

HISTORICAL FICTION in Large Print

Paths of Glory by *Jeffrey Archer*

Paths of Glory is a fictional account of George Mallory, who once told a reporter that he wanted to climb Mt. Everest “because it’s there.” On his third attempt in 1924, he was last seen six hundred feet from the top. His body was found in 1999, and it still remains a mystery whether he ever reached the summit. This is a novel about a courageous man who followed his dream. He may have achieved it, but we may never know.

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

Chinese American Henry Lee is filled with poignant memories from World War II when he happens upon the opening of an old Seattle building. It’s filled with the belongings of World War II Japanese Americans. When the new owner opens a Japanese parasol, the memories of that time flood back.

Grave Goods: Mistress of the Art of Death Novel by *Ariana Franklin*

A fascinating historical novel set in 12th Century Wales. The setting: Glastonbury Abbey-1176. After a recent fire at the abbey two skeletons are uncovered. Could they be the remains of King Arthur and his Queen? King Henry II calls on Adelia Aguilar, Mistress of the Art of Death to investigate. She rides to Glastonbury where the Bishop of St. Albans will oversee the investigation.

The Color of Lightning by *Paulette Jiles*

This novel examines the relations between settlers and Indians just after the Civil War. Brit Johnson, a newly freed slave, decides to move his wife and children out west in search of a future. When tragedy strikes, he vows to never give up searching for his loved ones. Samuel Hammond decides to reach out to the Indians as an Indian Agent only to find that the people he tries to help scoff and deride his efforts. A magnificent novel based on true events.

The Independence of Miss Mary Bennet by *Colleen McCullough*

Based on the story of sisters Elizabeth and Jane Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*, Our story follows the life of Mary, who is their mother’s caretaker until she passes away. Freed from her circumstances, Mary plunges from one predicament to another, finding long-buried secrets, unexpected dangers, and unlooked-for love.

Anne of Green Gables by *Lucy Maud Montgomery*

One of the most beloved novels ever written about Anne, and eleven year old orphan who is sent by mistake to live with a middle-aged brother and sister. With her indomitable spirit, Anne wins the love of her foster family and makes an indelible impression on everyone she meets. This is a wonderful story about growing up in the maritime provinces of Canada.

The Last Secret by *Mary McCarry Morris*

This novel explores the consequences of one family's crimes of the heart. Nora Hammond has it all: family, great job, and privileged life. But it could all unravel when she discovers her husband's infidelity and her own terrifying past.

The Help by *Kathryn Stockett* (Bestseller)

This is a story set in the Mississippi of the 1960s. Aibileen is the black maid who is raising Skeeter, a white college coed recently returned from "Ole Miss". Her mother can't wait to get her properly married off. In the meantime, Aibileen, wise and regal and her best friend Minny, who can't keep a job, continue to work on Skeeter.

Land of Marvels by *Barry Unsworth*

Barry Unsworth has the extraordinary ability to re-create the past and make it relevant to contemporary readers. In this historical thriller set in 1914, he brings to life the schemes and double-dealings of Western nations grappling for a foothold in Mesopotamia (now Iraq) in the dying days of Ottoman Empire.

The Outlander by *Gil Adamson*

In 1903 a mysterious young woman flees alone across the West pursued by her brothers-in-law who are bent on revenge. Mary Boulton has just become a widow and her husband's murderer. Responding to little more than the primitive fight for life, she retreats deeper and deeper into the wilderness and into the wilds of her own mind while encountering an unforgettable cast of eccentrics along the way.

A Flaw in The Blood by *Stephanie Barron*

Set in the Victorian England of 1861, Irish barrister Patrick Fitzgerald has been summoned by the Queen. Assigned to protect the Queen, Fitzgerald finds Victoria strangely disengaged by the nearing death of her husband, Albert. Just how he can aid his Queen is unclear.

The Secret Scripture by *Sebastian Barry*

Mental hospital patient Roseanne McNulty was once beautiful and beguiling. Now, as her hundredth year draws near, she decides to write the story of her life. When the manuscript isn't under the floorboards, Roseanne revisits her past in its pages. Word goes around that the hospital is being closed and Dr. Greene, her caregiver discovers her carefully guarded story by accident.

