



## HISTORICAL FICTION – READING LIST

---

**Barry, Sebastian**      **Days Without End**      **F BAR:S**

Having signed up for the US army in the 1850s, aged barely seventeen, Thomas McNulty and his brother-in-arms, John Cole, go on to fight in the Indian wars and, ultimately, the Civil War. Orphans of terrible hardships themselves, they find these days to be vivid and alive, despite the horrors they both see and are complicit in.

---

**Binet, Laurent**      **HHhH**      **F BIN:L**

*Also available as an eBook.*

Two men have been enlisted to kill the head of the Gestapo. This is Operation Anthropoid, Prague, 1942: two Czechoslovakian parachutists sent on a daring mission by London to assassinate Reinhard Heydrich - chief of the Nazi secret services, 'the hangman of Prague', 'the blond beast', 'the most dangerous man in the Third Reich'. His boss is Heinrich Himmler but everyone in the SS says 'Himmler's brain is called Heydrich', which in German spells HHhH.

---

**Birch, Carol**      **Scapegallows**      **F BIR:C**

This is the story of Margaret Catchpole, born into a smugglers' world in Suffolk in the late 1700s. As the valued servant of a wealthy family and a friend of criminals, Margaret leads a double life that inevitably brings about her downfall, and she is sentenced to hang not once, but twice. But she escapes the gallows and is transported with other convicts to Australia.

---

**Blackman, Jenny**      **Our Enemy, My Friend : the Diary of Emma Shelldrake**      **F BLA:J**

Told in diary format, this story informs the reader of the hardships faced by the German settlers in the Adelaide Hills around the time of the First World War.

---

**Boyd, William**      **Any Human Heart**      **F BOY:W**

Every life is both ordinary and extraordinary, but Logan Mountstuart's - lived from the beginning to the end of the twentieth century - contains more than its fair share of both. As a writer who finds inspiration with Hemingway in Paris and Virginia Woolf in London, as a spy recruited by Ian Fleming and betrayed in the war and as an art-dealer in '60s New York, Logan mixes with the movers and shakers of his times

---

**Boyd, William**      **An Ice-Cream War**      **F BOY:W**

On the Western Front millions are being slaughtered. But in East Africa a ridiculous and utterly ignored campaign is being waged - one that continues after the Armistice because no one bothers to tell the participants to stop.

---

**Brabon, Katherine**      **The Memory Artist**      **F BRA:K**

Pasha Ivanov is a child of the Freeze, born in Moscow during Brezhnev's repressive rule over the Soviet Union. As a small child, Pasha sat at the kitchen table night after night as his parents and their friends gathered to preserve the memory of terrifying Stalinist violence, and to expose the continued harassment of dissidents. When Gorbachev promises glasnost, openness, Pasha, an eager twenty-four year old, longs to create art and to carry on the work of those who came before him.

---

## HISTORICAL FICTION – READING LIST

---

**Breslin, Theresa**      **Prisoner of the Inquisition**      **F BRE:T**

Saulo, son of a family reduced by circumstances to begging, witnesses his father wrongfully arrested and dealt with in the most horrifying way. Hauled off to be a slave at sea and pursued by pirates he encounters the ambitious mariner explorer, Christopher Columbus. Throughout his hardships Saulo is determined to survive - for he has sworn vengeance on the magistrate and his family.

---

**Brooks, Geraldine**      **The Secret Chord**      **F BRO:G**

A vivid novel that retells the story of King David's extraordinary rise to power and fall from grace. 1000 BC. The Second Iron Age. The time of King David. Anointed as the chosen one when just a young shepherd boy, David will rise to be king, grasping the throne and establishing his empire. But his journey is a tumultuous one and the consequences of his choices will resound for generations.

---

**Burton, Jessie**      **The Miniaturist**      **F BUR:J**

On an autumn day in 1686, eighteen-year-old Nella Oortman knocks at the door of a grand house in the wealthiest quarter of Amsterdam. She has come from the country to begin a new life as the wife of illustrious merchant trader Johannes Brandt, but instead she is met by his sharp-tongued sister, Marin. Only later does Johannes appear and present her with an extraordinary wedding gift: a cabinet-sized replica of their home.

---

**Cadnum, Michael**      **The Book of the Lion**      **F CAD:M**

When Edmund is saved from punishment by a knight, he finds he is now expected to join Richard Lionheart's forces in the Holy Land. As Edmund trains as a squire he is fascinated by all that he sees. But he fears for his safety in the days that lie ahead.

---

**Carey, Peter**      **True History of the Kelly Gang**      **F CAR:P**

Carey's retelling of the Ned Kelly legend paints a vivid picture of an Australia where English landowners skim off the country's best territory while government land grants allow the settlers just enough acreage to starve. Cheated, lied to and persecuted by the authorities at every opportunity, young Kelly retains no faith in his colonial masters.

---

**Carr, Roger**      **Firestorm!**      **F CAR:R**

For Ben, his family, and many other people, the bushfires that broke loose on Ash Wednesday could never be forgotten. Neither could the emotions that erupted in the township afterwards.

---

**Carter, Peter**      **The Sentinels**      **F CAR:P**

John Spencer commandeered into the Royal Navy ends up serving on the West African Squadron, the anti-slavery patrol. One man, Lyapo, a farmer, taken as a slave is bought by the slave trader Kimber aboard the "Phantom". Lyapo and John meet in a desperate struggle for survival.

---

**Catran, Ken**      **Voyage with Jason**      **F CAT:K**

The story of a quest of adventure, battle and legend, seeking the golden fleece which is guarded by a fearsome monster. Jason's 3-year voyage is seen through the eyes of a young cabin boy called Pylos. Battling the high seas and fighting off bandits are just some of the extraordinary adventures that the crew must face.

---

## HISTORICAL FICTION – READING LIST

---

**Cheng, Christopher**      **New Gold Mountain: the Diary of Shu Cheong**      **F CHE:C**

Shu Cheong works on the goldfields at Lambing Flat. Life is tough, and there are many white settlers who are anything but friendly. It is 1860, and the white miners' behaviour towards the Chinese is becoming more and more violent. Shu Cheong witnesses increasing hatred and brutality towards his people....

---

**Chotjewitz, David**      **Daniel Half Human**      **F CHO:D**

Daniel and Armin are best friends. They also admire Hitler as an underdog and revolutionary hero. The boys talk about joining the Hitler Youth - until Daniel learns to his horror that his mother is Jewish, that he is himself half-Jewish and therefore, in Aryan eyes, half human.

---

**Christie, Alix**      **Gutenberg's Apprentice**      **F CHR:A**

In the middle of the 15th century, scribe Peter Schoeffer is dismayed to be instructed by his father to give up his beloved profession of illuminating texts in Paris. Instead he is to travel to Mainz in Germany to be apprenticed to Johann Gutenberg, an entrepreneur who has invented a new process for producing books - the printing press. Working in conditions of extreme secrecy, the men employed by Gutenberg daily face new challenges both artistic and physical as they strive to create the new books to the standard required by their master.

