

Historical Fiction: A Selection



Prehistory to the 18th century

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Prehistory

Beyond the Gap

by **Harry Turtledove**

F T962b 2007

News arrives of a narrow gap in the seemingly impregnable and endless wall of ice in the great Glacier near the city of Nidaros. Count Hamnet Thyssen and his companions venture deep into a dangerous and unexplored world on a perilous search for an ancient legend about a Golden Shrine and other lands beyond the ice.

Ancient Times

Nefertiti

by **Michelle Moran**

F M8295n 2007

Raised far from the Egyptian court with her sister, Mutnodjmet, the beautiful and ambitious Nefertiti becomes the wife of the radical new pharaoh, Amunhotep, encouraging his plans to overturn Egypt's state religion and making powerful enemies in the process.

Antony and Cleopatra

by **Colleen McCullough**

F M1335an 2007

Retells the story of Antony and Cleopatra from a meticulously researched perspective that features detailed historical and psychological details about the love affair that transformed the ancient world.

The quest

by **Wilbur Smith**

F S663q 2007

Continues the story of the Warlock, Taita, wise in the lore of the ancient Gods and a master of magic and the supernatural

Three novels of ancient Egypt : Khufu's wisdom ; Rhadopis of Nubia ; Thebes at war

by **Naguib Mahfouz**

F M2145th 2007

Includes Khufu's Wisdom, in which the great Fourth Dynasty ruler confronts the end of his reign and the growing love between his daughter and his chief rival; Rhadopis of Nubia, about the love affair between a pharaoh and a courtesan; and Thebes at War, about Egypt's victory over foreign invaders.

Dreaming the Serpent Spear

by **Manda Scott**

F S4283ds GPB 2006

It is AD 60. The flame of rebellion that has been smouldering for twenty years of Roman occupation has flared into a conflagration that will consume the land and all who live in it. But to crush the legions for all time, Boudica must do more than lead her army in the greatest rebellion Britain has ever known. She must find healing for herself.

Fall of kings

by **David Gemmell and Stella Gemmell**

F G3232f 2007

The allies of the Mykene king Agamemnon, including a reluctant Odysseus, ruler of Ithaca, and the fierce warrior Achilles, gather to prepare a final onslaught against the Golden City of Troy.

The Water Thief

by **Ben Pastor**

M P293w 2007

While researching the nearly two-hundred-year-old unsolved drowning of the emperor Hadrian's male favorite, Antinous, ancient Roman historian Aelius Spartianus stumbles into the middle of a mystery. The case involves a lost letter by Hadrian, a possible conspiracy against the Roman Empire, Antinous's lost grave, and those who will do anything to gain control of the lost document.

Roma: The Novel of Ancient Rome

by **Steven Saylor**

F S2752r 2007

An epic tale of ancient Rome traces such events as the city's founding by Romulus and Remus, the Punic Wars, and the murder of Julius Caesar through the stories of two families whose descendants ultimately share numerous tragedies and triumphs.

The Uncertain Hour

by **Jesse Browner**

F B884u 2007

A fictional account of the Roman author Petronius's final twelve hours after being falsely implicated in a plot to assassinate the emperor Nero.

Lilah

by **Marek Halter**

F H197L 2006

The third book in Halter's Canaan Trilogy tells the story of the high priest Ezra's sister, whose protest against religious fanaticism saved her people.

Medicus: A Novel of the Roman Empire

by Ruth Downie

M D7513m 2006

A down-on-his-luck Roman army doctor, Gaius Petreius Ruso decides to seek his fortune in one of the far outposts of the Roman Empire, journeying to Britannia, where he rescues an injured slave girl, Tilla, from her abusive owner.

8th Century

The Wind of the Khazars

by Marek Halter

F H197w 2006

At a time when Charlemagne ruled, the Byzantines were encroaching upon Russia, and Islam was flourishing, there existed a kingdom with a tolerant, advanced civilization. Somewhere between the Caucasus mountains and the Volga, the Khazar kingdom grew and flourished, and in one of the oddest choices ever made, converted itself to Judaism.

9th Century

Mistress of the Art of Death

by Ariana Franklin

F F8313m 2007

Sent to medieval Cambridge in order to exonerate a group of Jewish prisoners with financial ties to King Henry I, University of Salerno medical examiner Adelia and a group of companions struggle to avoid being accused of witchcraft and discover that the killer may be a former crusader.