The Black Tower by *Louis Bayard*

His name is Vidocq. And his name strikes terror into the hearts of the Parisian underworld of 1818. As founder and chief of the newly created undercover police of Paris, he's onto a new and even more challenging case: the fate of the lost son of Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI, during a time of great upheaval in France.

Jesus: a Story of Enlightenment by *Deepak Choprah*

The Bestselling author of Buddha captures the extraordinary life of Jesus in this surprising, soul-stirring, and page-turning novel. With his ability for imparting profound

spiritual insights through the power of storytelling, Chopra's Jesus portrays the life of Christ as never before.

Shavetail by *Thomas Cobb*

Set in the Arizona Territory of 1871, Shavetail is the story of Private Ned Thorne, a runaway who lied about his age to join the Army. Young and inexperienced, Ned garners the title of Shavetail. Ned's unit heads out to rescue a woman hostage from the Apaches. This is one mission that will change everyone forever.

So Brave, Young, and Handsome by *Leif Enger*

Having given up on any new success in his life, Minnesota novelist Monte Becket runs into outlaw Glendon Hale, who is on his way to California to seek his wife's forgiveness for abandoning her 20 years earlier. Beguiled and inspired, Monte soon finds himself leaving behind his own family to embark on his new adventure. This is a tale of high adventure set in the west of 1915.

The Other Queen by *Philippa Gregory*

Mary, Queen of Scots, flees to England only to be imprisoned as the "guest" of the Earl of Shrewsbury and his wife Bess. The newly married couple welcome the queen, thinking that being her host will enhance their circumstances and give them an "in" at court. To their chagrin they find themselves at the center of intrigue and their loyalty to each other and their sovereign is questioned.

The Heretic's Daughter by *Kathleen Kent*

In 1752 Sarah Carrier Chapman confined to her home and weak with infirmity, writes a letter to her granddaughter, revealing the secret she has kept for sixty years. It is a haunting tale of the Salem witch trials. A tragedy that compelled Sarah to make a decision that would change her life forever.

A Mercy by *Toni Morrison*

Superb storyteller Toni Morrison sets this tale of slavery in the 1680s. This fascinating book reveals what lies beneath the surface of slavery. But at its heart it is the ambivalent, disturbing story of a mother who casts off her daughter in order to save her, and of a daughter who may never be rid of that abandonment. Acts of mercy sometimes have unforeseen consequences.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by *Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows* (Bestseller)

In 1946 London, with the war newly over and everyone poor, author Juliet Ashton is stumped for an idea for a new novel. Out of the blue she receives a letter from an admirer living in the Channel Islands, just liberated from the Nazis. The Literary and Potato Peel Society was formed to smuggle people through Nazi lines during the war.

The Commoner by *John Burnham Schwartz*

In 1959, a commoner, Haruko marries the Crown Prince of Japan and endures a life of isolation and challenge. Courtiers view her with suspicion and as an outsider, her only

value is producing an heir. After giving birth, Haruko suffers a nervous breakdown and loses her voice. Thirty years later, as Empress, Haruko plays a central role in persuading another commoner to accept the proposal of her son.

People of the Book by *Geraldine Brooks*

Hannah Heath, an Australian rare book expert lands the job of a lifetime: recording and conserving the famous Sarajevo Haggadah, which miraculously survived war, plague and famine over the centuries. While investigating the rare volume, Hannah discovers a series of mysterious artifacts lodged within the book. Based on a true story.

Crusader Gold by *David Gibbons*

Marine Jack Howard and his crack team of experts have uncovered a clue to the location of the fabled lost golden menorah of Jerusalem. At the same time in a dusty cathedral library, a long forgotten medieval map is uncovered, which could lead to a legendary discovery and the thwarting of an evil Nazi plot.

Rhett Butler's People by *Donald McCaig*

Authorized by the estate of Margaret Mitchell, this is the long awaited novel that parallels *Gone With the Wind*. Through Rhett's eyes we meet the people who shaped the larger than life personality that dominated the original novel, including Scarlett.

