

# best books in historical fiction

**Best books in historical fiction** have the power to transport readers to different eras, immerse them in rich stories, and introduce them to fascinating characters from the past. Whether you're a history enthusiast or simply love a compelling narrative set against the backdrop of significant events, the world of historical fiction offers a treasure trove of literary masterpieces. From epic tales of war and revolution to intimate stories of love and loss, these books allow us to explore different cultures, social dynamics, and pivotal moments that shaped our world. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore some of the best books in historical fiction, highlighting classics, modern masterpieces, and hidden gems that every reader should consider adding to their collection.

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## What Makes a Book a Great Piece of Historical Fiction?

Before diving into specific titles, it's essential to understand what distinguishes exceptional historical fiction from ordinary stories. Key elements include:

### Authentic Historical Detail

- Accurate portrayal of the time period
- Well-researched settings, customs, and language

### Compelling Characters

- Relatable protagonists experiencing growth
- Characters that embody the spirit of their era

### Engaging Plot

- Strong narrative driven by historical events
- Personal stories intertwined with larger historical themes

### Vivid Atmosphere

- Descriptive imagery that paints a clear picture of the setting
- Atmosphere that immerses the reader in the time period

By combining these elements, authors craft stories that not only educate but also entertain and emotionally resonate with readers.

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# Classic and Timeless Best Books in Historical Fiction

Many books in historical fiction have stood the test of time, becoming classics appreciated by generations. Here are some must-reads:

## The Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

- Set during the French Revolution
- Explores themes of sacrifice, revolution, and redemption
- Notable for its vivid characters like Sydney Carton and Madame Defarge

## War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy

- Epic novel set during the Napoleonic Wars
- Combines detailed history with profound philosophical insights
- Focuses on the lives of Russian aristocrats

## Gone with the Wind by Margaret Mitchell

- Depicts the American South during and after the Civil War
- Features Scarlett O'Hara's resilience and complex personality
- Explores themes of love, loss, and survival

## The Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett

- Set in 12th-century England
- Follows the construction of a cathedral amid political turmoil
- Rich in historical detail and character development

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## Modern Masterpieces in Historical Fiction

Contemporary authors continue to expand the horizons of historical fiction with innovative storytelling and diverse settings. Some notable titles include:

## The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

- Set in Nazi Germany during WWII
- Narrated by Death, offering a unique perspective
- Chronicles a young girl's love for books amid chaos

## All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

- Follows a blind girl and a German boy during WWII
- Explores the impact of war on individuals' lives
- Known for poetic prose and vivid imagery

## **The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah**

- Centers on two sisters in Nazi-occupied France
- Highlights the female experience during war
- Themes of bravery, sacrifice, and resilience

## **The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead**

- Reimagines the historic Underground Railroad as an actual railroad beneath the soil
- Follows Cora's escape from slavery
- Addresses themes of freedom and racial injustice

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## **Historical Fiction Set in Different Time Periods and Cultures**

The richness of historical fiction lies in its diversity of settings. Here are some notable books across various eras and cultures:

### **Ancient Egypt and Greece**

- The Memoirs of Cleopatra by Margaret George
- The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller (mythological but rooted in Greek culture)

### **Medieval Europe**

- The Name of the Rose by Umberto Eco
- The Last Kingdom series by Bernard Cornwell

### **Asian History**

- Empress Orchid by Anchee Min
- Pachinko by Min Jin Lee (covering Japanese-Korean history)

### **African History**

- Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi
- The Book of Night Women by Marlon James

### **Latin America**

- The General in His Labyrinth by Gabriel García Márquez
- The Sound of Things Falling by Juan Gabriel Vásquez

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# Top Tips for Choosing the Best Historical Fiction Books

If you're eager to build your collection or find your next great read, consider these tips:

1. **Identify your preferred era or region:** Whether it's Victorian England or Ancient China, narrowing your focus helps find relevant titles.
2. **Look for well-researched authors:** Check reviews for historical accuracy and depth.
3. **Consider your interests:** Do you prefer stories centered around war, romance, political upheaval, or cultural change?
4. **Read book reviews and summaries:** Get a sense of the story and style before committing.
5. **Mix classics with modern works:** Balance timeless stories with fresh perspectives.

