

Historical Fiction

What is Historical Fiction?

“Historical fiction presents a story set in the past, often during a significant time period. In historical fiction, the time period is an important part of the setting and often of the story itself.

Historical fiction may include fictional characters, well-known historical figures or a mixture of the two. Authors of historical fiction usually pay close attention to the details of their stories (settings, clothing, dialogue, etc.) to ensure that they fit the time periods in which the narratives take place.” - Definition from Goodreads.

Historical Fiction Authors

- Jean Auel – Prehistory
- Geraldine Brooks – Literary
- Tracy Chevalier – Literary
- Bernard Cornwell – War/Action
- Margaret George – Fictional biographies
- Phillipa Gregory - Tudor
- Julie Klassen – Inspirational/Christian
- Louis L’Amour – Westerns
- Julia Quinn - Romance
- Edward Rutherfurd – Epics
- Lisa See – Chinese/Asian history
- Susan Vreeland – Art-inspired
- Colson Whitehead – African-American

Annotated Lists

- **15 Incredible Historical Fiction Novels Inspired by True Stories** - <https://www.toledolibrary.org/blog/15-incredible-historical-fiction-novels-inspired-by-true-stories>
- **17 Historical Fiction Books That Will Immerse You in a Different Era** - <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/ariannarebolini/historical-fiction-books-goodreads-quarantine-reading>
- **25 Best Historical Fiction Books to Take You Back in Time** - <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/entertainment/g35904358/best-historical-fiction-books/>
- **30 Historical Fiction Novels for Your Reading Bucket List** – <https://www.mindjoggle.com/historical-fiction-reading-bucket-list/>
- **50 of the Best Historical Fiction Books** - <https://bookriot.com/best-historical-fiction-books/>

Podcasts:

- **Historical Fiction: Unpacked** - <http://alisontrat.com/unpacked/>
- **Historical Happy Hour** - <https://feeds.buzzsprout.com/1712779>
- **History Through Fiction** - <https://www.historythroughfiction.com/podcast>
- **Reading with Libraries** - <https://cmle.org/episode-604-historical-fiction/>

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Attendee Recommendations

- *Alice Network* by Kate Quinn
- Author Amy Tan
- *Beneath the Scarlet Sky* by Mark T. Sullivan
- *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys
- *Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
- *Brooklyn* by Colm Tóibín
- *Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka
- *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *The Children's Blizzard* by Melanie Benjamin
- *The Essex Serpent* by Peter Dyer
- *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell
- *Honolulu* (and other books set in Hawaii) by Allen Brennert
- *Illuminations* by Mary Sharratt
- Author Jeffrey Archer
- *Juliet* by Anne Fortier
- Author Kate Morton
- *Last Garden in England* by Julia Kelley
- *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly
- The *Maisy Dobbs* series by Jacqueline Winspear
- *Middlemarch* by George Eliot
- *Paper Wife* by Laila Ibrahim
- The *Poldark* books by Winston Graham
- *Revelations* by Mary Sharratt