The Thrall's Tale

by Judith Lindbergh

F L7424t 2006

A tale set in Viking Greenland at the turn of the ninth century follows the intertwined lives of three women straddling the pagan past and Christian future, from the slave Katla, who anticipates the promise of a new land; to Bibrau, the daughter born to Katla after a brutal rape; to the prophetess Thorbjorg, who teaches Norse magic to Bibrau.

11th Century

Genghis : birth of an empire

by Conn Iggulden

F I242g 2007

Chronicles the rise of Genghis Khan, one of the world's most powerful and fearsome rulers, from his tragic beginnings, to the murder of his father, to his legendary exploits as a feared warrior.

Rashi's daughters. Book 2, Miriam

by Maggie Anton

F A634m 2007

Dedicated to her career as a midwife in the eleventh-century Troyes, France, Jewish community, Miriam finds herself sorely tested and forced to rely on her faith to pursue her chosen path.

Knights of the Black and White

by Jack Whyte

F W629k 2006

Shortly after his initiation into the Order of the Knights Templar, Sir Hugh de Payens is drawn into the turbulence of the First Crusade and joins with fellow members of the Order to uncover the roots of the secret society that has guided his family for generations.

12th Century

Duchess of Aquitaine: A Novel of Eleanor

by Margaret Ball

F B1873d 2006

Inheriting France's richest province at the age of fifteen, the duke's daughter Eleanor becomes vulnerable to fortune hunters and successfully plots to marry King Louis before considering a more powerful alliance with Henry II of England.

The Ruby in her Navel: A Novel of Love and Intrigue in the Twelfth Century

by Barry Unsworth

F U59ru 2006

Sent to uncover the conspiracies brewing against his king, Thurstan Beauchamp, a young Norman, finds intrigue, treachery, and love at the Sicilian court of King Roger in Palermo, and is torn between two different women--the widowed Lady Alicia, the woman he had loved as a youth, and Nesrin, a sensuous court dancer.

Chains of Folly: A Madgdalene La Batarde Mystery

by Roberta Gellis

M G319c 2006

Although recently estranged, Magdalene la Batarde and her erstwhile lover, Sir Bellamy, once again team to solve the murder of one of Magdalene's sister prostitutes. Nelda Roundheel's death would be of little interest to anyone in twelfth-century London, but when her battered body is found in the bedchamber of Bellamy's patron, the bishop of Winchester, her killing takes on more sinister implications.

13th Century

Sylvia

by Bryce Courtenay

F C8632sy 2007

Recounts the true event of the Children's Crusade, recreated here from scattered medieval Latin and Arabic texts as the story of Sylvia, a remarkable, talented, and eccentric young woman who prevails over poverty, brutality and bigotry.

Justice for the damned : [a Medieval mystery]

by Priscilla Royal

M R888j 2007

Prioress Eleanor of Tyndal is recuperating from a life-threatening illness, but things are looking up with an assignment from her aunt Beatrice, director of novices at Amesbury Priory, who asks her to investigate a ghost that has begun haunting Amesbury.

The Lark's Lament

by Alan Gordon

M G6623L 2007

In 1204, with the Fools' Guild in hiding and under attack by the forces of Pope Innocent III, jesters Theophilos and Claudia are sent to enlist the help of a former guild member, the minstrel Folquet, but a gruesome murder at the abbey forces them into a race against time.

14th Century

The master of Verona

by David Blixt

F B649m 2007

In 1314, an exiled poet Dante and his two sons, Pietro and his younger brother Jacopo, travel to Verona at the behest of its leader, Francesco 'Cangrande' della Scalla. Pietro becomes caught up the city's intrigues and finds himself in the middle of a growing

rivalry between his best friends over a woman who is betrothed to the one and in love with the other.

The Water Devil : a Margaret of Ashbury Novel

by Judith Merkle

F R573w 2007

Returning to England after rescuing her husband, Gregory, from his French captors, Margaret turns to an old friend to help her save her young daughter from an unwanted marriage brokered by Gregory's meddling father. The situation becomes complicated when warring factions rouse an ancient being that dwells in a spring at the heart of a disputed forest.