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## Conclusion: Dive into the World of Historical Fiction

The best books in historical fiction are more than just stories set in the past—they are portals into different worlds, windows into human experiences across time. Whether you're seeking the grandeur of epic tales or intimate narratives of personal struggle, the genre offers something for every reader. From the timeless classics of Dickens and Tolstoy to contemporary masterpieces by Zusak and Hannah, these books deepen our understanding of history while providing captivating storytelling. So, pick a title that piques your interest, immerse yourself in its pages, and travel through time without ever leaving your favorite reading spot.

Remember, the best historical fiction books are those that resonate with you personally—so explore widely, and let your journey through history begin!

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are some of the best historical fiction books of all time?

Some of the most acclaimed historical fiction books include 'The Book Thief' by Markus Zusak, 'All the Light We Cannot See' by Anthony Doerr, 'The Nightingale' by Kristin Hannah, and 'Wolf Hall' by Hilary Mantel.

## **Which recent historical fiction novels have gained popularity?**

Recent popular titles include 'The Four Winds' by Kristin Hannah, 'The Rose Code' by Kate Quinn, 'The Paris Library' by Janet Skeslien Charles, and 'A Man Called Ove' by Fredrik Backman.

## **What are some must-read historical fiction books set during World War II?**

Must-reads include 'All the Light We Cannot See' by Anthony Doerr, 'The Nightingale' by Kristin Hannah, 'The Book Thief' by Markus Zusak, and 'Sarah's Key' by Tatiana de Rosnay.

## **Which authors are known for their exceptional work in historical fiction?**

Notable authors include Hilary Mantel, Ken Follett, Philippa Gregory, Kristin Hannah, and Bernard Cornwell.

## **Are there any historical fiction books that explore lesser-known historical events?**

Yes, books like 'The Alice Network' by Kate Quinn explore lesser-known stories, as do 'The Huntress' by Kate Quinn and 'The Tattooist of Auschwitz' by Heather Morris.

## **What are some historical fiction books set in ancient or medieval times?**

Recommended titles include 'The Pillars of the Earth' by Ken Follett, 'The Name of the Rose' by Umberto Eco, and 'The Mists of Avalon' by Marion Zimmer Bradley.

## **How do I choose the best historical fiction book for my interests?**

Consider your preferred time period, setting, and themes. Reading reviews, author interviews, and sample chapters can also help you find the perfect book.

## **Are there any upcoming releases in historical fiction I should look out for?**

Upcoming titles vary each year; keeping an eye on publisher announcements, literary awards, and book review sites like Goodreads can help you stay updated on new releases.

# Additional Resources

## Best Books in Historical Fiction: An In-Depth Exploration of the Genre's Finest Works

Historical fiction remains one of the most captivating genres in literature, seamlessly blending the allure of storytelling with the richness of history. Its power lies in transporting readers to bygone eras, immersing them in the lives, cultures, conflicts, and triumphs that define different periods. For enthusiasts seeking authentic yet compelling narratives, the genre offers a vast landscape of acclaimed works that have stood the test of time and continue to resonate today. In this article, we will explore some of the best books in historical fiction, delving into what makes them exceptional, their thematic significance, and their contribution to both literature and historical understanding.

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## Understanding the Appeal of Historical Fiction

Before diving into specific titles, it's important to appreciate why historical fiction holds such a significant place in literary circles. This genre appeals to readers' curiosity about the past while satisfying a desire for engaging storytelling. It offers a dual experience—entertainment intertwined with education—making history accessible and relatable.

Key Elements That Define Historical Fiction:

- Authentic Settings: Vivid descriptions that recreate eras with accuracy, from architecture and fashion to social customs.
- Complex Characters: Protagonists often embody the struggles, aspirations, and dilemmas characteristic of their time.
- Historical Accuracy with Creative Liberty: While rooted in real events, authors sometimes embellish or invent details to serve narrative purposes.
- Themes of Conflict and Change: Many works explore war, revolution, social upheaval, or personal transformation within historical contexts.

The best books in this genre excel at balancing factual fidelity with compelling storytelling, ensuring readers learn while remaining immersed.

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## Classics That Shaped the Genre

Several foundational works laid the groundwork for modern historical fiction, influencing countless authors and readers alike.

### 1. War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy

Overview: Often regarded as the pinnacle of Russian literature, Tolstoy's magnum opus offers a sweeping panorama of Russian society during the Napoleonic Wars. Through the intertwined lives of characters like Pierre Bezukhov, Natasha Rostova, and Andrei Bolkonsky, the novel explores themes of love, fate, and the brutality of war.

