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.

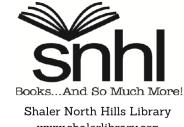
I Should Be Extremely Happy in Your Company By Brian Hall Lewis and Clark expedition

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.



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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 Pulizer 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, bigcanvas 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.