Queen of Shadows: A Novel of Isabella, Wife of King Edward II

by Edith Felber

F F3113q 2006

Humiliated by her weak and unfaithful husband, Queen Isabella, wife of England's King Edward II, plots her revenge, joining forces with her lover, Roger Mortimer, to seize control of the throne, in a historical novel set against the backdrop of fourteenth-century England.

15th Century

The mercy seller

by Brenda Rickman Vantrease

F V2822m 2007

Urged by her grandfather to seek sanctuary in England when their secret work as illuminators of forbidden books is threatened by a wave of religious intolerance in fifteenth-century Prague, Anna catches the attention of an undercover priest.

I, Mona Lisa

by Jeanne Kalogridis

F K142i 2006

A meticulously detailed historical novel, set against the turbulent backdrop of fifteenth-century Florence, chronicles the life and times of Madonna Lisa, the mysterious woman who becomes the subject of Leonardo da Vinci's most famous and enigmatic portrait and who becomes caught up in a web of dark secrets, treachery, illicit love, and murder.

In the Company of the Courtesan

by Sarah Dunant

F D897i 2006

With the jewels they have swallowed as the enemy breaks down their doors in Rome, Fiammetta Bianchini and Bucino Teodoldi are already planning their future. They head

for the shimmering beauty of Venice, a honey pot of wealth and trade where they start to rebuild their business. Venice, however, is a city which holds its own temptations.

Leonardo's Swans

by Karen Essex

F E78L 2006

Born into wealth amid the political and artistic foment of the Italian Renaissance, worldly and ambitious Isabella and naïve Beatrice Este, sisters and rivals, compete for the attentions of Ludovico Sforza, the Duke of Milan. Even though he marries Beatrice he must choose between family loyalty and survival amid the treachery of a dangerous era.

Revenge of the Rose

by Nicole Galland

F G163r 2006

Summoned to the court of Konrad, the Holy Roman Emperor, Willem, a nave and poor young nobleman, negotiates the intrigues of the court with the help of Jouglet, an enigmatic minstrel and longtime admirer of Willem's sister Lienor. Winning honors for his knightly prowess, he discovers that he has become an unwitting pawn in an elaborate scheme.

A Rose for the Crown

by Anne Easter Smith

F E132r 2006

A tale set in medieval England follows Kate Haute's rise from a peasant-class family to the beloved mistress of the future King Richard III, with whom she bears three illegitimate children, endures a dangerous political war, and struggles against accusations about his murdered nephews.

The Prodigal Son

by Kate Sedley

M S449p 2006

John Wedmore is accused of murdering a fellow servant and thrown into prison. Roger, his half-brother, feels obliged to investigate the charge. When Anthony, an inhabitant of the Manor House is murdered, Roger is convinced that the past and present killings are linked. And if he can prove the connection, his half-brother's name will be cleared.

16th Century

Portrait of an unknown woman

by Vanora Bennett

F B4723P 2007

In an epic tale set against a backdrop of civil-war torn sixteenth-century Europe, portraitist Hans Holbein the Younger flees to the safety of Tudor England in order to escape artistic censorship.

The hooded hawk : an Elizabeth I mystery

by Karen Harper

M H294h 2007

Leaving London for a journey around the country, Queen Elizabeth I and her court, accompanied by a young Francis Drake, are confronted by someone shooting arrows at the queen and the captain, both of whom have cousins who may want them dead.

The Sixth Wife

by Suzannah Dunn

F D9231s 2007

Catherine, Duchess of Suffolk, recounts the story of her friend Katherine Parr, who survives Henry VIII to find true love with Thomas Seymour, only to realize that her love is based on a lie.

Mademoiselle Boleyn

by Robin Maxwell

F M4658m 2007

Lovely, innocent Anne Boleyn is thrilled with the prospects of a new adventure and by the passion, intrigue, and betrayal that ensues, when her father is assigned the mission of spying on the French court.

My lady judge : the first Burren mystery

by Cora Harrison

M H318 m 2007

On the first eve of May, 1509, hundreds of people from the Burren climbed the gouged out limestone terraces of Mullaghmore Mountain to celebrate the great May Day festival. One man, however, did not come back down the steeply spiraling path.

