

Randel, Weina Dai, *Moon in the Palace*

Follows the life of a young girl during China's Tang dynasty (618-907).

Russell, Mary Doria, *A Thread of Grace*

In September 1943, Claudette Blum and her father flee across the Alps into Italy with other Jews seeking refuge.

Smith, Dominic *The Last Painting of Sara De Vos*

Focuses on Ellie Shipley, an art historian and former forger. Ellie attempts to learn more about obscure, but superbly talented, seventeenth-century Dutch painter Sara de Vos. The novel is set in three different eras: the 1950s, the 1630s, and the year 2000. The plot revolves around the only known surviving painting of Sara de Vos, *At the Edge of a Wood*.

Stachniak, Eva, *The Winter Palace: a novel of Catherine the Great*

A reimagining of the early years of Catherine the Great traces the story of two young women: Barbara, a servant who will become one of Russia's most cunning royal spies, and Sophia, a pretty, naive German duchess who will become Catherine the Great.

Stephenson, Neal, *Quicksilver*. First book of the Baroque Cycle. The exploits of an alchemy-rejecting scientist, a vagabond leader, and a Turkish harem escapee intersect in the world of the American colonies and the courts of Louis XIV.

Stewart, Amy, *Girl Waits with Gun*

An enthralling novel based on the forgotten true story of one of the nation's first female deputy sheriffs. 1914 New Jersey

Tremayne, Peter, *Whispers of the Dead*

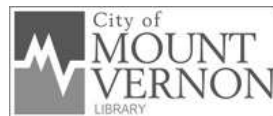
A collection of short stories featuring Sister Fidelma, a nun of the Celtic Church and advocate of Ireland's ancient Brehon law courts.

Unsworth, Barry *The Quality of Mercy*

Irish fiddler Sullivan escapes from prison after being implicated in the loss of Erasmus Kemp's slave ship, only to reencounter his nemesis in a struggle that pits Kemp's desire for wealth against Sullivan's advocacy for the disadvantaged.

Wilder, Thornton, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, A bridge accident in 18th century Peru.

Wood, Barbara, *The Serpent and the Staff*, A tale set during a turbulent mid-15th-century period when Egypt was on the brink of becoming the dominant world power finds the daughter of a winemaker blackmailed by a cruel shipbuilder who would marry her in spite of his family's genetic illness, a situation that is complicated by Leah's forbidden love for a scribe from another culture.



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Afshar, Tessa, *Harvest of Rubies*

The prophet Nehemiah's cousin can speak numerous languages, keep complex accounts, write on rolls of parchment and tablets of clay, and solve great mysteries. There is only one problem: she's a woman in a man's court.

Agee, Jonis, *The Bones of Paradise*

A multi-generational family saga, of history, vengeance, race, guilt, betrayal, family, and belonging set in the unforgiving Nebraska Sandhills in the years following the massacre at Wounded Knee.

Barnes, Julian, *Arthur & George*. Two boys--one who is forgotten by history, and one who becomes the creator of the world's most famous detective--pursue their separate destinies until they meet in a remarkable alliance.

Buck, Pearl, *The Good Earth*. Wang Lung, a Chinese peasant, rises from poverty to become a rich landowner with the aid of his patient wife in the 1920s.

Cooper, James Fenimore, *The Deerslayer*

Set during the French and Indian Wars, *The Deerslayer* vividly captures the essence of both the murderous humanity and the natural beauty that distinguished America's founding.

Doig, Ivan, *Dancing at the Rascal Fair*. Two young Scotsmen settle in Montana in the late 1800s.

Dunant, Sarah, *In the Company of the Courtesan*. In 1527, when the city of Rome is sacked and burned by an invading army, famed courtesan Fiammetta Bianchini and her dwarf companion escape to Venice to rebuild their business.

Ford, Jamie, *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*

Set in the ethnic neighborhoods of Seattle during World War II and Japanese American internment camps of the era, this debut novel tells the heartwarming story of widower Henry Lee, his father, and his first love Keiko Okabe.

Hoffman, Alice *The Marriage of Opposites*

This novel offers a lush, lyrical depiction of 19th-century Jewish life in the Danish West Indies

Ivey, Eowyn, *To the Bright Edge of the World*

In the winter of 1885, decorated war hero Colonel Allen Forrester leads an exploratory expedition up the Wolverine River and into the vast, untamed Alaska Territory.

Kang, Han *Human Acts*

Follows the aftermath of a young boy's shocking death during South Korea's 1980 Gwangju Uprising in which government troops killed anywhere between 200 and 2,000 civilians in the chaos following the assassination of President Park Chung-hee in 1979.

Liss, David *The Coffee Trader* In seventeenth-century Amsterdam, Miguel Lienzo, a Portuguese-Jewish trader desperate to recover his lost fortune, enters into a partnership with seductive Geertruid Damhuis to introduce coffee to the city, and confronts a ruthless adversary.

Mitchell, David, *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob De Zoet*.

Jacob arrives in Nagasaki Harbor's Dejima in 1799 with intentions to make his fortune and return home to marry his fiancé but meets the disfigured daughter of a samurai doctor and finds his plans changing.

Nordhoff, Charles, *Mutiny on the Bounty*, Fletcher Christian, a mate on the HMS bounty prepares to seize control of a ship torn apart by the sadism of her captain in 18th century Great Britain.

Pearl, Matthew, *The Dante Club*

In 1865, the preparations of the Dante Club--led by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Oliver Wendell Holmes--to release the first translation of Dante's "The Divine Comedy" are threatened by a series of murders that re-create episodes from "Inferno."

Puzo, Mario *The Family*

A novel set in a fifteenth-century Italy populated by corrupt popes and despotic families introduces the first of the mafia families--Rodrigo Borgia, Pope Alexander VI, and his children Jofre, Juan, Lucrezia, and Cesare.