---

**Clarke, Marcus**      **For the Term of His Natural Life**      **F CLA:M**

Murder, shipwreck, brutal tortures, cannibalism amongst escaping convicts - this novel brings to life all the horror and suffering of the settlement at Port Arthur and the system under which countless convicts disappeared without trace. The survival of Rufus Dawes is amazing in itself.

---

**Coleman, Claire G.**      **Terra Nullius**      **F COL:C**

The Natives of the Colony are restless. The Settlers are eager to have a nation of peace, and to bring the savages into line. Families are torn apart, re-education is enforced. This rich land will provide for all. This is not Australia as we know it. This is not the Australia of our history.

---

**Cooper, Susan**      **Ghost Hawk**      **F COO:S**

In the winter of his eleventh year, Little Hawk goes deep into the forest, where he must endure a three month test of solitude and survival, which will turn him into a man. But outside the woods, the world is changing. English settlers are landing on the shores of the New World, and tensions between native tribes and the invaders are rising. Little Hawk's fate becomes irreversibly entwined with that of John, a young English boy who dares to question intolerance.

---

**Cooper, Susan**      **King of Shadows**      **F COO:S**

Nat, a young actor who is to play Puck in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' contracts the bubonic plague, which nobody has had for centuries! As he lies in hospital, another Nat wakes up in 1599. Nat has travelled through time to take part in a special production in which his co-star is the King of Shadows himself – Will Shakespeare.

---

**Cornwell, Bernard**      **The Burning Land**      **F COR:B**

In the last years of the ninth century, King Alfred of Wessex is in failing health, and his heir is an untested youth. The Danes, who have failed so many times to conquer Wessex, smell opportunity! First comes Harald Bloodhair, a savage warrior leading a Viking horde, who is encouraged to cruelty by his woman, Skade. But Alfred still has the services of Uhtred, his unwilling warlord.

---

## HISTORICAL FICTION – READING LIST

---

**Cornwell, Bernard      The Empty Throne      F COR:B**

England is fractured, torn apart more by internal fighting than the threat of Viking invasion. The ruler of Mercia is dying, leaving no legitimate heir. His wife is a formidable fighter and great leader, but no woman has ever ruled over an English Kingdom.

---

**Cornwell, Bernard      Death of Kings      F COR:B**

As the ninth century wanes, England appears about to be plunged into chaos once more. For the Viking-raised but Saxon-born warrior, Uhtred, whose life seems to shadow the making of England, this presents him with difficult choices.

---

**Cornwell, Bernard      The Flame Bearer      F COR:B**

With Britain in an uneasy state of peace, Uhtred of Bebbanburg at last has the chance to take back the home his traitorous uncle stole from him so many years ago -- and which his scheming cousin still occupies. But he will need all the skills he has learned in a lifetime of war to make his dream come true.

---

**Cornwell, Bernard      Fools and Mortals      F COR:B**

Fools and Mortals follows the young Richard Shakespeare, an actor struggling to make his way in a company dominated by his estranged older brother, William. As the growth of theatre blooms, their rivalry - and that of the playhouses, playwrights and actors vying for acclaim and glory - propels a high-stakes story of conflict and betrayal.

---

**Cornwell, Bernard      The Fort      F COR:B**

Summer 1779, a British force of fewer than one thousand Scottish infantry is sent to build a garrison in the State of Maine. The war of Independence is in its third year and no other British troops stand between Canada and New York. The State of Massachusetts is determined to expel the British, but when they send a fleet of forty vessels to 'capture, kill and destroy' they underestimate their enemies, calm in battle and ready for victory.

---

**Cornwell, Bernard      The Pagan Lord      F COR:B**

Alfred the Great is dead and Edward his son reigns as king. Wessex survives but peace cannot hold. The Danes in the north, led by Viking Cnut Longsword, stand ready to invade and will never rest until the emerald crown is theirs.

---

**Cornwell, Bernard      Sharpe's Eagle      F COR:B**

Richard Sharpe, bold, professional and ruthless, goes to war. Once a private, now he leads his men into action in the bloodiest battle of the war. The danger is as great from his enemies on his own side as from those across the battlefield. A story full of treachery and gun smoke, swordfights and bloody warfare.

---

**Cornwell, Bernard      1356      F COR:B**

Thomas of Hookton, a veteran of Crecy and many other battles, is the leader of a mercenary company of bowmen and men-at-arms who ravage the countryside east of Gascony. Edward, Prince of Wales, later to be known as the Black Prince, is assembling an army to fight the French once more, but before Thomas can join, he must fulfil an urgent task. La Malice, a sword of mythical power guaranteeing victory to its owner, is thought to be concealed somewhere near Poitiers.

---

## HISTORICAL FICTION – READING LIST

---

**Cornwell, Bernard      The Warriors of the Storm      F COR:B**

A fragile peace governs the kingdoms of Wessex, East Anglia, under the rule of the late King Alfred's son, King Edward, and Mercia, under his daughter Aethelflaed. Uhtred, her formidable champion and greatest warrior, controls the northern parts from the strongly fortified city of Chester. But no one can prepare them for the storm that is about to descend.

---

**Cosgrove, Katerina      Bone, Ash, Sky      F COS:K**

In 1915 one million Armenians were marched into Syria by the Turks and killed in the first genocide of the twentieth century. In 1982 Beirut came under Israeli siege for three months with thousands killed. Anoush's quest for answers is interwoven with the memory of ruined cities and vanished empires: Lake Van before the genocide, Beirut in civil war, Ottoman villas and desecrated churches, Palestinian refugee camps and torture chambers turned into nightclubs.

---

**Crew, Gary      Mama's Babies      F CRE:G**

Set in the 1890's, the decade infamous for 'baby-farming', "Mama's babies" is based on fact. 12-year-old Sarah lives with her oppressive adoptive mother, a baby-farmer, who treats her as a servant, to look after the new babies. With the help of Will, a local boy, Sarah uncovers a grisly story and ensures that justice prevails.

---

**Crew, Gary      Voicing the Dead      F CRE:G**

14-year-old English-born shipwreck survivor, Jack Ireland, is captured by head-hunters and adopted by Torres Strait Islanders as the ghost of their own dead child. This novel is based on his own remarkable autobiography published in 1845.

---

**Crossley-Holland, Kevin      Arthur: the Seeing Stone      F CRO:K**

1199 and Arthur Caldicott is eager to grow up and become a knight. When he is given a black stone he discovers that he can see stories of his namesake, King Arthur. The legends of King Arthur are intertwined with the story of Arthur Caldicott's medieval life in this intriguing story.

---

**David, Kurt      Black Wolf      F DAV:K**

The heroes of this story are the boy Temujin, who becomes Genghis Khan, the True King, and his friend and sworn companion Kara-Chono, named Black Wolf.