Sovereign

by C.J. Sansom

M S229s 2006

It was autumn, 1541. Following the uncovering of a plot against his throne in Yorkshire, King Henry VIII has set out on a spectacular Progress to the North to overawe his rebellious subjects there. Accompanying the king is lawyer Matthew Shardlake, who soon finds himself investigating a murder.

The Heretic: A Novel of the Inquisition

by Miguel Delibes

F D3532he 2006

Raised by his nurse after the childbirth death of his mother and his father's emotional abandonment, Cipriano Salcedo, whose birth occurred at a moment of spiritual and political significance, joins the Reformation movement and is targeted by the Spanish Inquisition.

Innocent Traitor: A Novel of Lady Jane Grey

by Alison Weir

F W4252i 2006

A fictional portrait of Lady Jane Grey, the great-niece of Henry VIII and cousin to his children, follows her turbulent life against the backdrop of Tudor power politics and religious upheaval, from her youth, to her nine-day reign as Queen of England, to its tragic aftermath.

The Last Wife of Henry VIII

by Carolly Erickson

F E678L 2006

Presents a fictional portrait of the sixth wife of Henry VIII, Catherine Parr, following this alluring and resourceful woman from the intrigues and perils of Henry's court to her rivalry with Princess Elizabeth for the affections of Thomas Seymour.

Night of Sorrows

by Frances Sherwood

F S5545n 2006

Sold as a love slave to conquistador Hernán Cortés in the early sixteenth century, Aztec princess Malintzín accompanies him on a journey to Tenochtitlan, while Cortés and his temperamental compadres engage in a deadly battle that marks the end of the Aztec empire.

17th Century

In the last blue

by Carme Riera

F R558i 2007

The author recreates the lives of Majorcan Jews in the seventeenth century, in a world of inquisitors, aristocrats, merchants, farmers, and soldiers, in a lush mosaic of history and period detail, religion and cultural lore.

Peony in Love

Lisa See

F S4512p 2007

In seventeenth-century China, three women become emotionally involved with 'The Peony Pavilion,' a famed opera rumored to cause lovesickness and even death.

The sun over Breda

by Arturo Pérez-Reverte

F P4383su 2007

Captain Alatríste takes up his blade and rejoins his elite Cartagena regiment as they take part in the battles and siege of Breda. Fifteen-year-old Inigo Balboa enlists to serve as his master's aide, and narrates their further adventures of swordplay and skirmishes, of

mutiny and wartime honor. And, back in Spain, Alatrisme's nemesis, Luis de Alquzar, grows more powerful, as Inigo's mysterious friend Angélica hints at some plans upon his return.

Vivaldi's virgins

by **Barbara Quick**

F Q63v 2007

A tale set in Vivaldi's decadent Venice during a six-month period in which the city gave itself over to the masked celebrations of Carnival, finds elite Ospedale ella Pietà musician Anna Maria dal Violin embarking on a quest of self discovery.

The Blood of Flowers

by **Anita Amirrezvani**

F A5173b 2007

After her father dies and leaves her without a dowry, a seventeenth-century Persian teen becomes a servant to her wealthy rug designer uncle in the court of Shah Abbas the Great, where her weaving talents turn out to be both a blessing and a curse.

The Rosetti Letter

by **Christi Phillips**

F P5584r 2007

Fearing that her research will be rendered useless if a Cambridge professor proves his theory about seventeenth-century Venetian courtesan Alessandra Rossetti, Ph.D. candidate Claire Donovan agrees to chaperone a troubled teen in order to gain passage to the professor's presentation in Venice.

1635: The Cannon Law

by **Eric Flint & Andrew Dennis**

F F6233s 2006

In Rome in 1635, Grantville's diplomatic team, headed by Sharon Nichols, has come to a standstill in their negotiations with Pope Urban VIII, while mysterious agitators are stirring up trouble.

Fabrizio's Return

by **Mark Frutkin**

F F945f 2006

It is 1682 in Cremona, Italy. With his manservant, an insolent dwarf named Omero, Fabrizio Cambiati, a priest, climbs the town clocktower to await the return of a comet that is said to reappear in the skies every 76 years. As the priest peers through the telescope his gaze drifts down onto the town's central piazza where, 76 years later, a Jesuit, Michele Archenti, has arrived, a devil's advocate, who's in Cremona to determine whether or not Fabrizio should be considered for sainthood.

