

Historical Fiction

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[*In the Time of Butterflies*, by Julia Alvarez](#)

Set during the waning days of the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic in 1960, this extraordinary novel tells the story of the Mirabal sisters, three young wives and mothers who are assassinated after visiting their jailed husbands.

[*Strings Attached*, by Judy Blundell](#)

When Kit Corrigan arrives in New York City, she doesn't have much. She's fled from her family in Providence, Rhode Island, and she's broken off her tempestuous relationship with a boy named Billy, who's enlisted in the army. The city doesn't exactly welcome her with open arms. She gets a bit part as a chorus girl in a Broadway show, but she knows that's not going to last very long. She needs help--and then it comes, from an unexpected source.

[*What I Saw and How I Lied*, by Judy Blundell](#)

Murder and intrigue surround a girl in this mystery set in America in the aftermath of WWII. When Evie's father returned home from World War II, the family fell back into its normal life pretty quickly. But Joe Spooner brought more back with him than just good war stories. When movie-star handsome Peter Coleridge, a young ex-GI who served in Joe's company in postwar Austria, shows up, Evie is suddenly caught in a complicated web of lies that she only slowly recognizes. She finds herself falling for Peter, ignoring the secrets that surround him . . . until a tragedy occurs that shatters her family and breaks her life in two.

[*The Girl with the Pearl Earring*, by Tracy Chevalier](#)

In seventeenth-century Delft, there's a strict social order and all know their place. When Griet becomes a maid in the household of the painter Johannes Vermeer, she thinks she knows her role: housework, laundry, and the care of his six children. Griet's quiet manner, quick perceptions, and fascination with her master's paintings draw her inexorably into his world. Their growing intimacy sparks whispers; and when Vermeer paints her wearing his wife's pearl earrings, the gossip escalates into a scandal that irrevocably changes Griet's life.

[*Northern Light*, by Jennifer Donnelly](#)

Sixteen-year-old Mattie Gokey has big dreams but little hope of seeing them come true. Desperate for money, she takes a job at the Glenmore, where hotel guest Grace Brown entrusts her with the task of burning a secret bundle of letters. But when Grace's drowned body is fished from the lake, Mattie discovers that the letters could reveal the grim truth behind a murder.

[*Auslander*, by Paul Dowswell](#)

When Peter's parents are killed, he is sent to an orphanage in Warsaw, Poland. But Peter is Volksdeutscher--of German blood, with blond hair and blue eyes; he looks just like the boy on the Hitler Youth poster. Peter is adopted into a prominent German household but despite his new "family," Peter feels like a foreigner--an *ausländer*--and he is forming his own ideas about what he sees and what he's told. He doesn't want to be a Nazi. So he takes a risk--the most dangerous one he could possibly choose in 1942 Berlin.

[*Troy*, by Adele Geras](#)

Told from the point of view of the women of Troy, portrays the last weeks of the Trojan War, when women are sick of tending the wounded, men are tired of fighting, and bored gods and goddesses find ways to stir things up.

[*Incantation*, by Alice Hoffman](#)

During the Spanish Inquisition, sixteen-year-old Estrella, brought up a Catholic, discovers her family's true Jewish identity, and when their secret is betrayed by Estrella's best friend, the consequences are tragic.

[*Resistance*, by Carla Jablonski](#)

Paul and Marie's bucolic French town is almost untouched by the ravages of WWII. When the Jewish parents of their friend Henri disappear, and Henri goes into hiding, Paul and Marie realize they must take a stand.

[*Edenville Owls*, by Robert Parker](#)

Fourteen-year-old Bobby, living in a small Massachusetts town just after World War II, finds himself facing many new challenges as he tries to pull together his coachless basketball team, cope with new feelings for his old friend Joanie, and discover the identity of the mysterious stranger who seems to be threatening his teacher.

[*Death and Arrow*, by Chris Priestly](#)

After his friend Will, a pickpocket in London in 1715, is murdered as part of a series of mysterious deaths, fifteen-year-old Tom Marlowe asks his friend Dr. Harker to help find the killer.

[*Dust*, by Arthur Slade](#)

Eleven-year-old Robert is the only one who can help when a mysterious stranger arrives, performing tricks and promising to bring rain, at the same time children begin to disappear from a dust bowl farm town in Saskatchewan in the 1930s.

[*Code Name Verity*, Elizabeth Wein](#)

In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage as she relates what she must do to survive while keeping secret all that she can.

[*Old School*, by Tobias Wolff](#)

Determined to fit in at his New England prep school, the narrator has learned to mimic his adoptive tribe while concealing himself. His final year unravels everything he's achieved, and steers his destiny in unpredicted directions. The school's mystique is rooted in Literature, and for many boys this becomes an obsession, editing the review and competing for the attention of visiting writers. Robert Frost, soon to appear at JFK's inauguration, is far less controversial than the next visitor, Ayn Rand. But the final guest is one whose blessing a young writer would do almost anything to gain.