political, and then find their way out.

Amanda's recent stories include this *Washington Post* piece about [what it takes to get the public to comply with extreme public-health directives](#) and an *Atlantic* story about the [least politically prejudiced town](#) in America. She's also been investigating what journalists can do to [revive curiosity](#) in a time of outrage, in cooperation with the Solutions Journalism Network.

Earlier in her career, Amanda spent a decade writing about human behavior for *Time Magazine* in New York, Washington, and Paris. Her work has also appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Slate*, *Politico*, *The Guardian* and *The Times of London*. Her stories helped *Time* win two National Magazine Awards.

To discuss her writing, Amanda has appeared on ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN, FOX News and NPR. She has spoken at the Pentagon, the U.S. Senate, the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security, as well as dozens of conferences on leadership, conflict resolution, disaster behavior and education. She currently lives in Washington, DC, with her family.