

# QUEEN'S JUBILEE BOOK LIST

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An expert panel have selected 70 books from across the Commonwealth marking the seven decades of the Queen's reign.

Ten books for each of the seven decades were selected by a panel of librarians, booksellers and literature experts from readers' recommendations spanning 31 countries.

All can be reserved for no charge, either on line or in person, to be collected at your local library:

**[prism.librarymanagementcloud.co.uk/islington](http://prism.librarymanagementcloud.co.uk/islington)**

We have shown where titles are also available as eBooks and/or eAudiobooks to borrow on BorrowBox:

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You can join online at:

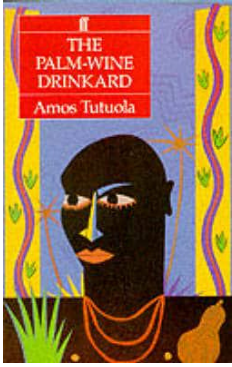
**[www.islington.gov.uk/libraries-arts-and-heritage/libraries/join-islington-libraries](http://www.islington.gov.uk/libraries-arts-and-heritage/libraries/join-islington-libraries)**

by emailing **[library.informationunit@islington.gov.uk](mailto:library.informationunit@islington.gov.uk)**  
or phoning **020 7527 6952**



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1952-1961



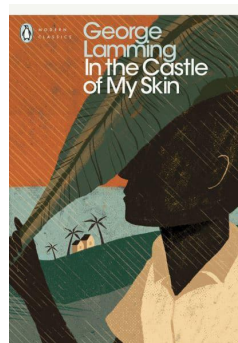
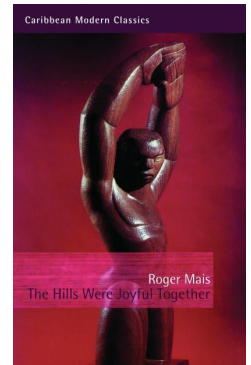
[The Palm-Wine Drinkard](#)  
Amos Tutuola (1952, Nigeria)

[eBook](#)

Drawing on the West African Yoruba oral folktale tradition, Tutuola described the odyssey of a devoted palm-wine drinker through a nightmare of fantastic adventure.

[The Hills Were Joyful Together](#)  
Roger Mais (1953, Jamaica)

This stark and brutal novel is a powerful reflection on colonial Jamaica and the condition of the urban poor.



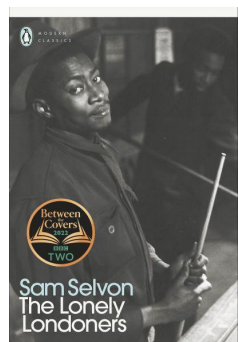
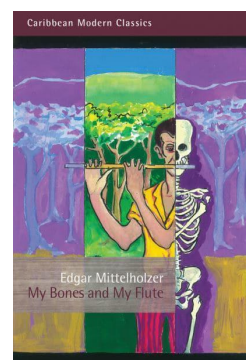
[In the Castle of My Skin](#)  
George Lamming (1953, Barbados)

[eBook](#)

This autobiographical coming-of-age novel is a story of tragic innocence amid the collapse of colonial rule.

[My Bones and My Flute](#)  
Edgar Mittelholzer (1955, Guyana)

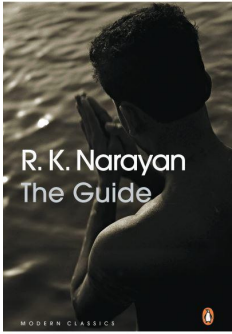
Only when he is on board the steamer halfway to their remote destination up river in Guyana does Milton Woodsley realize that there is more to Henry Nevinson's invitation to spend time with his family in their jungle cottage.



[The Lonely Londoners](#)  
Sam Selvon (1956, Trinidad and Tobago)

[eBook](#)

An unforgettable account of immigrant experience.



## The Guide

R K Narayan (1958, India)

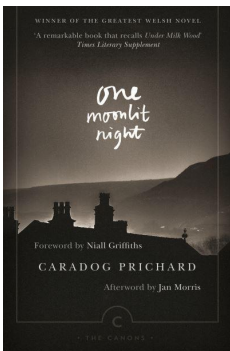
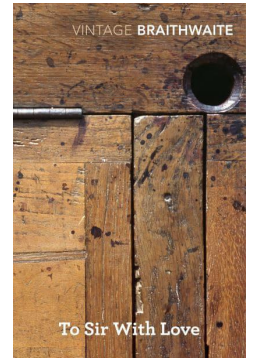
Raju used to be India's most corrupt tourist guide - but now a peasant mistakes him for a holy man. Gradually, almost grudgingly, he begins to play the part.

## To Sir, With Love

E R Braithwaite (1959, Guyana)

[eBook](#)

Rick Braithwaite, a black man from British Guyana, takes a job in a tough East End school, and is left to govern a class of unruly teenagers.