**Why It's Essential:** Its meticulous historical detail combined with profound philosophical reflections makes *War and Peace* an enduring masterpiece. It exemplifies how personal stories are shaped by larger historical forces, offering insights into human nature amid chaos.

## 2. *The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett

**Overview:** Set in 12th-century England, this epic novel centers around the construction of a cathedral in the fictional town of Kingsbridge. It spans decades, following characters from different social classes as they navigate love, greed, power, and faith.

**Impact:** Follett's detailed depiction of medieval life, combined with intricate plotting, makes it a benchmark in historical storytelling. Its vivid portrayal of societal structures and religious conflicts provides a window into medieval Europe.

## 3. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

**Overview:** Narrated by Death, this novel is set in Nazi Germany and follows Liesel Meminger, a young girl who finds solace in stealing books amid the horrors of war. It explores themes of mortality, resistance, and the power of words.

**Significance:** Zusak's lyrical prose and unique narrative perspective lend a fresh voice to Holocaust literature, emphasizing individual resilience amidst widespread atrocity.

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# Modern Masterpieces and Their Contributions

Contemporary authors continue to push the boundaries of historical fiction, blending meticulous research with innovative storytelling.

## 1. *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah

**Overview:** Set during World War II in Nazi-occupied France, the novel traces the lives of two sisters, Vianne and Isabelle, as they respond differently to the war's brutal realities.

**Themes and Impact:** The book emphasizes female resilience and the moral complexities of wartime choices. Its emotional depth and compelling characters have made it a bestseller, highlighting underrepresented perspectives in war narratives.

## 2. *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead

**Overview:** Reimagining the historical Underground Railroad as an actual subterranean train, Whitehead's novel follows Cora, a young slave seeking freedom in antebellum America.

**Significance:** Merging historical fact with allegory, this Pulitzer Prize-winning work sheds light on the brutal realities of slavery while offering a powerful narrative about hope and liberation.

## 3. *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles

Overview: This novel tells the story of Count Alexander Rostov, sentenced to house arrest in a grand hotel in post-revolutionary Russia. Over decades, his interactions with guests and staff reflect the upheavals beyond the hotel walls.

Contribution: Towles' elegant prose and detailed character development provide a nuanced perspective on history's impact on personal lives, blending political upheaval with intimate storytelling.

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## **Emerging Trends and Subgenres in Historical Fiction**

The genre continues to evolve, reflecting societal changes and diversifying narratives.

### **1. Multicultural and Global Perspectives**

Modern authors are expanding the scope beyond Western-centric stories, exploring histories of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Indigenous peoples. This diversification enriches the genre, offering more nuanced and varied representations.

### **2. Historical Mysteries and Thrillers**

Blending suspense with history, this subgenre attracts readers who enjoy investigative plots set against authentic backgrounds. Authors like Bernard Cornwell and C.J. Sansom excel here.

### **3. Historical Fantasy**

Incorporating elements of fantasy into real historical settings, this subgenre creates alternative histories or magical worlds rooted in past eras. Examples include Naomi Novik's Temeraire series and Guy Gavriel Kay's works.

### **4. Biographical and Memoir-Inspired Fiction**

Many authors draw inspiration from real figures' lives, blending fact and fiction. These works offer intimate insights into historical personalities and movements.

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## **Criteria for Selecting the Best Historical Fiction Books**

When evaluating standout works, several criteria emerge:

- **Historical Accuracy:** The degree to which the book faithfully represents its era.
- **Narrative Quality:** Engaging storytelling, character development, and emotional resonance.

- Research Depth: Evidence of thorough investigation into historical details.
- Thematic Depth: Exploration of meaningful themes relevant to the era and contemporary issues.
- Originality: Unique perspectives, innovative storytelling techniques, or fresh takes on familiar stories.

The best books excel across these dimensions, providing both educational value and literary enjoyment.

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## Conclusion: Why These Books Matter

The best books in historical fiction serve multiple purposes—they entertain, educate, and provoke reflection. They bridge the gap between the past and present, fostering empathy and understanding across cultures and eras. Whether it's Tolstoy's sweeping epics, Hannah's poignant war stories, or Zusak's lyrical narratives, these works exemplify the genre's capacity to illuminate the human condition through the lens of history.