Buddha by *Deepak Chopra*

The youth of a motherless boy becomes a spiritual leader as foretold by astrologers at his birth. But his powerful father refuses to bow to fate and keeps his prince isolated from the world. Prince Siddhartha marries, becomes a father, and sees the suffering outside and decides to leave his life of leisure and become a monk. Siddhartha sees the error of his ways, achieves enlightenment and becomes the Buddha.

Lord John and the Brotherhood of the Blade by *Diana Gabaldon*

From barracks to parade grounds, to the battlefields of Prussia and the stoney fells of the Lake District, Lord John's struggle to find the truth leads him through danger and passion, ever deeper toward the answer to the question at the center of his soul – What's most important in life: love, loyalty, family name, self respect or honesty?

Vivaldi's Virgins by *Barbara Quick*

Quick has re-created 18th century Venice at the height of its splendor and decadence. 14-year-old Anna Maria was abandoned as a baby, and grows up in a foundling home where Antonio Vivaldi is maestro and composer. The story of her search for her roots is interwoven with a glimpse inside the source of Vivaldi's musical legacy.

Into the Prairie: The Pioneers by *Rosanne Bittner*

Jonah Wilde, his wife Sadie, and their 3-yr old son, Paul, head into the prairies of Indiana to build on Jonah's dream of a farming empire. But an encounter with the Shawnee, and in particular, their leader Tecumseh, may change that dream forever.

Obscure Destinies by *Willa Cather*

These three stories, “Neighbour Rosicky”, “Old Mrs. Harris”, and “Two Friends”, reflect Cather's return to the well of memory of the Great Plains that had inspired the books that made her reputation.

Silas Marner: the Weaver of Raveloe by *George Eliot* [classic]

Felling abandoned by his friends, the woman he is to marry, and his God, Silas exiles himself to a small village. The townspeople begin to think him strange. His growing stack of gold coins becomes his only companion, until his gold is stolen and a young, golden-haired girl appears in his cottage.

The Boleyn Inheritance by *Philippa Gregory* [bestseller]

In this story about a court ruled by the gallows and 3 women whose positions brought them wealth, admiration and power as well as deceit, betrayal, and terror, a vanished world is brought to life.

Under the Greenwood Tree by *Thomas Hardy* [classic]

One of Hardy's most popular novels, this is a delightful and humorous depiction of life in an early Victorian rural community.

The Marble Faun: or, the Romance of Monte Beni by *Nathaniel Hawthorne* [classic]

Hawthorne's novel of Americans abroad, this was the first to explore the influence of European cultural ideas on American morality, specifically on the nature of transgression and guilt.

It Can't Happen Here by *Sinclair Lewis*

A cautionary tale about the fragility of democracy; an eerily timeless look at how fascism takes hold. Written during the Great Depression, when America was largely oblivious to Hitler's aggression, it juxtaposes sharp political satire with the chillingly realistic rise of a democratically elected president who becomes a dictator.

The Thirteenth Tale by *Diane Setterfield* [bestseller, British historical]

Setterfield is being compared to Jane Austen and the Bronte sisters with this debut novel. Biographer Margaret travels to Yorkshire, where she interviews a dying writer, walks the remains of her estate at Angelfield and tries to verify the old woman's tale of a governess, a ghost and more than one abandoned baby.

Jo's Boys by *Louisa M. Alcott* [classic]

Revisit Plumfield, the school presided over by Jo and her husband, Professor Bhaer. All Jo's children are grown young men scattered around the world.

This Vast Land by *Stephen E. Ambrose*

George Shannon grows up on the expedition of Lewis and Clark as the corps forges west. Ambrose creates a fictional diary of the 19 yr old who was in fact the youngest member of the Corps of Discovery.

In the Company of the Courtesan by Sarah Dunant

Escaping Rome in 1527, the courtesan Fiammetta and her dwarf companion, Bucino, head for Venice to mix with Venetian society. As their fortunes rise, this perfect partnership comes under threat from a young, blind, healer woman who has devastating consequences for them all.