## One Moonlit Night

Caradog Prichard (1961, Wales)

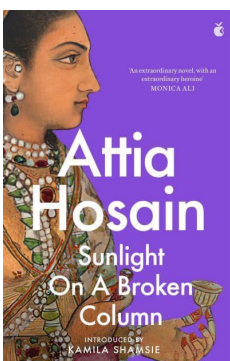
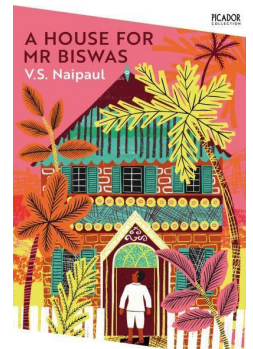
This outstanding novel tells of one boy's journey into the grown-up world.

## A House for Mr Biswas

VS Naipaul (1961, Trinidad and Tobago/England)

[eBook](#)

Mr Biswas has been told since the day of his birth that misfortune will follow him - and so it has.

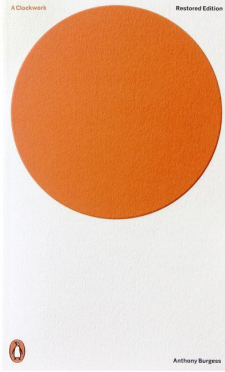


## Sunlight on a Broken Column

Attia Hosain (1961, India/England)

An unforgettable coming-of-age story set against the turbulent background of Partition.

1962-1971



[A Clockwork Orange](#)  
Anthony Burgess (1962, England)

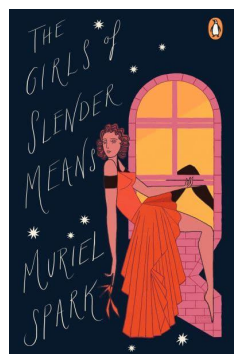
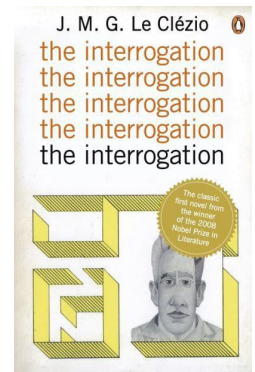
[eBook](#)  
[eAudiobook](#)

Fifteen-year-old Alex likes lashings of ultraviolence. He and his gang of friends rob, kill and rape their way through a nightmarish future, until the State puts a stop to his riotous excesses.

[The Interrogation](#)  
J M G Le Clézio (1963, Mauritius)

[eBook](#)

Adam Pollo, an amnesiac ex-student, addresses a small crowd in the town. His unnerving rhetoric ends in arrest and removal to an asylum. And there the interrogation begins...



[The Girls of Slender Means](#)  
Muriel Spark (1963, Scotland)

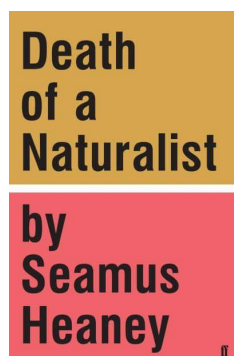
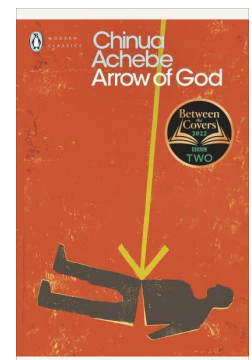
[eAudiobook](#)

'It never really occurred to her that literary men, if they like women at all, do not want literary women but girls.'

[Arrow of God](#)  
Chinua Achebe (1964, Nigeria)

[eBook](#)

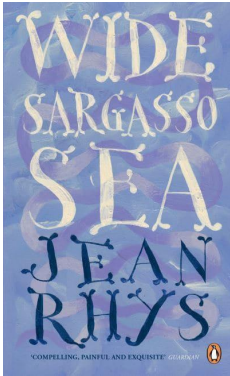
An unforgettable portrayal of the loss of faith, and the struggle between tradition and change.



[Death of a Naturalist](#)  
Seamus Heaney (1966, Northern Ireland)

[eBook](#)

The stunning and revelatory first collection by the Nobel Prize-winning Irish poet.



## Wide Sargasso Sea

Jean Rhys (1966, Dominica/Wales)

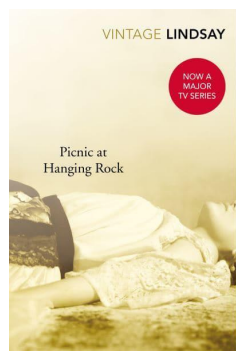
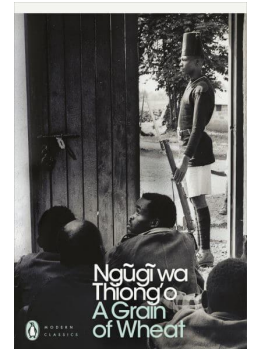
Set against the lush backdrop of 1830s Jamaica, Rhys's powerful, haunting masterpiece was inspired by her fascination with the first Mrs Rochester, the mad wife in Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre.