The Temple Dancer: A Novel of India

by **John Speed**

F S742t 2006

An epic account set in seventeenth-century India traces the journey of Maya, a high-priced dancer who has been bought by one of the most powerful men in Bijapur and who faces dangerous obstacles across the Mogul Empire while in the company of settlement men, a eunuch, and a spoiled Portuguese woman.

Red Chrysanthemum: A Thriller

by **Laura Joh Rowland**

M R8834r 2006

In 1698 Japan, samurai detective Sano Ichiro finds his role as the shogun's trusted advisor threatened when the shogun's heir, Lord Mori, is found murdered and mutilated, with Sano's pregnant wife, Reiko, lying beside him, naked and covered in blood.

18th Century

The lost memoirs of Jane Austen

by **Syrie James**

F J293L 2008

Jane Austen has given up her writing when, on a trip to Lyme, she meets the well-read and charming Mr. Ashford, a man who is her equal in intellect and temperament. Inspired by the people and places around her, Jane begins revising *Sense and Sensibility*, a book she began years earlier, hoping to get it published.

The lost constitution

by **William Martin**

F M3835I 2007

Learning of the existence of an early, annotated draft of the constitution, rare book expert Peter Fallon realizes that the annotations identify the Founding Fathers' true intentions for the Bill of Rights with history-changing potential.

Napoleon's pyramids

by **William Dietrich**

F D566n 2007

Acquiring an ancient medallion covered in seemingly indecipherable symbols, expatriate American Ethan Gage is forced to flee for his life when he is framed for murder and forced to accompany Napoleon Bonaparte on the emperor's quest to conquer Egypt.

The nature of monsters

by **Clare Clark**

F C5922n 2007

In 1718, sixteen-year-old Eliza Tally takes a job in London as an apothecary's maid, only to find herself working for a mysterious apothecary who refuses to let her see his face or enter the study where he pursues his experiments.

Patriot hearts : a novel of the founding mothers

by **Barbara Hambly**

F H199p 2007

The triumphs and turmoil of early America are revealed through fictional portraits of four women, Martha Washington, Abigail Adams, Sally Hemings, and Dolley Madison. All four women played key roles during four presidential administrations.

The Alchemist's Daughter

by **Katharine McMahon**

F M1512a 2006

Growing up under the watchful eye of her father, an eccentric chemist, young Emilie Selden is a female scientist and alchemist in an eighteenth-century world that dismisses female accomplishment, until an unexpected encounter with the temptations of the outside world lures her away from her home, her work, and her father.

Cruel Choices

by **Charles O'Brien**

M O13c 2007

Anne Cartier is searching for missing Lucie Gigot, last seen with the Marquis de Bresses valet. When Bresse is found dead in the Seine, her quest turns into a murder investigation where she uncovers a vicious network of pimps, brothel madams and corrupt policemen.

A Treasury of Regrets

by **Susanne Alleyn**

M A435t 2007

Freelance police investigator Aristide Ravel comes to the aid of Jeannette Moineau, an illiterate servant girl accused of poisoning the master of the house where she works, but his case is complicated by a household brimming with suspects and motives and by the deaths of additional family members.

Brookland

by **Emily Barton**

F B2932b 2006

Established as the owner of a successful gin distillery in eighteenth-century Brooklyn, Prudence Winship becomes obsessed with a plan to build a bridge across the East River to Manhattan, an ambition for which she enlists the help of a loyal surveyor and her two sisters.

A Conversation on the Quai Voltaire

by Lee Langley

F L283c 2006

Based on the life of Vivant Denon, this is a story of a unique period in history. Vivant Denon was a youthful courtier at Versailles; he lived through the French Revolution, and galloped across Egypt with Bonaparte. He knew everyone, Marie Antoinette, Voltaire, Robespierre, Catherine the Great, and the artists, Boucher and David. He found world fame without seeking it, risking his life and happiness in an endless quest, a love affair with art.

The Last Witchfinder

by James Morrow

F M8836L 2006

Horrified by the execution of her beloved Aunt Isobel, unjustly convicted as a witch, young Jennet Stearne, the daughter of an eighteenth-century English witchfinder, takes it upon herself to bring down the Parliamentary Witchcraft Act, inspired by a cryptic letter from Isaac Newton, taking on the Salem Witch Court, Algonquin Indian captors, her young lover Ben Franklin, and others in the process.



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