---

**Davidson, Leon      Scarecrow Army: the ANZACs at Gallipoli      F DAV:L**

On 25 April 1915, thousands of Australians and New Zealanders landed at an unnamed cove on the Gallipoli peninsula. They had come to fight the Turks. They thought the battle would be over in three days, but months later they were still in the trenches they'd dug at the landing.

---

**Dinsdale, Robert      Little Exiles      F DIN:R**

Little Exiles tells the story of the forced child migration between Britain and Australia that took place after World War II and how this flight from home shaped the identity of a generation of children.

---



## HISTORICAL FICTION – READING LIST

---

**Edugyan, Esi**                      **Washington Black**                      **F EDU:E**  
When two English brothers take the helm of a Barbados sugar plantation, Washington Black--an eleven-year-old field slave--finds himself selected as personal servant to one of these men. To his surprise, the eccentric Christopher 'Titch' Wilde is a naturalist, explorer, inventor and abolitionist, and he wants Washington to help him create the perfect aerial machine.

---

**Ell, Sarah**                      **When the War Came Home**                      **F ELL:S**  
November, 1918, the end of the WWI and influenza is sweeping the city of Auckland. Jimmy's mother has taken his brother and sisters to the country, and Jimmy is left with his uncle to face the horrors of the epidemic. But Uncle Rory has a mysterious mission to right a wrong from the trenches of France.

---

**Ellis, Deborah**                      **A Company of Fools**                      **F ELL:D**  
Henri is a shy and solitary boy until Micah, the wild troublemaker with the voice of an angel, sweeps into his life. Micah may not know how to comb his hair, or wait his turn, but he certainly knows how to stir things up. Henri has never had such adventures. And then comes The Plague...

---

**Facey, A.B.**                      **A Fortunate Life**                      **F FAC:A**  
A book about a real Australian and how he coped with WWI. This is the autobiography of Albert Facey and tells of his early life in WA before the war and how he went on to fight at Gallipoli.

---

**Falcones, Ildefonso**                      **Cathedral of the Sea**                      **F FAL:I**  
This is a masterful epic of love, war, treason, plague, famine, witchcraft, anti-Semitism and the Inquisition. 14th-century Spain, the medieval city of Barcelona is enjoying a golden age of prosperity. Its humblest inhabitants are building, stone by stone, a magnificent church to overlook their harbour. This is the Cathedral of the Sea: a church to be built for the people by the people.

---

**Farrell, J.G.**                      **The Siege of Krishnapur**                      **F FAR:J**  
India, 1857--the year of the Great Mutiny, when Muslim soldiers turned in bloody rebellion on their British overlords. This time of convulsion is the subject of J. G. Farrell's The Siege of Krishnapur. Farrell's story is set in an isolated Victorian outpost on the subcontinent. Rumours of strife filter in from afar, and yet the members of the colonial community remain confident of their military and, above all, moral superiority.

---

**Farrer, Vashti**                      **Plagues and Federation : the Diary of Kitty Barnes**                      **F FAR:K**  
Plagues and Federation is about Kitty Barnes, a schoolgirl growing up in poverty in Adelaide. The story is set in the year 1900, before Federation. Kitty is asked by her schoolteacher to keep a diary about herself. When the plague gets to Australia the people around her start dying and the plague starts to get closer to her and her family.

---

**Forbes, Esther**                      **Johnny Tremain**                      **F FOR:E**  
This story filled with danger and excitement, tells of the turbulent, passionate times in Boston just before the Revolutionary War. Johnny, a young apprentice silversmith, is caught up in the dramatic events that lead to the Boston Tea Party and the Battle of Lexington.

---

## HISTORICAL FICTION – READING LIST

---

**Ford, Ford Madox      The Fifth Queen      F FOR:F**

The Fifth Queen is a fictionalized account of the fifth wife of England's Henry VIII, Katharine Howard. Katherine is depicted as armed only with education, wit and honesty. The plot-ridden court comes to dramatic life as everyone high and low manoeuvres for advantage. Everyone except Katherine, whose unwillingness to scheme will make her the queen and defenceless at the same time.

---

**Forester, C.S.      Lieutenant Hornblower      F FOR:C**

The second of C.S. Forester's classic seafaring adventure bestsellers featuring the intrepid hero of Nelson's navy, Horatio Hornblower.

---

**Forester, C.S.      The Ship      F FOR:C**

The one vital convoy which can break the stranglehold on Malta is intercepted in the Mediterranean by enemy warships and five light cruisers have to beat back the armed might of the Italian battle fleet.

---

**Fowles, John      The French Lieutenant's Woman      F FOW:J**

A semi-historical novel, set largely in Lyme Regis in 1867; wealthy amateur palaeontologist Charles Smithson, engaged to conventional Ernestina Freeman, falls under the spell of eccentric, sensual, apparently 'fallen' Sarah Woodruff, a lady's companion, who is believed to have been deserted by the French lover of the title.

---

**Frank, Rudolf      No Hero For the Kaiser      F FRA:R**

The story of a 14-year-old Polish boy who acted as a scout in WWI. Jan was with the Germans for two years during which he learned everything there is to know about war – far more than a war hero could ever know.

---

**Fraser, Antonia      King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table      F FRA:A**

Arthur lifts the sword from the stone and the great age of chivalry is born. To his court at Camelot flock the bravest of champions. But always lurking near is Morgan Le Fay, determined to use her evil magic to destroy Arthur ...

---

**French, Jackie      The Camel Who Crossed Australia      F FRE:J**

The story of the famous Burke and Wills expedition. The humans called him Bell Sing, but to the other camels he is known as 'He Who Spits Further Than the Wind'. Bell Sing accompanies explorers Burke and Wills as they try to cross Australia from south to north. Bell Sing has never had a high opinion of humans - or horses. And this expedition is the worst managed caravan he's ever been in.

---

**French, Jackie      The Night They Stormed Eureka      F FRE:J**

It's 1854, and the Ballarat goldfields are a place of dreams and rebellion as Sam, a homeless teenager, is called back to the past to join the Puddlehams, who run the best little cook shop on the diggings. Once again Jackie French takes a fresh look at the history we thought we knew and recreates an event entrenched in our national heritage.

---



## HISTORICAL FICTION – READING LIST

---

**Glendinning,  
Victoria**

**Electricity**

**F GLE:V**

Traces the sexual and intellectual awakening of a Victorian Englishwoman married to an electrical engineer, who becomes caught up in the excitement of the new science and the charms of a country aristocrat.

---

**Goldsworthy, Adrian** **Vindolanda**

**F GOL:V**

AD 98: The bustling army base at Vindolanda lies on the northern frontier of Britannia and the entire Roman world. In twenty years' time, the Emperor Hadrian will build his famous wall, but for now defences are weak, as tribes rebel against Roman rule, and local druids preach the fiery destruction of the invaders.