## A Grain of Wheat

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o (1967, Kenya)

A masterly story of myth, rebellion, love, friendship and betrayal from one of Africa's great writers.

[eBook](#)



## Picnic at Hanging Rock

Joan Lindsay (1967, Australia)

The atmospheric Australian thriller about the mysterious disappearance of a group of young girls.

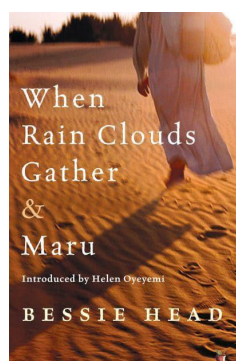
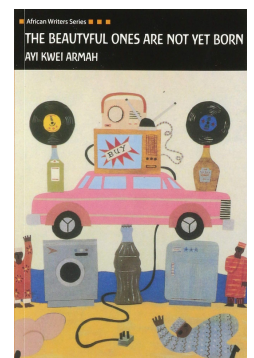
[eBook](#)

[eAudiobook](#)

## The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born

Ayi Kwei Armah (1968, Ghana)

The central story is of an upright man resisting the temptations of easy bribes and easy satisfactions and winning for his honesty nothing but scorn.

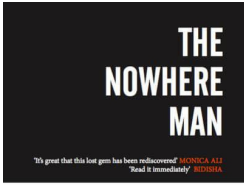


## When Rain Clouds Gather

Bessie Head (1968, Botswana/South Africa)

Escaping South Africa and his troubled past, Makehaya crosses the border to Botswana, in the hope of leading a peaceful, purposeful life.

1972-1981



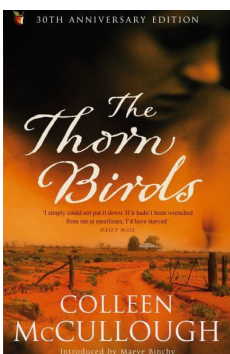
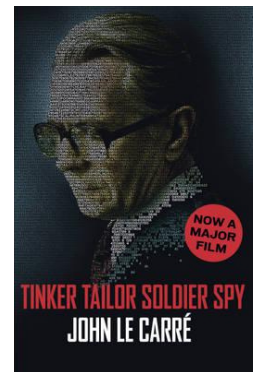
[The Nowhere Man](#)  
Kamala Markandaya (1972, India)

Srinivas, an elderly Brahmin, has been living in south London suburb for thirty years. After the death of his son, and later his wife, this lonely man is befriended by an Englishwoman in her sixties, whom he takes into his home.

[Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy](#)  
John Le Carré (1974, England)

[eBook](#)  
[eAudiobook](#)

Mr George Smiley is compassionate, ruthless, and a senior British intelligence officer. He comes up against Karla, his old Moscow adversary, and so begins a long battle of wits.



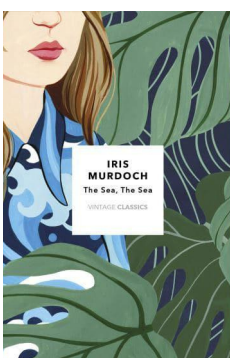
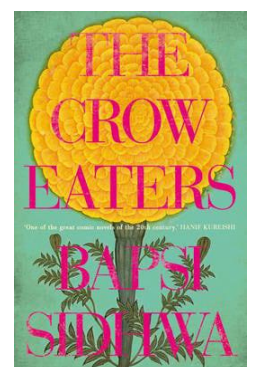
[The Thorn Birds](#)  
Colleen McCullough (1977, Australia)

In the rugged Australian Outback, three generations of Clearys live through joy and sadness, bitter defeat and magnificent triumph.

[The Crow Eaters](#)  
Bapsi Sidhwa (1978, Pakistan)

[eBook](#)

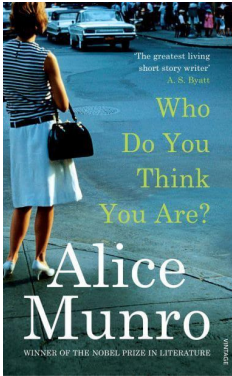
A vibrant portrait of a Parsi family taking its place in colonial India on the brink of the 20th century.



[The Sea, The Sea](#)  
Iris Murdoch (1978, England)

[eBook](#)  
[eAudiobook](#)

When Charles Arrowby, a 60+ demi-god of the theatre, retires from his glittering London world in order to become a hermit, it is to the sea that he turns.