As readers continue to seek stories that resonate beyond their own experiences, the genre's rich tapestry will undoubtedly expand, offering new perspectives and insights into the stories that have shaped our world. For those eager to explore the depths of human history through compelling storytelling, the titles highlighted here provide an excellent starting point—each a testament to the enduring power of historical fiction.

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In Summary:

- Classic works like War and Peace and The Pillars of the Earth have set foundational standards.
- Modern masterpieces such as The Nightingale and The Underground Railroad broaden the genre's scope.
- Emerging trends include increased diversity, blending genres, and innovative narrative techniques.
- Choosing the best involves considering accuracy, storytelling, research, and thematic relevance.

Whether you're a seasoned enthusiast or new to the genre, these books offer a window into the past that's as enlightening as it is entertaining. Dive into these stories, and discover how history's echoes continue to shape our present and future.

## [Best Books In Historical Fiction](#)

**best books in historical fiction: A Guide to the Best Historical Novels and Tales** Jonathan Nield, 1929

**best books in historical fiction: A Guide to the Best Historical Novels and Tales** Jonathan Nield, 1902

**best books in historical fiction: A Guide To The Best Historical Novels and Tales**

Jonathan Nield, 2021-01-01 These Historical Novels have taught all men this truth, which looks like a truism, and yet was as good as unknown to writers of history and others, till so taught: that the bygone ages of the world were actually filled by living men, not by protocols, state-papers, controversies, and abstractions of men.

**best books in historical fiction: A Guide to the Best Historical Novels and Tales** Nield, Jonathan ,

**best books in historical fiction: 70 Greatest Love Stories in Fiction (Historical Novels Edition)** Charlotte Brontë, Anne Brontë, Emily Brontë, Henry James, Samuel Richardson, Jane Austen, Guy de Maupassant, Thomas Hardy, Bernardin de Saint-Pierre, Edith Wharton, Maria Edgeworth, Henry Fielding, Anthony Trollope, Alexandre Dumas, Mary Wollstonecraft, Louis Hémon, Nathaniel Hawthorne, William Makepeace Thackeray, Grace Livingston Hill, Gilbert Parker, Fanny Fern, Georg Ebers, Fanny Burney, Georgette Heyer, Mary Hays, Robert Williams Buchanan, Mary Angela Dickens, A. E. W. Mason, W. Somerset Maugham, Madame de La Fayette, F. Scott Fitzgerald, D. K. Broster, Sabine Baring-Gould, Eliza Haywood, Leo Tolstoy, Catharine Trotter Cockburn, Lady Sydney Morgan, Pierre Choderlos de Laclos, Mrs. Olifant, María Ruiz de Burton, Lady Charlotte Bury, Philip Meadows Taylor, 2023-11-14 DigiCat presents to you the meticulously edited collection of the greatest historical romance novels: Uarda: A Romance of Ancient Egypt (Georg Ebers) The New Abelard: Love in the Times of Cathedrals (Robert Williams Buchanan) Hildebrand: The Days of Queen Elizabeth (Anonymous) Love-at-Arms (Rafael Sabatini) The Making Of A Saint (W. Somerset Maugham) The Cloister and the Hearth (Charles Reade) The Princess of Cleves (Madame de La Fayette) The Forest Lovers (Maurice Hewlett) Malcolm (George MacDonald) Scarlet Letter: Love in the Colonial Period (Nathaniel Hawthorne) The Wild Irish Girl (Lady Sydney Morgan) Sophia (Stanley John Weyman) Paul and Virginia (Bernardin de Saint-Pierre) Memoirs of Emma Courtney (Mary Hays) Powder and Patch (Georgette Heyer) The History of Miss Betsy Thoughtless (Eliza Haywood) Fantomina (Eliza Haywood) Olinda's Adventures (Catharine Trotter Cockburn) Belinda (Maria Edgeworth) Dangerous Liaisons (Pierre Choderlos de Laclos) Evelina (Fanny Burney) Pamela Trilogy Mary (Mary Wollstonecraft) Jane Austen: Pride & Prejudice Sense & Sensibility Mansfield Park Emma Persuasion Miss Marjoribanks & Phoebe, Junior (Mrs. Olifant) Vanity Fair (Thackeray) Mr. Rowl (D. K. Broster) The Battle of the Strong (Gilbert Parker) Kitty Alone (Sabine Baring-Gould) Sentimental Education (Gustave Flaubert) Lady Anna (Anthony Trollope) The Manoeuvring Mother (Lady Charlotte Bury) Ramona (Helen Hunt Jackson) Jane Eyre (Charlotte Brontë) Wuthering Heights (Emily Brontë) The Tenant of Wildfell Hall (Anne Brontë) The Lady of the Camellias (Alexandre Dumas) The Portrait of a Lady & The Wings of the Dove (Henry James) Anna Karenina (Leo Tolstoy) The Age of Innocence (Edith Wharton) Tess of the d'Urbervilles (Thomas Hardy) Bel Ami (Guy de Maupassant) The Squatter and the Don (María Ruiz de Burton) Maria Chapdelaine (Louis Hémon) The Four Feathers (A. E. W. Mason) The Miranda Trilogy (Grace Livingston Hill) The Great Gatsby (F. Scott Fitzgerald)