---

**Green, Roger**

**Lancelyn**

**King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table**

**F GRE:R**

From the birth of Arthur and the sword in the stone to the quest for the Holy Grail and the Last Battle at Camlann, the clash between good and evil is rich in mystery and excitement.

---

**Grenville, Kate**

**Sarah Thornhill**

**F GRE:K**

Sarah Thornhill is the youngest child of William Thornhill, convict-turned-landowner on the Hawkesbury River. She grows up in the fine house her father is so proud of, a strong-willed young woman who's certain where her future lies. She's known Jack Langland since she was a child, and always loved him. But the past is waiting in ambush with its dark legacy.

---

**Grenville, Kate**

**The Secret River**

**F GRE:K**

*Also available as an eBook.*

After a childhood of poverty and petty crime in the slums of London, William Thornhill is sentenced in 1806 to be transported to New South Wales for the term of his natural life. With his wife Sal and children in tow, he arrives in a harsh land that feels at first like a death sentence. But among the convicts there is a whisper that freedom can be bought, an opportunity to start afresh.

---

**Griffiths, Tim**

**Endurance**

**F GRI:T**

This novel tells the story of a real-life Australian hero, photographer, explorer and adventurer Frank Hurley. It is a story told through his eyes and in his words, and it reveals a tantalising portrait of the man behind the legend he has become.

---

**Haggard, H. Rider**

**King Solomon's Mines**

**F HAG:R**

They were diamond mines and chests full of uncut stones as large as pigeons' eggs. But it was not for them that the three Englishmen made their perilous expedition to the north of Durban. They went in search of a man. For him they faced the heat and flies, the long trek across waterless desert, the icy cold of the mountains.

---

**Harris, Robert**

**Conspirata: a Novel of Ancient Rome**

**F HAR:R**

On the eve of Cicero's inauguration as consul of Rome, a grisly discovery sends fear rippling through a city already racked by unrest. A young slave boy has been felled by a hammer, his throat slit and his organs removed, apparently as a human sacrifice. For Cicero, the ill omens of this hideous murder only increase his dangerous situation: elected leader by the people but despised by the heads of the two rival political camps.

---



## HISTORICAL FICTION – READING LIST

---

**Hospital, Janette  
Turner**

**The Claimant**

**F HOS:J**

Manhattan, 1996: the trial of the Vanderbilt claimant is finally coming to an end. The case - long, complex, riven with unknowns, attracting huge media and social interest - has been seeking to establish whether or not a certain man is the son of the fabulously wealthy and well-connected Vanderbilt family. The son went missing, presumed dead, while serving in the Vietnam war. There is huge fortune, prestige and status at stake.

---

**Iggulden, Conn**

**Conqueror**

**F IGG:C**

An epic tale of a great and heroic mind, his action-packed rule, and how in conquering one-fifth of the world's inhabited land, he changed the course of history forever.

---

**Iggulden, Conn**

**Emperor : Field of Swords**

**F IGG:C**

Their long friendship reveals ominous cracks under the strain. Although the Gallic conquests lead to Caesar's triumphal entry into Britain, the victories on the battlefield cause political rivalries at home, and ultimately the famous choice is presented to Caesar and Marcus Brutus. They must choose whether to cross the Rubicon - together or singly - and to take the fight to Rome itself.

---

**Iggulden, Conn**

**Stormbird**

**F IGG:C**

King Henry V - the great Lion of England - is long dead. In 1437, after years of regency, the pious and gentle Henry VI, the Lamb, comes of age and accedes to the English throne. His poor health and frailty of mind render him a weakling king - Henry depends on his closest men, Spymaster Derry Brewer and William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, to run his kingdom. Yet there are those, such as the Plantagenet Richard, Duke of York, who believe England must be led by a strong king if she is to survive.

---

**Ishiguro, Kazuo**

**The Buried Giant**

**F ISH:K**

The Romans have long since departed, and Britain is steadily declining into ruin. But at least the wars that once ravaged the country have ceased. The novel begins as a couple, Axl and Beatrice, set off across a troubled land of mist and rain in the hope of finding a son they have not seen for years. They expect to face many hazards - some strange and other-worldly - but they cannot yet foresee how their journey will reveal to them dark and forgotten corners of their love for one another.

---

**Jacq, Christian**

**Ramses: the Son of the Light**

**F JAC:C**

The story of Ramses II, the pharaoh who reigned for more than 60 years. Ramses is 14 and does not realise that his father, Sethi, is grooming him to be his successor. Ramses only has a few friends he can really trust: Will their loyalty be enough to guide him?

---

**Jinks, Catherine**

**Pagan's Crusade**

**F JIN:C**

Pagan, an orphan in twelfth century Jerusalem, becomes a squire to Roland, a Templar Knight, and a protector of Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land. For each the association is enriching. Exuberant language and earthy and irreverent humour mark Pagan's account.

---

## HISTORICAL FICTION – READING LIST

---

**Jinks, Catherine**      **A Very Peculiar Plague**      **F JIN:C**  
Eleven-year-old Jem Barbary spent most of his early life picking pockets for a canny old crook named Sarah Pickles. Now she's betrayed him, and Jem wants revenge. But Sarah has vanished, and Jem is desperate for a job. He'd like to work for bogler Alfred Bunce, who kills those child-eating monsters that lurk in the city's cellars and sewers. It's only when numerous children start disappearing around Newgate Prison that Alfred and Jem find themselves waging an underground war

---

**Jinks, Catherine**      **A Very Unusual Pursuit**      **F JIN:C**  
Monsters have been infesting London's dark places for centuries, eating every child who gets too close. That's why ten-year-old Birdie McAdam works for Alfred Bunce, the bogler. With her beautiful voice and dainty looks, Birdie is the bait that draws bogles from their lairs so that Alfred can kill them. One life-changing day, Alfred and Birdie are approached by two very different women.

---

**Keneally, Thomas**      **Napoleon's Last Island**      **F KEN:T**  
Whilst living in exile on St Helena, Napoleon exerted an extraordinary influence on young Betsy Balcombe. How did she get from Napoleon's side to the Australian bush? Betsy Balcombe as a young woman lived with her family on St Helena. They befriended, served and were ruined by their relationship with Napoleon. To redeem the family's fortunes, William Balcombe, Betsy's father, betrays Napoleon and accepts a job as the colonial treasurer of NSW, bringing his family with him.

---

**Kennett, David**      **Forest of Bones**      **F KEN:D**  
Canus is a Roman dog boy, a slave looking after the general's dog pack. Ursus belongs to the tribe that the Romans have conquered. He hates Romans. The two boys share a love for a wild animal of the forest, but this bond will be tested by the terrible events that are about to unfold. An exciting illustrated story about two boys, an unlikely friendship and a wild wolf.

