

Historical Fiction

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The following is a selection of the historical fiction titles available at the Racine Public Library. For additional suggestions, ask the Reference Librarians for ***Historical Novels: a guide to the genre.***

Alexander, Robert

Rasputin's Daughter

This riveting historical narrative, set in Russia, relates the harrowing tale of Rasputin's final days as told by his young and spirited daughter, Maria.

Allio, Kirsten

Garner

Allio's first novel is a shockingly beautiful work about the clash of age and youth, experience and purity, and urban and rural life in 1920s New Hampshire. Against the haunting backdrop of an ancient forest, Garner is still stinging from the Civil War, a dwindling population, and rapidly changing times, and its conflicts make for an alluring and unforgettable novel.

Boyne, Walter J.

Roaring Thunder: a novel of the jet age

This historically based novel blends real-life adventures of the aviation industry giants with the fictional Vance Shannon and his family. Shannon, a prototypical American test pilot, sees and guides the birth of American jet aviation, while his sons, Tom and Harry fly the new jets in combat.

Clark, Clare

The Great Stink

Recently returned to London from the Crimean front and suffering what would now be known as posttraumatic stress disorder, William May is newly employed as a surveyor on one of the most monumental construction and engineering projects of the fledgling industrial age. With both his life and his sanity on the line, he must rely on self—proclaimed sewer-rat Long-Arm Tom to unravel an intricate web of deceit and corruption to clear his good name.

Dams, Jeanne M

Crimson Snow: a Hilda Johansson mystery

Based on a 1904 unsolved murder case in Indiana, *Crimson Snow* weaves immigrant life, class and ethnic tensions into a taught drama featuring Swedish maid, Hilda, in the Studebaker mansion.

Davis, Lindsey

See Delphi and Die : a Marcus Didius Falco novel

Humor, surprises, and domestic irony await Roman sleuth Falco as he attempts to solve the disappearance of two newlyweds on their honeymoon trip to ancient Greece.

Doctorow, E. L.

The March: a novel

Sherman's march through Georgia and the Carolinas produced hundreds of thousands of deaths and untold collateral damage. In this powerful novel, Doctorow gets deep inside the pillage, cruelty and destruction, as well as the care and burgeoning love that sprung up in their wake.

Donn, Linda

The Little Balloonist: a novel

This irresistible literary love story, set in Napoleonic France, was inspired by the life of balloonist Sophie Blanchard, one of the first women to fly.

Dunant, Sarah

In the Company of the Courtesan: a novel

Renaissance Italy is the setting in which wily dwarf Bucino Teodoldo recounts fantastic escapades with his mistress, celebrated courtesan Fiammetta Bianchini.

Continued on other side

Elyot, Amanda

The Memoirs of Helen of Troy: a novel

As despised as she was desired, Helen of Troy is one of history's most notorious women. In this ground-breaking, richly dramatic novel, the familiar story of passion and violence is told from a new perspective: that of Helen herself.

Gemmell, David

Lord of the Silver Bow

In this historical fantasy, the author adds another dimension to a classic tale of passion and honor, by focusing on the minor characters of Homer's Iliad.

Goldberg, Myla

Wickett's Remedy: a novel

Goldberg captures the ambitions and tragedies of the early twentieth century through the character of Lydia Kilkenny, an immensely appealing Irish shopgirl determined to escape her South Boston neighborhood.

Greenway, Alice

White ghost girls

For all its dreamy lyricism, this debut novel about two teenaged American sisters coming of age in Hong Kong, during the summer of 1967, boasts a satisfyingly complicated plot and a devastating conclusion.

Hanegraaff, Hank

The Last Sacrifice

The legendary warrior Gallus Sergius Vitas, must decipher a mysterious scroll to find the answers he needs to stay alive—a letter that Helius, his sworn enemy and Nero's trusted advisor, is also determined to decipher and to keep hidden from Nero. As Nero's reign of terror grows, so does his circle of enemies.

Heighton, Steven

Afterlands : a novel

Heighton revisits the catastrophe of the 1871 Polaris expedition, in which 19 members of the crew were cast adrift on the ice off the coast of Greenland.

Hobbs, Peter

The Short Day Dying

Spiritual rumination and magnificent descriptions of nature drive Hobbs's inventively written debut, a character study that credibly evokes the colloquial rhythms of its setting in 1870 Cornwall.