## Who Do You Think You Are? Alice Munro (1978, Canada)

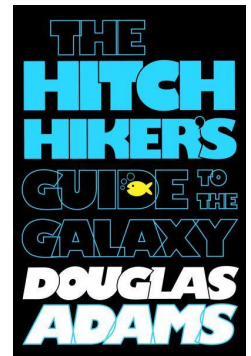
[eBook](#)

A collection of stories which read like a novel, following Rose's life as she moves away from her impoverished roots and forges her own path in the world.

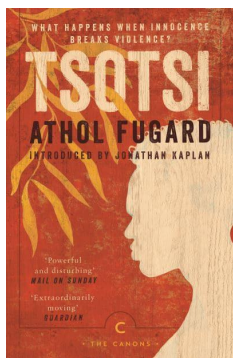
## The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Douglas Adams (1979, England)

[eBook](#)

[eAudiobook](#)



Arthur Dent is already having a really bad day, even before Earth gets demolished to make way for a new hyperspace bypass.



## Tsotsi Athol Fugard (1980, South Africa)

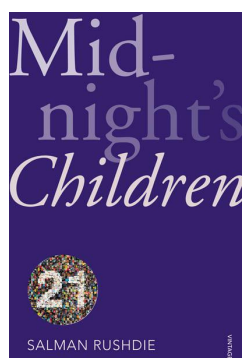
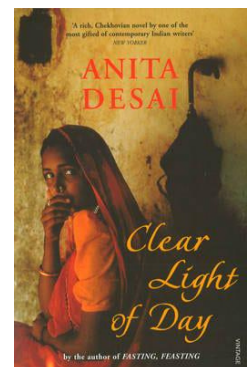
[eBook](#)

Tsotsi is an angry young gang leader in the South African township of Sophiatown. A man without a past, he exists only to kill and steal.

## Clear Light of Day Anita Desai (1980, India)

[eBook](#)

To the family living in a shabby house in Delhi, Tara's visit brings a sharp reminder of life outside tradition. For Bim there is renewal of the old jealousies for, unlike her sister, she has failed to escape.



## Midnight's Children Salman Rushdie (1981, England/India)

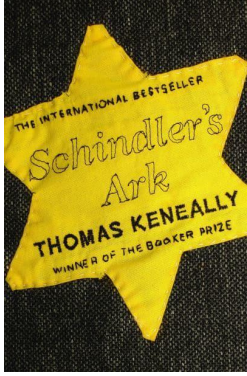
[eBook](#)

[eAudiobook](#)

Escaping South Africa and his troubled past, Makehaya crosses the border to Botswana, in the hope of leading a peaceful, purposeful life.



## 1982-1991



### Schindler's Ark

Thomas Keneally (1982, Australia)

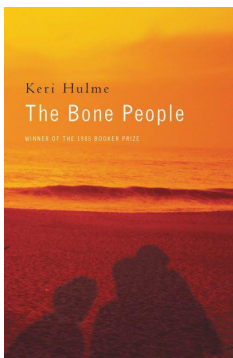
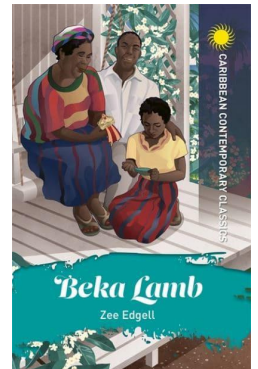
[eAudiobook](#)

The extraordinary story of Oskar Schindler, who risked his life to protect Jews in Nazi-occupied Poland and who was transformed by the war into a man with a mission, a compassionate angel of mercy.

### Beka Lamb

Zee Edgell (1982, Belize)

The personal struggles and tragedies of two friends set in a backdrop of political upheaval and regeneration, as the British colony of Belize gears up for universal suffrage and progression towards independence.



### The Bone People

Keri Hulme (1984, New Zealand)

Kerewin is a despairing part-Maori artist who is convinced that her solitary life is the only way to face the world. Her cocoon is blown away by the sudden arrival of Simon, a mute six-year-old whose past holds a terrible trauma.

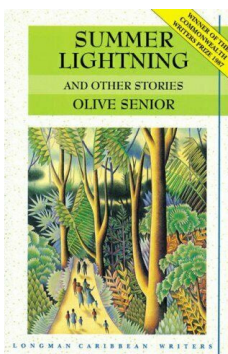
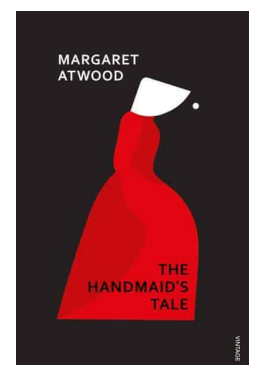
### The Handmaid's Tale

Margaret Atwood (1985, Canada)

[eBook](#)

[eAudiobook](#)

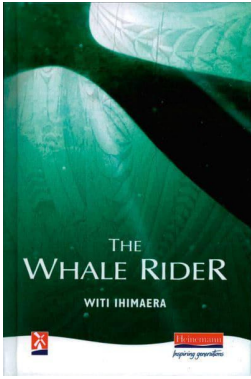
The Republic of Gilead offers Offred only one function - to breed. If she deviates, she will be killed.