Stowaway by Karen Hesse [adventure, bestseller]

A fictionalized journal relates the experiences of a young stowaway from 1768 to 1771 aboard the Endeavor which sailed around the world under Captain James Cook.

The Raging Quiet by Sherryl Jordan

Widowed two days after an unwilling marriage to a man twice her age, Marnie finds herself spurned by townsfolk who suspect her in her husband's death. Soon a new friendship threatens her life when the villagers accuse her of witchcraft.

The Convicts by Iain Lawrence

His efforts to avenge his father's unjust imprisonment force 14-yr-old Tom Tin into the streets of nineteenth-century London. But after he is convicted of murder, Tom is eventually sent to Australia where he has a surprise reunion.

Pirates! by Celia Rees

Nancy Kington, a rich merchant's daughter, is escaping an arranged marriage. Minerva Sharpe, her slave, is escaping slavery as well as the fearsome overseer on Nancy's plantation. In the end, the money, the high sea adventure, and the chance to see the world as fearsome pirates is an opportunity neither can deny. They set sail from Jamaica on a ship named "Deliverance."

Taking Liberty: the Story of Oney Judge, George Washington's Runaway Slave by Ann Rinaldi

After serving Martha Washington for 20 years, Oney realizes that she will never be a part of General Washington's family at Mount Vernon. She must make a choice: does she stay where she is, comfortable with the family that she has known since she was born, or does she take liberty into her own hands and, like her father, become one of the "Gone"?

Heroes by Robert Cormier

After joining the army at fifteen and having his face blown away by a grenade in a battle in France, Francis returns home to Frenchtown hoping to find--and kill--the former childhood hero he feels betrayed him.

Thirteen Moons by Charles Frazier

This is the story of one man's remarkable life, spanning a century of relentless change. At 12, orphaned Will Cooper is a bound boy, obliged to run a remote Indian trading post. As he fulfills his lonesome duty, Will finds a father in Bear, a Cherokee chief, and is adopted by him and his people.

The Foreign Correspondent by Alan Furst [spy]

Paris, 1939. The murder/suicide of an Italian political emigre and the wife of a French

politician in a lovers' hotel hits the tabloids. Was his assassination by Mussolini's secret police? Carlo Weisz, the editor of the clandestine newspaper opposing fascism, will spy to find out.

Joshua's Song by *Joan Hiatt Harlow* [1919 Boston]

The influenza pandemic took Joshua's father, so he's had to quit school and get a job. Fitting in as a newspaper boy isn't easy where tough competitors roam the streets. Then disaster strikes Boston, and Joshua does what he can to help. It's there he finds the place where he belongs.

The Gods of Newport by *John Jakes* [bestseller]

In 1892, Sam Driver, one of the few surviving robber barons of the lawless post-Civil War years, knocks on the door of fabled Newport together with his daughter, Jenny, determined not to be turned away a second time. His "new money" tainted his reputation, but Sam is determined to win a place for him and Jenny in Newport.

Laughing Boy: a Navajo Love Story by *Oliver La Farge* [winner of the Pulitzer]

"Laughing Boy" knew nothing of the white man, as he grew up worshipping Indian gods. Slim Girl knew too much about the white man, turned by his school's dreaming of revenge. Slim Girl saw Laughing Boy as her only hope and her salvation.

The Sixth Wife by *Jean Plaidy* [16th Century England]

Plaidy tells the story of Katherine Parr, the last of Henry VIII's six queens.

Articles of War by *Nick Arvin*

George Tilson is an eighteen-year-old Iowan farm boy who enlists in the army during World War II and is sent to Normandy shortly after D-Day. He becomes shamed by his fears and tortured by the never-ending physical dangers around him. As he struggles to survive, he meets a young French woman.

Sons by *Pearl Buck* [classic]

Buck's classic and starkly real tale tells of the bitter struggle to the death between the old and the new in China.

Tarzan of the Apes by *Edgar Rice Burroughs*

Tarzan, son of a British lord, was raised by the great ape Kala and able to communicate with many creatures of the jungle. When his African paradise is invaded by white men, Tarzan's life changes, not only from their depredations, but from the presence of Jane, the first woman he has known and the one human he comes to love.