---

**Kent, Hannah**      **The Good People**      **F KEN:H**  
In the year 1825, in a remote valley lying between the mountains of south-west Ireland, three women are brought together by strange and troubling events. Nora Leahy has lost her daughter and her husband in the same year, and is now burdened with the care of her four-year-old grandson, Michael. The boy cannot walk, or speak, and Nora, mistrustful of the tongues of gossips, has kept the child hidden from those who might see in his deformity evidence of otherworldly interference.

---

**Kristof, Agota**      **The Notebook Trilogy. The Notebook, The Proof, The Third Lie**      **F KRI:A**  
Claus and Lucas are twins. Their new life begins when they are left with their grandmother, the 'Witch', in a village in an occupied country. It's wartime. Their angelic looks are deceiving. They are implacable, dangerously ethical; what motivates them is a deeply embedded morality of absolute need. The trilogy - The Notebook, The Proof and The Third Lie - follows their stories from the Second World War, through the years of communism and into a fractured Europe.

---

## HISTORICAL FICTION – READING LIST

---

**Laird, Elizabeth      Crusade      F LAI:E**

Two boys - two faiths - one unholy war. In the service of a knight, Adam grabs the chance to join the Crusade to reclaim Jerusalem. Salim, a merchant's son, is leading an uneventful life in the port of Acre - until news arrives that a Crusader attack is imminent. Salim, works as a doctor's apprentice- but his employment leads him to the heart of Sultan Saladin's camp - and into battle against the barbaric and unholy invaders.

---

**Larbalestier, Justine      Razorhurst      F LAR:J**

The setting: 1932, Razorhurst. Two competing mob bosses - Gloriana Nelson and Mr Davidson - have reached a fragile peace. Kelpie knows the dangers of the Sydney streets. Ghosts have kept her alive, steering her to food and safety, but they are also her torment. Dymphna is Gloriana Nelson's 'best girl'. When Dymphna meets Kelpie over the corpse of Jimmy Palmer, Dymphna's latest boyfriend, she pronounces herself Kelpie's new protector.

---

**Lawrence, Caroline      The Thieves of Ostia      F LAW:C**

Ostia, the port of Rome, 79AD. The theft of her father's signet ring leads Flavia Gemina, a Roman sea captain's daughter to three extraordinary people - Jonathan the Jewish boy next door, Nubia the African slave girl, and Lupus the mute beggar boy - who become her friends. Together they embark on a thrilling adventure.

---

**Leine, Kim      Prophets of Eternal Fjord      F LEI:K**

Idealistic, misguided Morten Falck is a newly ordained priest sailing to Greenland in 1787 to convert the Inuit to the Danish church. A rugged outpost battered by harsh winters, Sukkertoppen is overshadowed by the threat of dissent; natives from neighbouring villages have united to reject Danish rule and establish their own settlement atop Eternal Fjord. As Falck becomes involved with those in his care - his ambitious catechist, a lonely trader's wife, and a fatalistic widow he comes to love - his faith and reputation are dangerously called into question.

---

**Levy, Andrea      The Long Song      F LEV:A**

The novel is set in Jamaica during the last turbulent years of slavery and the early years of freedom that followed.

---

**Lingard, Joan      Tug of War      F LIN:J**

Astra and Hugo Peterson, 14-year-old twins, are fleeing from the advancing Russian army to join the endless horde of displaced persons being shunted at random across Europe. When Hugo becomes injured and separated from his family, the story traces their experiences until at last they are reunited, four years later.

---

**Lowry, Lois      Number the Stars      F LOW:L**

When Ellen Rosen's family is threatened with 'relocation' in occupied Denmark during World War II, she is taken in by the Johansen family who pretend that she is one of their own children. The entire Rosen family is later helped to safety in Sweden by the Johansens and the Danish Resistance.

---

**Magorian, Michelle      Goodnight Mister Tom      F MAG:M**

It is the beginning of WWII in England when 9-year-old Willie is evacuated from London to the country and is 'assigned' to crusty old Tom. Gradually we learn of the horror of his life back in London with a cruel, fanatically religious mother. Extremely moving account of their growing relationship.

---

## HISTORICAL FICTION – READING LIST

---

**Manfredi, Valerio**

**Massimo**

**The Oath (Odysseus Series)**

**F MAN:V**

As a young boy in Ithaca, Odysseus listens in wonder to his grandfather Autolykos – a ruthless fighter and a man feared by many across the land. He learns of his heritage and a lifelong passion is sparked to become an adventurer and warrior.

---

**Mankell, Henning**

**A Treacherous Paradise**

**F MAN:H**

In 1904 Hanna Lundmark escapes the brutal poverty of rural Sweden for a job as a cook on board a steamship headed for Australia. On the voyage she finds love in the form of the ship's mate, whom she marries. But disaster strikes when her husband is struck down by a fatal illness while the ship is docked on the East African coast. Jumping ship at the port of Louren o Marques, Hanna decides to begin her life anew.

---

**Mantel, Hilary**

**Bring Up the Bodies**

**F MAN:H**

This sequel to Hilary Mantel's 2009 Man Booker Prize winner, *Wolf Hall*, delves into the heart of Tudor history with the downfall of Anne Boleyn. Though he battled for seven years to marry her, Henry is disenchanted with Anne Boleyn. She has failed to give him a son and her sharp intelligence and audacious will alienate his old friends and the noble families of England.

---

**Mantel, Hilary**

**Place of Greater Safety**

**F MAN:H**

It is 1789, and three young provincials have come to Paris to make their way. Georges-Jacques Danton, an ambitious young lawyer, is energetic, pragmatic, debt-ridden--and hugely but erotically ugly. Maximilien Robespierre, also a lawyer, is slight, diligent, and terrified of violence. His dearest friend, Camille Desmoulins, is a conspirator and pamphleteer of genius. A charming gadfly, erratic and untrustworthy, bisexual and beautiful, Camille is obsessed by one woman and engaged to marry another, her daughter. In the swells of revolution, they each taste the addictive delights of power, and the price that must be paid for it.

---

**Marsden, John**

**South of Darkness**

**F MAR:J**

Thirteen-year-old Barnaby Fletch is a bag-and-bones orphan in London in the late 1700s. Barnaby lives on his wits and ill-gotten gains, on streets seething with the press of the throng and shadowed by sinister figures. Life is a precarious business. When he hears of a paradise on the other side of the world - a place called Botany Bay - he decides to commit a crime and get himself transported to a new life, a better life.

---

**Martin, Valerie**

**The Ghost of the Mary Celeste**

**F MAR:V**

A mystery unsolved to this day. A mystic who confounds the cynics. A writer looking for the story that will make his name. A ghost ship appears in the mist. To the struggling author Arthur Conan Doyle, it is an inspiration. To Violet Petra, the gifted American psychic, it is a cruel reminder. To the death-obsessed Victorian public, it is a fascinating distraction. And to one family, tied to the sea for generations, it is a tragedy.