### Summer Lightning

Olive Senior (1986, Jamaica)

These rich, compelling stories recreate with sensitivity and wit a whole range of emotions, from childhood hope to brooding melancholy.



**The Whale Rider**  
**Witi Ihimaera (1987, New Zealand)**

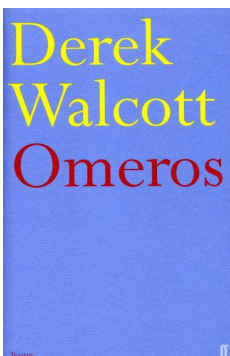
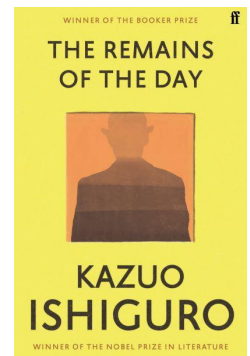
[eBook](#)  
[eAudiobook](#)

The birth of a daughter - Kahu - breaks the lineage of a Maori tribe. Rejected by her grandfather, Kahu develops the ability to communicate with whales.

**The Remains of the Day**  
**Kazuo Ishiguro (1989, England)**

[eBook](#)  
[eAudiobook](#)

A beautiful and haunting evocation of life between the wars in a Great English House.



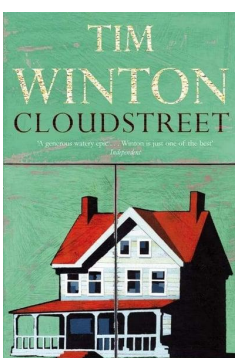
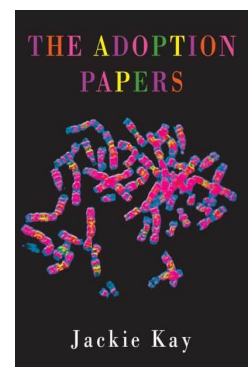
**Omeros**  
**Derek Walcott (1990, Saint Lucia)**

A epic poem circular narrative design that loosely echoes and references Homer and some of his major characters from the Iliad.

**The Adoption Papers**  
**Jackie Kay (1991, Scotland)**

[eBook](#)

The story of a black girl's adoption by a white Scottish couple, from three different viewpoints: the mother, the birth mother, and the daughter.



**Cloudstreet**  
**Tim Winton (1991, Australia)**

[eBook](#)  
[eAudiobook](#)

Cloudstreet is a broken-down house of former glories that becomes the divided home of two rural families who have moved to the city.

1992-2001



## [The English Patient](#)

Michael Ondaatje (1992, Canada/Sri Lanka)

[eBook](#)

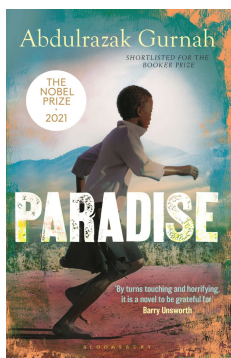
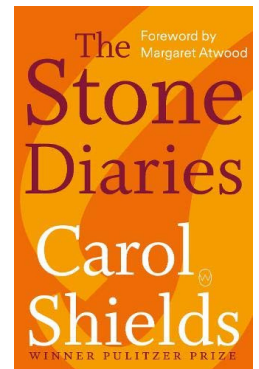
[eAudiobook](#)

At the end of WWII in an abandoned Italian village Hana, a nurse, tends to her sole remaining patient. Rescued from a burning plane, the anonymous Englishman is damaged beyond recognition and haunted by painful memories.

## [The Stone Diaries](#)

Carol Shields (1993, Canada)

Born in 1905, Daisy Goodwill drifts through the chapters of childhood, marriage, widowhood, remarriage, motherhood and old age.



## [Paradise](#)

Abdulrazak Gurnah (1994, Tanzania)

The story of a young boy's coming of age against the backdrop of an Africa increasingly corrupted by colonialism and violence.