Kalogridis, Jeanne

The Borgia Bride

Against the backdrop of 15th-century Italian internecine feuds, debauchery and Vatican corruption, Kalogridis's latest historical novel chronicles with compelling sweep the story of the ravishing and iron-willed Sancha de Aragon, princess of Naples.

King, Kevin

All the Stars Came Out That Night

Walter Winchell posthumously narrates rookie King's sparkling Depression-era baseball epic.

Lerner, Tobsha

The Witch of Cologne

In a sensuous 17th-century saga set in German Catholic Cologne, Lerner transports readers to a time when studying the ancient Kabbalah could prove deadly for a young Jewish midwife.

Levak, Simon

Demon of the Air: an Aztec mystery

Sixteenth-century Mexico comes to wonderful life in this gripping, multifaceted mystery, winner of the 2004 CWA Debut Dagger Award.

Lovric, M. R.

The Remedy: a novel of London & Venice

Set in London and Venice during the late 18th century, Lovric's labyrinthine, grandly imagined novel follows the dramatic vicissitudes of the love affair between the Venetian actress Mimosina Dolcezza and the Irish-born Valentine Greatrakes.

Maine, David

Fallen

This spirited retelling of the creation yarn and the conflict between Cain and Abel draws a convincing, wryly observant, and enthralling portrait of a family—one driven (and riven) by passions, jealousies, irrationality, and love.

McMahon, Katharine

The Alchemist's Daughter: a novel

Historical fiction lovers will find themselves swept up in McMahon's gripping tale of a young woman whose learning is at odds with her heart in eighteenth-century England.

Meek, James

The People's Act of Love

Set during the waning days of the Russian revolution, this absorbing novel captivates with its depiction of human nature in all its wartime extremes.

Mills, Magnus

Explorers of the New Century

Set in the era of Shackleton, Perry, and Amundsen, this novel tells the story of two teams racing across a nameless frozen expanse, each seeking to be the first to reach the Agreed Furthest Point (AFP)—the South Pole, or the top of Everest, or deepest cave.

Nicholas, Denise

Freshwater Road

In the summer of 1964, 19-year-old Celeste Tyree, straddling the strong race consciousness of her father and the race aversion of her estranged mother, takes time off from college and her white boyfriend, traveling from Michigan to Mississippi to lend her efforts to Freedom Summer.

Perry, Anne

Long Spoon Lane

Greed, revenge, loyalty, justice, and a thirst for power each play a role in the latest Charlotte and Thomas Pitt adventure, which, like its predecessors, draws much of its intensity from nineteenth-century London's social and political climate.

Roiphe, Anne Richardson

An Imperfect Lens: a novel

Cholera arrives in Alexandria in 1883, followed by a French research team sent by Louis Pasteur to find and identify the "swimming monster." In this riveting account of a public health crisis and the (then) cutting-edge science that aimed to save countless lives, Roiphe blends fact with fiction, bringing historical scientists to life and weaving a love story within the urgent scientific mission.

Sullivan, Faith

Gardenias

A coming-of-age story set in California during the 1940s war years.

Swan, Susan

What Casanova Told Me

The mystery of Casanova's last great love lies at the center of this alluring novel, that spans centuries and continents.

Tiffany, Carrie

Everyman's Rules for Scientific Living

The dusty farms of 1930s Australia are the backdrop for this rich, knowing debut novel about science, love and the limits of progress.

Tripp, Dawn Clifton

The Season of Open Water

Set in coastal Massachusetts in the late 1920s, Tripp's second novel revolves around family, relationships, and the human costs of Prohibition.

White, Jenny B.

The Sultan's Seal

The naked body of an Englishwoman washes up in Ottoman Istanbul wearing a pendant with the sultan's seal. This debut novel captures the political and social upheavals of the waning Ottoman Empire.

Wright, Stephen

The Amalgamation Polka

This tale of the growth and travels of Liberty Fish, son of passionate upstate New York abolitionists but drawn to his slaveholding extended family, is an unusually captivating modernist novel set during the Civil War.

Yarbro, Chelsea Quinn

States of Grace: a novel of Saint-Germain

Religious conflict makes life dangerous for almost everyone in 1530 Europe, but publishing is a particularly hazardous undertaking. When Count Saint-Germain travels from Italy to the Spanish Netherlands to protect his interests there, he leaves behind his lover, talented musician and composer, confident his vast wealth will provide for her; but an embezzler has other ideas.