---

**Mayo, Catherine**

**Murder at Mykenai**

**F MAY:C**

Friendship vs. Treachery in Ancient Greece, a decade before the Trojan War. Menelaos, teenage son of the assassinated High King of Greece, is skidding ever deeper into danger. Odysseus, his best friend, tries to help - but Odysseus's great ideas have a tendency to backfire.

---

## HISTORICAL FICTION – READING LIST

---

**McCormick, Patricia      Never Fall Down: a Novel**

**F MCC:P**

Eleven-year-old Arn is walking through the countryside in Cambodia. His whole town is walking with him. They're walking into one of the most tragic moments of history: the Killing Fields. Music will save him. Hope, luck and kindness will save him. This is his story. Based on the true story of Arn Chorn-Pond, this is an achingly raw and powerful novel about a child of war who becomes a man of peace.

---

**Meloy, Maile              The Apothecary**

**F MEL: M**

A mysterious apothecary. A magic book. A missing scientist. An impossible plan. Benjamin's father is no ordinary apothecary, and when he's kidnapped, Benjamin and Janie find themselves entrusted with his sacred book, the Pharmacopoeia. And it seems that Russian spies are intent on getting their hands on it. What secrets does the book contain? Who is the Chinese chemist Jin Lo? And can they trust a skinny pickpocket called Pip to help them?

---

**Mitchell, David          The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet**

**F MIT:D**

The year is 1799, the place Dejima in Nagasaki Harbour, the Japanese Empire's single port and sole window onto the world, designed to keep the West at bay. To this place of devious merchants, deceitful interpreters, and costly courtesans comes Jacob de Zoet, a devout young clerk who has five years in the East to earn a fortune of sufficient size to win the hand of his wealthy fiancée back in Holland.

---

**Modiano, Patrick        Suspended Sentences : Three Novellas**

**F MOD:P**

In this trilogy of novellas by the winner of the 2014 Nobel Prize in Literature, French author Patrick Modiano reaches back in time, opening the corridors of memory and exploring the mysteries to be encountered there. Although originally published separately, Modiano's three novellas form a single, compelling whole, haunted by the same gauzy sense of place and characters.

---

**Moggach, Deborah      Tulip Fever**

**F MOG:D**

Seventeenth-century Amsterdam is a city in the grip of tulip mania, basking in the wealth it has generated. Sophia's husband Cornelis, an ageing merchant, is among those grown rich from this exotic new flower. To celebrate, he commissions a talented young artist to paint him with his young bride. But as the portrait grows, so does the passion between Sophia and the painter; and as ambitions, desires and dreams breed an intricate deception, their reckless gamble propels their lives towards a thrilling and tragic conclusion.

---

**Morgan, Michelle        Flying Through Clouds**

**F MOR:M**

It's not easy being a teenage boy growing up in the tough neighbourhood of Glebe in the 1930s. It's even harder when your dream is to become an aviator, your parents are dead against it, and your girlfriend's father is the School Principal. But Joe has even bigger challenges he must face and obstacles to overcome in order to achieve his dream. He has come up with a plan and won't let anyone stand in his way.

---

**Mosley, Walter          47**

**F MOS:W**

Number Forty-Seven, a fourteen-year-old slave boy growing up under the watchful eye of a brutal master in 1832, meets the mysterious Tall John, who introduces him to a magical science and also teaches him the meaning of freedom.

---

## HISTORICAL FICTION – READING LIST

---

**Motion, Andrew**                      **Wainwright the Poisoner**                      **F MOT:A**

Thomas Griffiths Wainwright was the toast of the Romantic world, an artist, painter and writer. He was universally known for his kindness and good nature - until three of his relatives died in suspiciously similar circumstances. The author evokes Wainwright the poisoner's double life in a biography that takes the form of a confession. He strips away the layers of legend and restores Wainwright to his own voice, capturing his energy, charm, callousness.

---

**Oldham, June**                      **The Raven Waits**                      **F OLD:J**

The Scylding kingdom has been terrorised for 12 long years. Nightly visitations from the monster, Grendel, have seen its mightiest warriors devoured, its people crippled, and its king immobilized by guilt and grief. The king's son, Hrethric, can see no hope until the coming of Beowulf.

---

**Orlev, Uri**                      **The Man From the Other Side**                      **F ORL:U**

Living on the outskirts of the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II, fourteen-year-old Marek and his grandparents shelter a Jewish man in the days before the Jewish uprising.

---

**Palmer, Tony**                      **The Valley of Blood and Gold**                      **F PAL:T**

1854, and Ballarat is teeming with miners, dreamers and rebels. On the eve of the Eureka Stockade battle, Fintan Donovan is fighting private battles of his own. Torn between his Irish upbringing and his friendship with an English boy called Matthew Ward, Fintan must make a stand.

---

**Park, Ruth**                      **Playing Beatie Bow**                      **F PAR:R**

A young girl living in Sydney's "Rocks" area is transported through time from the 20th to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

---

**Parris, S.J.**                      **Treachery**                      **F PAR:S**

August, 1583. Giordano Bruno, a heretic fleeing the Inquisition, finds a new life working as a spy for Sir Francis Walsingham. Along with his friend, Sir Philip Sidney, Bruno travels to Plymouth on the Queen's behalf. There, they meet Sir Francis Drake, who is preparing to launch a daring expedition against the Spanish, which could turn the tide of war. Unbeknownst to Bruno, however, Sidney plans to stowaway with Drake's fleet and return a hero - dragging Bruno with him to the New World.

---

**Pears, Iain**                      **An Instance of the Fingerpost**                      **F PEA:I**

*Also available as an eBook.*

Set in Oxford in the 1660s, this remarkable novel centres around a young woman, Sarah Blundy, who stands accused of the murder of Robert Grove, a fellow of New College. Four witnesses describe the events surrounding his death. Each one tells their version of what happened but only one reveals the extraordinary truth.

---

**Perry, Anne**                      **Long Spoon Lane**                      **F PER:A**

Early one morning, two bombs explode in an East London street. Thomas Pitt of the Special Branch arrives in time to chase the bombers to a run-down tenement in Long Spoon Lane. There, two men are arrested and one shot dead - but who and where is the killer?

---

## HISTORICAL FICTION – READING LIST

---

**Powell, Anthony**      **A Dance to the Music of Time : Spring : a Question of Upbringing : a Buyer's Market : the Acceptance World**      **F POW:A**  
Anthony Powell's brilliant twelve novel sequence chronicles the lives of over three hundred characters, and is a unique evocation of life in twentieth-century England.

---

**Prose, Francine**      **Lovers at the Chameleon Club, Paris 1932**      **F PRO:F**  
Paris in the 1920s. It is a city of intoxicating ambition, passion, art, and discontent, where louche jazz venues like the Chameleon Club draw expats, artists, libertines, and parvenus looking to indulge their true selves. It is at the Chameleon where the striking Lou Villars, an extraordinary athlete and scandalous cross-dressing lesbian, finds refuge among the club's loyal denizens.