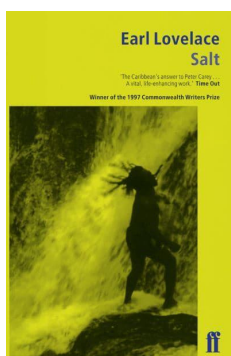
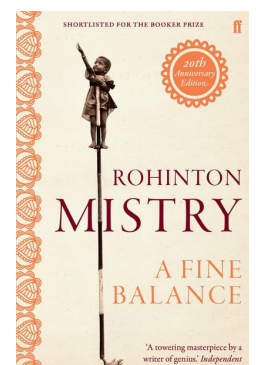
## [A Fine Balance](#)

Rohinton Mistry (1995, India/Canada)

[eBook](#)

[eAudiobook](#)

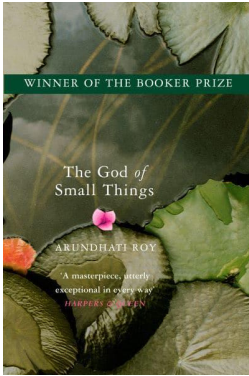
In India in the mid-1970s, four unlikely people are thrown together during a time of political turmoil soon after the government declares a 'State of Internal Emergency'.



## [Salt](#)

Earl Lovelace (1996, Trinidad and Tobago)

Explores the complexities of the still young Trinidad where the roles of slave and land-owner still linger.



## The God of Small Things Arundhati Roy (1997, India)

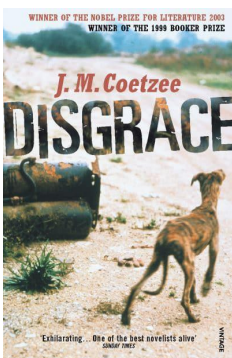
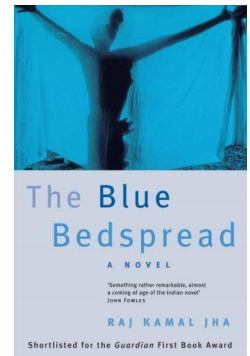
[eBook](#)  
[eAudiobook](#)

Rahel and Estha are twins growing up among the banana vats and peppercorns of their blind grandmother's factory, amid scenes of political turbulence in Kerala.

## The Blue Bedsread Raj Kamal Jha (1999, India)

[eBook](#)

In a house on a Calcutta street, lit by the half-light of a yellow street lamp, lies a baby, one day old, wrapped in its hospital towel. In the next room sits a man, all alone, writing.



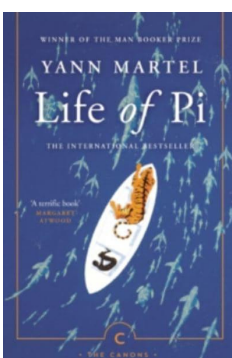
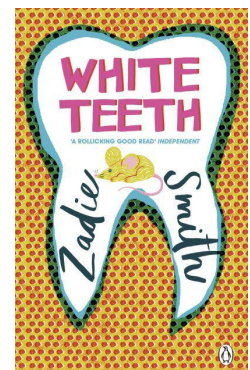
## Disgrace J M Coetzee (1999, South Africa/Australia)

A divorced, middle-aged professor finds himself unable to resist affairs with his female students. When discovered by the college authorities he leaves his job to live on a remote farm.

## White Teeth Zadie Smith (2000, England)

[eBook](#)  
[eAudiobook](#)

Dealing - among many other things - with friendship, love, war, three cultures and three families over three generations, one brown mouse, and the tricky way the past has of coming back and biting you on the ankle.

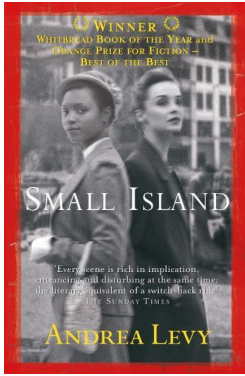


## Life of Pi Yann Martel (2001, Canada)

[eBook](#)  
[eAudiobook](#)

Pi lives in Pondicherry, India, where his father owns the city's zoo. The family decides to emigrate to Canada, but tragedy strikes at sea.

2002-2011



## Small Island

Andrea Levy (2004, England)

[eBook](#)

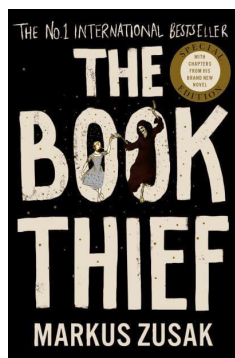
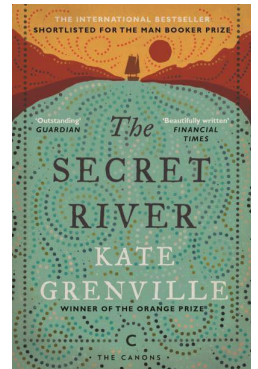
Returning to England after the war Gilbert Joseph is treated very differently now that he is no longer in an RAF uniform. Can dreams of a better life in England overcome the prejudice he and his wife face?

## The Secret River

Kate Grenville (2005, Australia)

[eBook](#)

London, 1806. William Thornhill is sentenced to transportation to New South Wales for the term of his natural life. Soon Thornhill, a man no better or worse than most, has to make the most difficult decision of his life.