The Sugar Camp Quilt by *Jennifer Chiaverini*

Dorothea is asked by her uncle to stitch him a quilt with 4 unusual patterns of his own design. After he meets with a violent end, Dorothea discovers that the quilt contains hidden clues to guide runaway slaves along the Underground Railroad. Dorothea resolves to continue his dangerous work.

Out Of The Dust by *Karen Hesse* [award winner]

A terrible accident has transformed Billie Jo's young life, scarring her inside and out. Her mother is gone. Her father can't talk about it. And she can't play the piano because of her wounded hands. Billie Jo is left to find peace in the bleak landscape of Oklahoma and in the surprising landscape of her own heart.

The Illuminator by *Brenda Rickman Vantrease*

The widowed Lady Kathryn strikes a bargain with the abbot -- she will take in the illuminator and his daughter and gain the monastery's protection. What begins as a hesitant friendship grows into a passionate alliance that touches off betrayals, tragedies, and unexpected acts of heroism.

The Birth of Venus by *Sarah Dunant*

Alessandra Cecchi, not quite fifteen and a multi-talented child of the Renaissance, is subject to an arranged marriage. Her life is miserable, except for the surprising freedom she has to pursue a young painter and his art.

The Marriage Bed by *Regina McBride*

Dublin Ireland is struggling into the 20th-Century and Deirdre and Manus' marriage is fraught with hope and complicated by legacy. Should the family secrets direct destiny?

Divining Women by *Kaye Gibbons*

Autumn 1918. Maureen Ross is experiencing a difficult pregnancy and her husband is a cold and careless emotional cripple. Into this loveless marriage comes Mary Oliver, the husband's niece. Horrified, she realizes that her true duty is to protect her aunt.

The Known World by *Edward P. Jones*

Winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize & National Book Critics Circle Award. Set in Manchester County, Virginia, 20 yrs before the Civil War, Jones's debut novel, *The Known World*, is a masterpiece of overlapping plot lines, time shifts, and heartbreaking details of life under slavery.

The Forest Lover by *Susan Vreeland*

It was Emily Carr (1871-1945), not Georgia O'Keeffe or Frida Kahlo, who first blazed a path for modern women artists. Her boldly original landscapes are praised today for capturing an untamed British Columbia and its indigenous peoples.

Gettysburg by *Newt Gingrich and William R. Forstchen*

What if the battle had been a victory for Lee. It would have changed the destiny of the nation forever. This is the 1st book in a trilogy to tell the story of how history could have unfolded.

Waterloo Station by *Emily Grayson*

In 1938 England, World War II disrupts a love affair between a beautiful young American woman and her married literature tutor who joins the Royal Navy and disappears.

Ghost Riders *by Sharyn McCrumb*

Malinda Blalock's husband joined the Union army in 1861, and she went with him dressed as a boy. Their story is present-day legend, Civil War ghosts still haunting North Carolina.

The Kitchen Boy: a novel of the Last Tsar *by Robert Alexander*

The Romanovs' kitchen boy, Leonka, was mysteriously spared by the Bolsheviks and vanished into the bloody tides of the Russian Revolution.

Sons of Fortune *by Jeffrey Archer*

In late 1940's Connecticut, a set of twins is parted at birth - not by accident. As the two grow up apart, they follow similar paths in different directions ... until they both decide to run for governor.

Office of Innocence *by Thomas Keneally*

On the outskirts of Sydney, Father Frank Darragh embarks on his new life of priesthood just as war erupts in the Pacific. Darragh becomes his parish's most popular confessor, particularly among the service wives confronted with temptations.

Miracle at St. Anna *by James McBride*

The story of 4 American WWII soldiers who take refuge in a village in Tuscany and encounter a miracle - though perhaps the true miracle lies in themselves.

The Dante Club *by Matthew Pearl*

In 1865 Boston, the literary geniuses of the Dante Club are finishing America's first translation of The Divine Comedy and preparing to unveil Dante's remarkable visions to the New World.