**best books in historical fiction: The Readers' Advisory Guide to Historical Fiction** Jennifer S. Baker, 2015 Whether set in ancient Egypt, Feudal Japan, the Victorian Age, or Civil War-era America, historical fiction places readers squarely at the center of fascinating times and places, making it one of the most popular genres in contemporary publishing. The definitive resource for librarians and other book professionals, this guide Provides an overview of historical fiction's roots, highlighting foundational classics, and explores the genre in terms of its scope and style Covers the latest and most popular authors and titles Discusses appeal characteristics and shows how librarians can use a reader's favorite qualities to make suggestions Includes lists of recommendations, with a compendium of print and web-based resources Offers marketing tips for getting the word out to readers Emphasizing an appreciation of historical fiction in its many forms and focusing on what fans enjoy, this guide provides a fresh take on a durable genre.

**best books in historical fiction: A Guide to the Best Historical Novels and Tales (Classic Reprint)** Jonathan Nield, 2016-06-27 Excerpt from A Guide to the Best Historical Novels and Tales Four years ago (vide Dr. Baker's kindly allusion in the Preface to his admirable work just named), it

was hinted that the Guide was somewhat lacking in its degree of comprehensiveness such a criticism could scarcely be maintained now. If there is still exclusion to some extent, there is (fourth edition) inclusion to a very much larger extent. I have allowed the utmost elasticity in my later decisions as to his torical qualification. How comprehensive has been my selection, may be judged from the fact that, while in my enlarged third edition the annotated lists covered between twelve and thirteen hundred novels and tales, I have now passed under review about seventeen hundred more. In the total of nearly three thousand novels and tales thus reached, over two thousand are not to be found in Mr. Bowen's catalogue, and some thirteen hundred are absent from Dr. Baker's lists. Comprehensiveness alone, however, would be a poor advantage, and I believe that, in its present form, besides being the largest bibliography of its kind, the Guide is also the most accurate. And this brings me to say a few words about certain special aims that I have striven my utmost to embody in the large supplementary portion of this edition. More and more, I have come to see that, in a reference book of the kind making its appeal to readers of all ages and of varying tastes - there should be large catholicity. And nowhere is such inclusiveness more desirable than in the case of juvenile stories: the shortest and simplest tale, if it in any way illustrates a bygone period, may prove of use and of interest. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at [www.forgottenbooks.com](http://www.forgottenbooks.com) This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

**best books in historical fiction: Around the World with Historical Fiction and Folktales**

Beth Bartleson Zarian, 2004 As more school districts undergo the painstaking task of curriculum integration, resources that offer children an opportunity to live vicariously in times and places they cannot experience any other way become increasingly necessary. Whether two teachers are covering the same topic in separate classes (e.g. English and history), or designing a thematic unit with the school librarian, this book will assist all parties in the selection of high quality literature. In this handy guide to nearly 800 award winning historical fiction for Kindergarten through 8th grade, Beth Zarian literally spans the globe. Entries are first divided into three sections - American history, world history, and myths and folklore - then chronologically from prehistoric times to present day, and finally by grade level. Each entry is accompanied by a short annotation. For anyone wishing to teach historical facts in an entertaining way, *Around the World with Historical Fiction and Folktales* is the only way to travel.