## The Book Thief

Markus Zusak (2005, Australia)

[eBook](#)

[eAudiobook](#)

1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier.

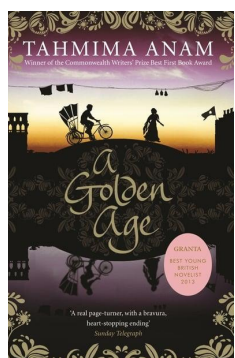
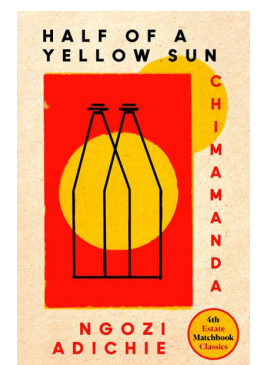
## Half of a Yellow Sun

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (2006, Nigeria)

[eBook](#)

[eAudiobook](#)

A novel about the end of colonialism, class and race - and about the ways in which love can complicate all of these things.



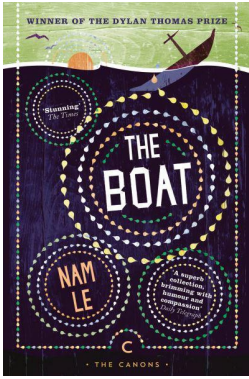
## A Golden Age

Tahmima Anam (2007, Bangladesh)

[eBook](#)

[eAudiobook](#)

Spring, 1971, East Pakistan. Rehana Haque is throwing a party for her beloved children, Sohail and Maya. But out on the hot city streets, something violent is brewing.



## The Boat

Nam Le (2008, Australia)

[eBook](#)

Seven stories that take us across the globe, entering the hearts and minds of characters from all over the world.

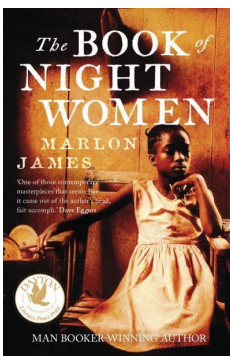
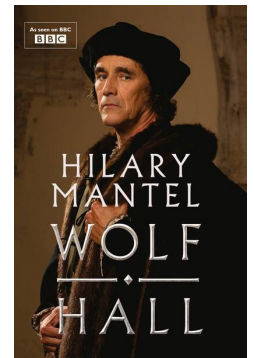
## Wolf Hall

Hilary Mantel (2009, England)

[eBook](#)

[eAudiobook](#)

Henry VIII is on the throne, but has no heir. Cardinal Wolsey is his chief advisor, charged with securing the divorce the pope refuses to grant. Enter Thomas Cromwell, first as Wolsey's clerk, and later his successor.



## The Book of Night Women

Marlon James (2009, Jamaica)

[eBook](#)

A startling, hard-edged dissection of slavery and a tour de force of both voice and storytelling.

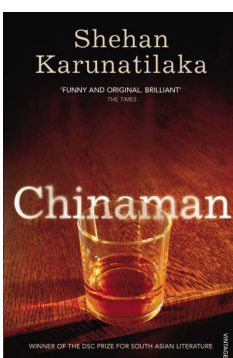
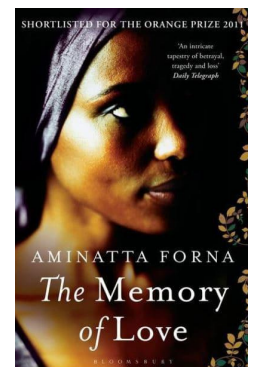
## The Memory of Love

Aminatta Forna (2010, Sierra Leone/Scotland)

[eBook](#)

[eAudiobook](#)

A tale of ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances, addressing the indelible effects of the past on our lives.



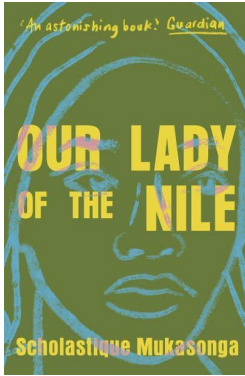
## Chinaman

Shehan Karunatilaka (2010, Sri Lanka)

[eBook](#)

Where is Pradeep S. Mathew - spin bowler extraordinaire and 'the greatest cricketer to walk the earth'? Retired sportswriter W. G. Karunasena is dying, and he wants to know.

2012-2021



## Our Lady of the Nile

Scholastique Mukasonga (2012, Rwanda)

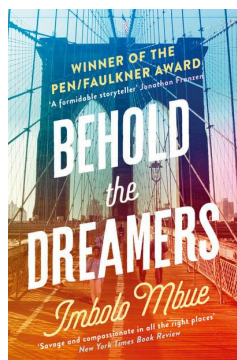
Fifteen years prior to the 1994 Rwandan genocide, schoolgirls try on their parents' preconceptions and attitudes, transforming their school into a microcosm of the country's mounting racial tensions and violence.