Versailles *by Kathryn Davis*

Marie Antoinette travels from Austria to France to meet her fiance, Louis, who will become the 16th Louis to reign in France. Antoinette gives birth to 4 children, falls in love and dies at the guillotine.

The Master Butchers Singing Club *by Louise Erdrich*

What happens when a trained killer discovers that his true vocation is love? With a suitcase full of sausages and a master butcher's precious set of knives, Fidelis sets out for America.

The Four Feathers *by A.E.W. Mason*

A soldier's shame...a love lost...a heroic redemption. 1882 British officer Harry Feversham goes undercover in Africa to win back the respect of his comrades and loving fiance.

The Piano Tuner *by Daniel Mason*

In October 1886, piano tuner Edgar Drake receives a request from the British War Office to travel from London to the jungles of Burma to repair the piano of an army surgeon-major.

Second Glance by *Jodi Picoult*

Ghost hunter Ross Wakeman discovers a long-hidden murder haunting a small Vermont town.

According to Queeney by *Beryl Bainbridge*

Here we are privy to the last 20 years in the life of Samuel Johnson, according to the daughter of Johnson's final confidante, Mrs. Thrale.

Warning of War: a novel of the North China Marines by *James Brady*

A story of how small garrisons of marines in North China miss the ship to Manila only to march through hostile territory to rejoin their Corps and the fight against Japan.

Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague by *Geraldine Brooks*

A novel about a historical time in England when faith, science and superstition collide.

Invitation to a Funeral by *Molly Brown*

London, 1676, the Earl of Rochester must deal with the discovery of a document that could plunge England into Civil War.

Falling Angels by *Tracy Chevalier*

Two families divided by social class meet in London. Their lives become entwined in life and death.

Kate Hannigan's Girl by *Catherine Cookson*

This 100th book by Cookson is a companion to her first novel, Kate Hannigan. Set in the early 20th-Century English countryside, it is the story of Annie, Kate's lovely, free-spirited eldest daughter.

The Evidence Against Her by *Robb Forman Dew*

In this first of a trilogy, a charmed triangle of families in 1888 Ohio is disrupted by the charms of the unorthodox Agnes Claytor.

The Siege by *Helen Dunmore*

Trapped by the German army in 1941 Leningrad, five people come to share one apartment. Not all will survive the siege.

Walk Through Darkness by *David Anthony Durham*

The parallel tales of two men in antebellum America: William, a young fugitive slave, and Morrison, a white man hired to track him.

Jackdaws by *Ken Follett*

In the most dangerous days of WWII, a new plan requires an all-woman team, none of them professional operatives. Codenamed the Jackdaws, they attempt to infiltrate the German ranks.

An Artist of the Floating World by Kazuo Ishiguro

In 1948 Japan, Masuji Ono should be in tranquil retirement, but a life touched by the rise of the Japanese military haunts him.

The Good German by Joseph Kanon

At the end of WWII in 1945 Berlin, journalist Jake Geismar stumbles on a story of corruption and intrigue reaching deep into the heart of the occupation.

Roscoe by William Kennedy

The 7th novel in Kennedy's Albany series, Roscoe follows Roscoe Conway, a quick-witted, charismatic lawyer-politician who has devoted much of his life to helping his Democratic Party cohorts achieve and maintain political power in 1930s Albany, NY.

Fall On Your Knees by Ann-Marie MacDonald [Oprah Book Club #45]

This epic tale centers on four sisters and their relationships with each other and their father. Set in the coal-mining communities of Nova Scotia in the early part of this century, the story shifts to the battlefields of WWI and the jazz scene of New York City in the 1920s.

Cold Water by Mardi McConnochie

Captain Wolfe runs the penal colony off the coast of Australia like he does his family at home. The three young girls know no boundaries in their imagination.

Morgan's Run by Colleen McCullough

As an experiment in 18th-century English penology, felons set sail from Bristol to Australia's Botany Bay. Only the word "epic" can describe one of the most grueling voyages in human history.

Last of the Amazons by Steven Pressfield

Following the Athenian-Amazon war in the fifth century B.C., Amazon warrior Selene is taken captive and placed as an unlikely governess to the two daughters of a high-ranking Greek.