---

**Proulx, E. Annie**      **Barkskins**      **F PRO:A**  
In the late seventeenth century two penniless young Frenchmen, Rene Sel and Charles Duquet, arrive in New France. Bound to a feudal lord, a "seigneur," for three years in exchange for land, they become wood-cutters - barkskins. Rene suffers extraordinary hardship, oppressed by the forest he is charged with clearing. He is forced to marry a Mi'kmaw woman and their descendants live trapped between two inimical cultures.

---

**Pulman, Felicity**      **The Once and Future Camelot**      **Available as an eBook**  
They would do anything to be reunited with those they love, even if it means traveling beyond the boundaries of the world as we know it. Two women, living almost a thousand years apart, are experiencing the same catastrophic visions of the future. But these are not two ordinary women. They are descended from Morgana le Fay, and they have access to a magic that can stop this future from coming to pass – if they can trust it, and trust themselves.

---

**Rai, Bali**      **The Night Run**      **F RAI:B**  
Amritsar, India, 1919. A city on the verge of meltdown, as tensions between the local people and the British colonial rulers explode. 12-year-old Arjan Singh learns that his father has been falsely charged with serious crimes and faces hanging.

---

**Ray, Kalyan**      **No Country**      **F RAY:K**  
In November 1989 an immigrant couple are discovered murdered in a small town in upstate New York. They lie together as though just disengaged from a long embrace. These killings have been two centuries in the making.

---

**Reilly, Matthew**      **The Tournament**      **F REI:M**  
*Also available as an eBook.*  
The year is 1546. Suleiman the Magnificent, the powerful and feared Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, issues an invitation to every king in Europe: you are invited to send your finest player to compete in a chess tournament to determine the champion of the known world.

---

**Renault, Mary**      **The King Must Die**      **F REN:M**  
A classic recreation of Theseus' adventures bringing to life the world, legends and heroes of ancient Greece. The journey of the famous mythological warrior and king takes him from Athens to King Minos' labyrinth in Knossos, where he defeats the fabled half-man, half-bull Minotaur, devourer of sacrificial human flesh.

---

## HISTORICAL FICTION – READING LIST

---

**Richter, Hans Peter Friedrich**

**F RIC:H**

This is an account of WWII from the other side, and gives an idea of what it was like to be a young German, especially if your best friend was a Jew. Gives an 'insider's view of the horror of the Nazis.

---

**Rollins, David Field of Mars: the Complete Novel**

**Available as an eBook**

In Crassus the tyrant, Rufinius the soldier, Appias the historian, Mena the hag and Lucia the Golden Whore, David Rollins brings to life a mystery that has plagued historians for centuries. The only constant in this world is Mars, the god of war, and who he will favour is anyone's guess.

---

**Ruges, Eugen In Times of Fading Light : the Story of a Family**

**F RUG:E**

In Times of Fading Light begins in 2001 as Alexander Umnitzer, who has just been diagnosed with terminal cancer, leaves behind his ailing father to fly to Mexico, where his grandparents lived as exiles in the 1940s. The novel then takes us both forward and back in time, creating a panoramic view of the family's history: from Alexander's grandparents' return to the GDR to build the socialist state to his father's decade spent in a Gulag for criticising the Soviet regime to his son's desire to leave the political struggles of the twentieth century in the past.

---

**Rushdie, Salman Shame: a Novel**

**F RUS:S**

Omar Khayyam Shakil had three mothers who shared the symptoms of pregnancy, as they did everything else, inseparably. At their six breasts, Omar was warned against all feelings and nuances of shame. It was training which would prove useful when he left his mothers' fortress (via the dumb-waiter) to face his shameless future. A captivating fairy-tale, devastating political satire and exquisite, uproarious entertainment.

---

**Rutherford, Alex Empire of the Moghul : Ruler of the World**

**F RUT:A**

The story of the third great Moghul Emperor, Akbar, leader of a triumphant dynasty which contained the seeds of its own destruction. Akbar, ruler of a sixth of the world's people, colossally rich and utterly ruthless, was a contemporary of Elizabeth I, but infinitely more powerful. His reign began in bloodshed when he strangled his treacherous 'milk-brother', but it ended in glory.

---

**Rutherford, Edward London : the Novel**

**F RUT:E**

A sweeping novel of London, spanning 2,000 years. Rutherford brings the city's history alive through the ever-shifting fortunes, fates, and intrigues of half-a-dozen families, from the age of Julius Caesar to the 20th century.

---

**Rutherford, Edward New York : the Novel**

**F RUT:E**

Edward Rutherford celebrates America's greatest city in a rich, engrossing saga, weaving together tales of families rich and poor, native-born and immigrant—a cast of fictional and true characters whose fates rise and fall and rise again with the city's fortunes.

---

**Rutherford, Edward Paris**

**F RUT:E**

Inspired by the haunting, passionate story of the city of lights, this epic novel weaves a tale of four families across the centuries: from the lies that spawn the noble line of de Cygne to the revolutionary Le Sourds who seek their destruction; from the Blanchards whose bourgeois respectability offers scant protection against scandal to the hard-working Gascons and their soaring ambitions.

---

## HISTORICAL FICTION – READING LIST

---

**Rutherford, Edward      Sarum : the novel of England      F RUT:E**

Sarum is an epic novel that traces the entire turbulent course of English history. This rich tapestry weaves a compelling saga of five families who preserve their own particular characteristics over the centuries, and offer a fascinating glimpse into the future.

---

**Sansom, C.J.      Dominion      F SAN:C**

1952. Twelve years have passed since Churchill lost to the appeasers and Britain surrendered to Nazi Germany after Dunkirk. As the long German war against Russia rages on in the east, the British people find themselves under dark authoritarian rule: the press, radio and television are controlled; the streets patrolled by violent auxiliary police and British Jews face ever greater constraints.

---

**Sansom, C.J.      Heartstone      F SAN:C**

Summer, 1545. England is at war. Henry VIII's invasion of France has gone badly wrong, and a massive French fleet is preparing to sail across the Channel. As the English fleet gathers at Portsmouth, the country raises the largest militia army it has ever seen.

---

**Sansom, C.J.      Lamentation      F SAN:C**

Summer, 1546. King Henry VIII is slowly, painfully dying. His Protestant and Catholic councillors are engaged in a final and decisive power struggle; whoever wins will control the government of Henry's successor, eight-year-old Prince Edward. As heretics are hunted across London, and the radical Protestant Anne Askew is burned at the stake, the Catholic party focus their attack on Henry's sixth wife, Matthew Shardlake's old mentor, Queen Catherine Parr.

---

**Scarrow, Simon      The Blood Crows      F SCA:S**

For nearly ten years, the Roman Empire has fought ceaselessly to strengthen its hold over Britannia. But opposition from native tribes led by the ruthless warrior Caratacus threatens to destroy everything. Prefect Cato and Centurion Macro are summoned by Governor Ostorius to Londinium. Tasked with leading a newly formed cavalry cohort into the heartland of Wales, they must destroy the growing resistance.