**best books in historical fiction: Contemporary Historical Fiction, Exceptionalism and Community** Susan Strehle, 2020-10-19 This book analyzes a significant group of contemporary historical fictions that represent damaging, even catastrophic times for people and communities; written "after the wreck," they recall instructive pasts. The novels chronicle wars, slavery, racism, child abuse and genocide; they reveal damages that ensue when nations claim an exalted, exceptionalist identity and violate the human rights of their Others. In sympathy with the exiled, writers of these contemporary historical fictions create alternative communities on the state's outer fringes. These fictive communities include where the state excludes; they foreground relations of debt and obligation to the group in place of individualism, competition and private property. Rather than assimilating members to a single identity with a unified set of views, the communities open multiple possibilities for belonging. Analyzing novels from Britain, Australia and the U.S., along with additional transnational examples, Susan Strehle explores the political vision animating some contemporary historical fictions.

**best books in historical fiction: The Woman's Historical Novel** D. Wallace, 2004-11-19 The historical novel has been one of the most important forms of women's reading and writing in the twentieth century, yet it has been consistently under-rated and critically neglected. In the first major study of British women writers' use of the genre, Diana Wallace tracks its development across the

century. She combines a comprehensive survey with detailed readings of key writers, including Naomi Mitchison, Georgette Heyer, Sylvia Townsend Warner, Margaret Irwin, Jean Plaidy, Mary Renault, Philippa Gregory and Pat Barker.

**best books in historical fiction:** Best Books for Young Adults Holly Koelling, 2007-08-13 Rev. ed. of: *Best books for young adults* / Betty Carter, with Sally Estes and Linda Waddle. 2nd ed. c2000.

**best books in historical fiction:** **Books and Beyond** Kenneth Womack, 2008-10-30 There's a strong interest in reading for pleasure or self-improvement in America, as shown by the popularity of Harry Potter, and book clubs, including Oprah Winfrey's. Although recent government reports show a decline in recreational reading, the same reports show a strong correlation between interest in reading and academic achievement. This set provides a snapshot of the current state of popular American literature, including various types and genres. The volume presents alphabetically arranged entries on more than 70 diverse literary categories, such as cyberpunk, fantasy literature, flash fiction, LGBTQ literature, graphic novels, manga and anime, and zines. Each entry is written by an expert contributor and provides a definition of the genre, an overview of its history, a look at trends and themes, a discussion of how the literary form engages contemporary issues, a review of the genre's reception, a discussion of authors and works, and suggestions for further reading. Sidebars provide fascinating details, and the set closes with a selected, general bibliography. Reading in America for pleasure and knowledge continues to be popular, even while other media compete for attention. While students continue to read many of the standard classics, new genres have emerged. These have captured the attention of general readers and are also playing a critical role in the language arts classroom. This book maps the state of popular literature and reading in America today, including the growth of new genres, such as cyberpunk, zines, flash fiction, LGBTQ literature, and other topics. Each entry is written by an expert contributor and provides a definition of the genre, an overview of its history, a look at trends and themes, a discussion of how the literary form engages contemporary issues, a review of the genre's critical reception, a discussion of authors and works, and suggestions for further reading. Sidebars provide fascinating details, and the set closes with a selected, general bibliography. Students will find this book a valuable guide to what they're reading today and will appreciate its illumination of popular culture and contemporary social issues.

**best books in historical fiction:** **100 Must-read Historical Novels** Nick Rennison, 2009-09-21 This latest guide in the highly successful Must-Read series depicts 100 of the finest historical fiction tales published, with a further 500 recommendations. The text covers a wide range of classic works and key authors.

**best books in historical fiction:** The Essential Guide to Children's Books and Their Creators , Upon publication, Anita Silvey's comprehensive survey of contemporary children's literature, *Children's Books and Their Creators*, garnered unanimous praise from librarians, educators, and specialists interested in the world of writing for children. Now *The Essential Guide to Children's Books and Their Creators* assembles the best of that volume in one handy, affordable reference, geared specifically to parents, educators, and students. This new volume introduces readers to the wealth of children's literature by focusing on the essentials — the best books for children, the ones that inform, impress, and, most important, excite young readers. Updated to include newcomers such as J. K. Rowling and Lemony Snicket and to cover the very latest on publishing and educational trends, this edition features more than 475 entries on the best-loved children's authors and illustrators, numerous essays on social and historical issues, thirty personal glimpses into craft by well-known writers, illustrators, and critics, and invaluable reading lists by category. *The Essential Guide to Children's Books and Their Creators* summarizes the canon of contemporary children's literature, in a practical guide essential for anyone choosing a book for or working with children.