## The Luminaries

Eleanor Catton (2013, New Zealand)

[eAudiobook](#)

It is 1866, and Walter Moody has come to make his fortune upon the New Zealand goldfields. On arrival, he stumbles across a tense gathering of twelve local men, who have met in secret to discuss a series of unsolved crimes.



## Behold the Dreamers

Imbolo Mbue (2016, Cameroon)

New York, 2007: a city of dreamers and strivers, where the newly-arrived and the long-established jostle alike for a place on the ladder of success. And Jende Jonga, who has come from Cameroon, has just set his foot on the first rung.

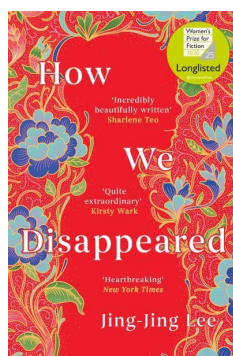
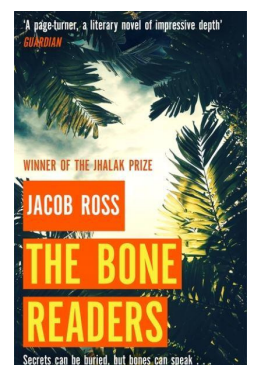
[eBook](#)

[eAudiobook](#)

## The Bone Readers

Jacob Ross (2016, Grenada)

When Michael (Digger) Digson is recruited into a plain clothes squad in the small Caribbean island of Camaho he tries to discover who amongst a renegade police squad killed his mother in a political demonstration.



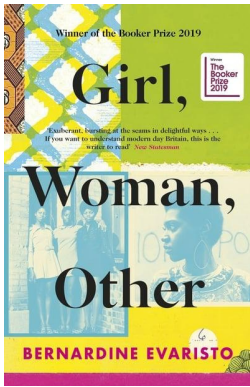
## How We Disappeared

Jing-Jing Lee (2019, Singapore)

Singapore, 1942. As Japanese troops sweep down Malaysia and into Singapore, a village is ransacked. Only three survivors remain, one of them a tiny child.

[eBook](#)

[eAudiobook](#)



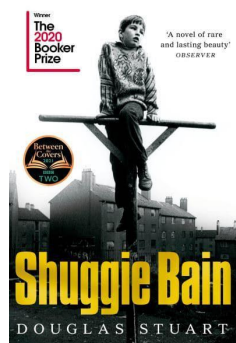
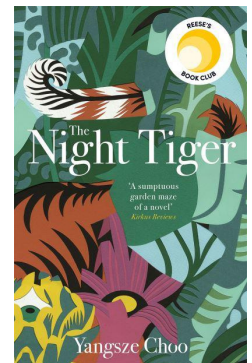
[Girl, Woman, Other](#)  
Bernardine Evaristo (2019, England)

[eBook](#)  
[eAudiobook](#)

Mostly women, black and British, twelve characters tell the stories of their families, friends and lovers, across the country and through the years.

[The Night Tiger](#)  
Yangsze Choo (2019, Malaysia)

In 1930s colonial Malaya, a dissolute British doctor receives a gift of an 11-year-old Chinese houseboy. A bequest from an old friend, young Ren has a mission to find his dead master's severed finger and reunite it with his body.



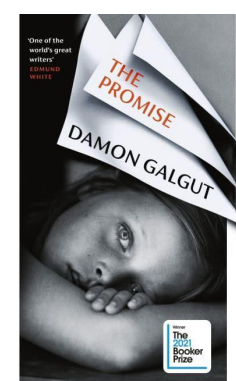
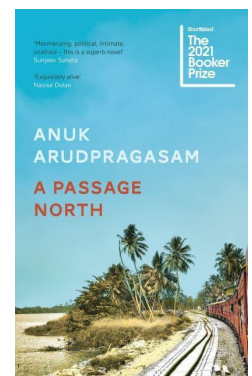
[Shuggie Bain](#)  
Douglas Stuart (2020, Scotland)

[eBook](#)  
[eAudiobook](#)

It is 1981. Glasgow is dying and good families must grift to survive. Agnes Bain has always expected more from life. She dreams of greater things.

[A Passage North](#)  
Anuk Arudpragasam (2021, Sri Lanka)

As Krishan makes a long journey by train from Colombo into the war-torn Northern Province for the funeral of his grandmother's former care-giver, so begins a passage into the soul of an island devastated by violence.



[The Promise](#)  
Damon Galgut (2021, South Africa)

[eBook](#)  
[eAudiobook](#)

There is nothing unusual or remarkable about the Swart family, oh no, they resemble the family from the next farm and the one beyond that, just an ordinary bunch of white South Africans, and if you don't believe it then listen to us speak.