---

**Scarrow, Simon      Gladiator: Son of Spartacus      F SCA:S**

Free from slavery, Marcus is determined to find and save his kidnapped mother. Meanwhile his master, Julius Caesar, wants Marcus to help destroy the bands of rebel slaves and their leader, Brixus, who plans to unite a slave army and resurrect the cause of Spartacus. But Marcus and Brixus are old allies who share a life-threatening secret.

---

**Scarrow, Simon      Sword and Scimitar      F SCA:S**

1565, Malta: a vital outpost between the divided nations of Europe and the relentlessly expanding Ottoman Empire. Faced with ferocious attack by a vast Turkish fleet, the knights of the Order of St John fear annihilation. Amongst those called to assist is disgraced veteran Sir Thomas Barrett. Loyalty and instinct compel him to put the Order above all other concerns, yet his allegiance is divided.

---

## HISTORICAL FICTION – READING LIST

---

**Scutt, Craig**                      **Mary Bryant : the Impossible Escape**                      **364.15 BRY**

At 20 years old, Mary Bryant was sentenced to death for highway robbery, and left to rot in prison. Eventually she was transported to the wilderness of New South Wales. When the first Fleet arrived at Sydney Cove in 1788, a life of misery and servitude awaited her. Three years later Mary escaped.

---

**Setchfield, Nick**                      **The War in the Dark**                      **F SET:N**

Europe 1963. When the assassination of a traitor trading with the enemy goes terribly wrong, British Intelligence agent Christopher Winter must flee London. In a tense alliance with a lethal, mysterious woman named Karina Lazarova, he's caught in a quest for hidden knowledge from centuries before, an occult secret written in a language of fire.

---

**Seton, Anya**                      **Katherine**                      **F SET:A**

Katherine comes to the court of Edward III at the age of fifteen. The naive convent-educated orphan of a penniless knight is dazzled by the jousts and the entertainments of court. Nevertheless, Katherine is beautiful, and she turns the head of the King's favourite son, John of Gaunt. But he is married, and she is soon to be betrothed.

---

**Shabazz, Ilyasah;**  
**Magoon, Kekla**                      **X : a Novel**                      **F SHA:I**

Co-written by Malcolm X's daughter, this riveting and revealing novel follows the formative years of the man whose words and actions shook the world.

---

**Shah, Bina**                      **A Season for Martyrs**                      **F SHA:B**

Ali Sikandar is assigned to cover the arrival of Benazir Bhutto, the opposition leader who has returned home to Karachi after eight years of exile to take part in the presidential race. Already eager to leave for college in the U.S. and marry his forbidden Hindu girlfriend, Ali loses a friend in a horrific explosion and finds himself swept up in events larger than his individual struggle for identity and love when he joins the People's Resistance Movement, a group that opposes President Musharraf.

---

**Southall, Ivan**                      **The Golden Goose**                      **F SOU:I**

Australia 1850 and 13-year-old Custard has been kidnapped by Preacher Tom's sons because they believe he can divine the presence of gold. A tense, passionate frontier novel, the stuff legends are made of.

---

**Spufford, Francis**                      **Golden Hill**                      **F SPU:F**

New York, a small town on the tip of Manhattan Island, 1746. One rainy evening, a charming and handsome young stranger fresh off the boat from England pitches up to a counting house on Golden Hill Street, with a suspicious yet compelling proposition -- he has an order for a thousand pounds in his pocket that he wishes to cash. But can he be trusted?

---

**Starr, Kimberley**                      **The Book of Whispers**                      **F STA: K**

Tuscany, 1096 AD. Luca, young heir to the title of Conte de Falconi, sees demons. Since no one else can see them, Luca must keep quiet about what he sees, or risk another exorcism by the nefarious priest Ramberti. Luca also has dreams - dreams that sometimes predict the future. Night after night Luca sees his father murdered, and vows to stop it coming true. Even if he has to go against his father's wishes and follow him on the great pilgrimage to capture the Holy Lands.

---

## HISTORICAL FICTION – READING LIST

---

**Sutcliff, Rosemary      The Eagle of the Ninth      F SUT:R**

When a man's father has disappeared together with an entire legion, and is accused of cowardice, it is natural that his son should want to reclaim his honour. So Marcus embarks on the perilous journey north of Hadrian's Wall, hoping not only to solve a mystery but rediscover the famous Eagle, symbol of the Legion's honour.

---

**Taylor, Andrew      The Scent of Death      F TAY:A**

August, 1778. British-controlled Manhattan is a melting pot of soldiers, traitors and refugees, surrounded by rebel forces as the American War of Independence rages on. Into this simmering tension sails Edward Savill, a London clerk tasked with assessing the claims of loyalists who have lost out during the war. Savill lodges with the ageing Judge Wintour, his ailing wife, and their enigmatic daughter-in-law, Arabella. However, as Savill soon learns, what the Wintours have lost in wealth, they have gained in secrets.

---

**Taylor, D.J.      Kept: a Victorian Mystery      F TAY:D**

When Henry Ireland dies unexpectedly from what appears to be a riding accident in August 1863, the failed landowner leaves behind little save his high-strung young widow, Isabel--who somehow ends up in the home of Ireland's friend, James Dixey. A celebrated naturalist, Dixey collects strange trophies in his secluded, decaying manse and has questionable associations with rather unsavoury characters--including a pair of thuggish poachers named Dewar and Dunbar.

---

**Tellkamp, Uwe      The Tower : Tales From a Lost Country      F TEL:U**

In derelict Dresden a cultivated, middle-class family does all it can to cope amid the Communist downfall. This striking tapestry of the East German experience is told through the tangled lives of a soldier, surgeon, nurse and publisher. With evocative detail, Uwe Tellkamp masterfully reveals the myriad perspectives of the time as people battled for individuality, retreated to nostalgia, chose to conform, or toed the perilous line between East and West.

---

**Tey, Josephine      The Daughter of Time      F TEY:J**

Josephine Tey's classic novel about Richard III, the hunchback king, whose remains were recently discovered. The Daughter of Time investigates his role in the death of his nephews, the princes in the Tower, and his own death on the battlefield.

---

**Thomson, Rupert      Secrecy      F THO:R**

Commissioned by the Grand Duke to sculpt a life-size Venus from wax, Zummo scours the streets for inspiration. But 1690s Florence is a place of unforeseen dangers and secrets still more devastating than his own, and when a young woman's body is found on the banks of the Arno, Zummo suspects that the source of vice has its bed in the Medici court.

---

**Thompson, Kate      The Alchemist's Apprentice      F THO:K**

Jack is on the run. Alone in the world with nowhere to turn, he finds a strange object floating in the Thames. Then he meets Barnstable, an alchemist who only adds to Jack's perplexity. Dramatic events escalate and Jack's fortunes change beyond all expectation. Has the alchemist really discovered the secret of making gold?

---