**best books in historical fiction:** Historical Novels Charles Harding Firth, 1922

**best books in historical fiction:** *Space and Narrative in the Nineteenth-Century British Historical Novel* Tom Bragg, 2016-03-31 Demonstrating that nineteenth-century historical novelists played their rational, trustworthy narrators against shifting and untrustworthy depictions of space

and place, Tom Bragg argues that the result was a flexible form of fiction that could be modified to reflect both the different historical visions of the authors and the changing aesthetic tastes of the reader. Bragg focuses on Scott, William Harrison Ainsworth, and Edward Bulwer Lytton, identifying links between spatial representation and the historical novel's multi-generic rendering of history and narrative. Even though their understanding of history and historical process could not be more different, all writers employed space and place to mirror narrative, stimulate discussion, interrogate historical inquiry, or otherwise comment beyond the rational, factual narrator's point of view. Bragg also traces how landscape depictions in all three authors' works inculcated heroic masculine values to show how a dominating theme of the genre endures even through widely differing versions of the form. In taking historical novels beyond the localized questions of political and regional context, Bragg reveals the genre's relevance to general discussions about the novel and its development. Nineteenth-century readers of the novel understood historical fiction to be epic and serious, moral and healthful, patriotic but also universal. *Space and Narrative in the Nineteenth-Century British Historical Novel* takes this readership at its word and acknowledges the complexity and diversity of the form by examining one of its few continuous features: a flexibly metaphorical valuation of space and place.

**best books in historical fiction:** *Fine Line* Jessica James, 2016-08-20 "Heart-pounding and heartfelt, *Fine Line* is a perfectly paced romantic suspense that captivates." ~LITERAL ADDICTION With a new wife and a successful career as the co-owner of Phantom Force Tactical, retired U.S. Navy SEAL and former homicide detective Blake Madison thinks he has it all. But when his wife disappears from their bed while he's taking a morning jog, Blake has to figure out if it's someone from her past as an investigative journalist, or his as a combat veteran and police officer. Fortunately, Blake has a team of the nation's best warriors at hand to assist in solving the crime. With the help of his partner, Nick "Colt" Colten, they set out to take down the mastermind behind the heinous plot—a violent adversary who is hell-bent on retaliation and vengeance. Despite the stakes stacked against them, the men of Phantom Force Tactical are willing to risk everything to bring Caitlin back alive and rid the world of this powerful and formidable foe. But will it be enough, or will this enemy, with his vast influence and powerful connections, be one they can't defeat?

**best books in historical fiction:** *Intellectual Freedom Issues in School Libraries* April M. Dawkins, 2020-11-11 This up-to-date volume of topical School Library Connection articles provides school librarians and LIS professors with a one-stop source of information for supporting the core library principle of intellectual freedom. School librarians continue to advocate for and champion student privacy and the right to read and have unfettered access to needed information. Updated and current information concerning these issues is critical to school librarians working daily with students, parents, and faculty to manage library programs, services, and print and digital collections. This volume is an invaluable resource as school librarians revisit collection development, scheduling, access, and other policies. Library science professors will find this updated volume useful for information and discussion with students. Drawing on the archives of School Library Connection, Library Media Connection, and School Library Monthly magazines—and with comprehensive updates throughout—chapters tackle privacy, the right to read, censorship, equal access to information, and other intellectual freedom issues. New laws and legal and ethical opinions continue to appear and help inform the daily response school librarians have to current issues. This volume updates all included articles with current legal thought and opinion. Intellectual freedom expert April Dawkins offers practical advice and commentary throughout.

**best books in historical fiction:** *Report of the Commissioner of Education* United States. Office of Education, 1892

**best books in historical fiction:** *Annual Reports of the Department of the Interior ...* United States. Department of the Interior, 1895

## Related to best books in historical fiction

**articles - "it is best" vs. "it is the best" - English Language** The word "best" is an adjective, and adjectives do not take articles by themselves. Because the noun car is modified by the superlative adjective best, and because this makes

**difference - "What was best" vs "what was the best"? - English** In the following sentence, however, best is an adjective: "What was best?" If we insert the word the, we get a noun phrase, the best. You could certainly declare that after

**adverbs - About "best" , "the best" , and "most" - English Language** Both sentences could mean the same thing, however I like you best. I like chocolate best, better than anything else can be used when what one is choosing from is not

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