

Shanghai Girls**By Lisa See**

When WWII reaches Shanghai, two sisters leave a life of privilege to enter arranged marriages in the US.

The Pillars of Earth**By Ken Follett**

Intrigue surrounds the construction of a cathedral in 12th century England.

The Hunchback of Notre-Dame**Victor Hugo**

A gothic novel that inspired a flood of tourists to Paris' most famous cathedral.

Outlander**By Diana Gabaldon**

Read this novel series that highlights Scottish clan life in the 18th century.

Twelve Rooms of the Nile**By Enid Shomer**

A fictional friendship between Florence Nightingale and Gustave Flaubert, set in Egypt in 1850.

Romola**By George Eliot**

Eliot's study of life in Florence during the 15th century Italian Renaissance.

Brooklyn**By Colm Toibin**

Set in Brooklyn and Ireland in the early 1950s, when one young woman crosses the ocean to make a new life for herself.

London**By Edward Rutherfurd**

The birth of the River Thames to present time.

The Underground Railroad**By Colson Whitehead**

A kinetic adventure tale of one woman's ferocious will to escape the horrors of bondage

My Antonia**By Willa Cather**

See life from the perspective of an immigrant girl on the Nebraska plains in this novel.

One Thousand White Women**By Jim Fergus**

The story of May Dodd and other pioneer women who intermarried among the Cheyenne Indians.

The Alienist**By Caleb Carr**

This novel studies murder in 1896 New York City.

The Good Earth**By Pearl S. Buck**

A book about the family life of a Chinese village before the 1949 Revolution.

The Thorn Birds**By Colleen McCullough**

Follows the Cleary family in the Australian outback from 1915 to 1969.

The Grapes of Wrath**By John Steinbeck**

The story of sharecroppers in the Great Depression.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society**By Mary Ann Shaffer**

This novel is a celebration of the written word in all its guises, and of finding connection in the most surprising ways.

I Should Be Extremely Happy in Your Company**By Brian Hall**

Lewis and Clark expedition

The Sisters Brothers**By Patrick DeWitt**

Multiple award winner about two 19th century hired guns traveling from Oregon to California.



Historical Fiction

An essential element of historical fiction is that it is set in the past and pays attention to the manners, social conditions and other details of the period depicted. Authors also frequently choose to explore notable historical figures in these settings, allowing readers to better understand how these individuals might have responded to their environments.



Books...And So Much More!

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The Nightingale**By Kristin Hannah**

Two sisters face horrific challenges in France during WWII.

The Book Thief**By Marcus Zusak**

an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul. Winner of the 2007 Book-Browse Ruby Award.

All the Light We Cannot See**By Anthony Doerr**

This heart wrenching tale of WWII won the Pulitzer in 2015.

The Other Boleyn Girl**By Philippa Gregory**

An entertaining if inaccurate portrayal of Anne Boleyn's sister, Mary.

Wolf Hall**By Hilary Mantel**

Booker Prize winner documenting Thomas Cromwell's rise to power in the court of King Henry VIII.

Bring Up the Bodies**By Hilary Mantel**

Sequel to Wolf Hall, chronicling Cromwell's machinations to rid Henry VIII of Anne Boleyn.

The Help**By Kathryn Stockett**

a timeless and universal story about the lines we abide by, and the ones we don't.

The Thousand Autumns of Jacob De Zoet**By David Mitchell**

Love story between a clerk for the Dutch East India Company and a disfigured Japanese midwife.

Titans**By Leila Meacham**

Texas in the early 1900s, a heartfelt, big-canvas story full of surprising twists and deep emotional resonance.

Death Comes for the Archbishop**By Willa Cather**

Two priests travel 1851 New Mexico in the wake of the Mexican-American War.

The Far Pavilions**By M.M. Kaye**

This romantic epic set in 19th century India under British rule has been compared to Gone With the Wind.

Oscar and Lucinda**By Peter Carey**

Winner of the 1988 Booker Prize, about the misadventures of two gambling misfits in 19th century Australia.

March**By Geraldine Brooks**

Retells Little Women from the perspective of the absent Mr. March.

The March**By E.L. Doctorow**

Sherman's March to the Sea near the end of the American Civil War, told through a large and diverse cast of characters.

The Long Song**By Andrea Levy**

A bawdy, farcical, yet unflinching portrait of a 19th century Jamaican slave girl on the brink of emancipation.

The Painted Girls**By Cathy Marie Buchanan**

The model for Edgar Degas' Little Dancer Aged Fourteen is brought vividly to life.

The Luminaries**By Eleanor Catton**

Part love story, part mystery, set against the backdrop of New Zealand's 19th century gold rush.

Caravans**By James A. Michener**

Story of an American diplomat in Afganistan following WWII.

August 1914**By Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn**

An epic chronicle of events leading up to the Russian Revolution.

Three Day Road**By Joseph Boyden**

Two young Cree men from Northern Ontario become snipers for the Canadian army in WWI.

Midnight's Children**By Salman Rushdie**

A Story of children born at or near the moment of India's independence from Britain.

The Poisonwood Bible**By Barbara Kingsolver**

The family of a Baptist missionary adjusts to life in the Congolese jungle in the early 1960s.

Memoirs of a Geisha**By Arthur Golden**

The fictional memoir of a geisha, from age nine to adulthood, in pre- and post WWII Japan.

The Night Watch**By Sarah Waters**

An evocative story of London during WWII, told in reverse chronological order.

The Historian**By Elizabeth Kostova**

An interweaving of the stories of Vlad the Impaler, Count Dracula and a 1930s search for Vlad's tomb.

Arthur & George**By Julian Barnes**

The story of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's efforts to exonerate George Edalji, a solicitor falsely accused of a crime.