

KUWAIT/EGYPT

Jarrar, Randa

A Map of Home

Nadali, the rebellious daughter of an Egyptian-Greek mother and a Palestinian father, narrates her story from her childhood in Kuwait, her early teenage years in Egypt (where the family fled during the Iraqi invasion) to her family's last flight to Texas.

NETHERLANDS

Young, Sara

My Enemy's Cradle

Hiding out from the Nazis with her Dutch relatives, Cyria, a half-Jewish girl, is confronted by a terrifying choice between certain discovery in her cousin's home and — knowing that her cousin Annika is pregnant with the child of a German soldier—taking her place in the Lebensborn, a maternity home for Aryan girls carrying German babies.

PAKISTAN

Ahmed, Jamil

The Wondering Falcon

A debut novel set in the Federally Administered Tribal lands at the intersection of Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan follows the story of banished refugees' son Tor Baz, who travels throughout the region while considering his prestigious lineage and witnessing the effects of extreme culture and geography on the lives of those he encounters.

SAUDI ARABIA

Alsanea, Rajaa

Girls of Riyadh

A bold new voice from Saudi Arabia spins a fascinating tale of four young women attempting to navigate the narrow straits between love, desire, fulfillment, and Islamic tradition. In her debut novel Rajaa Alsanea reveals the social, romantic, and sexual tribulations of four young women from the elite classes of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

TURKEY

Shafak, Elif

The Architect's Apprentice

In 1540, twelve-year-old Jahan arrives in Istanbul. As an animal tamer in the sultan's menagerie, he looks after the exceptionally smart elephant Chota and befriends (and falls for) the sultan's beautiful daughter, Princess Mihri-mah. A palace education leads Jahan to Mimar Sinan, the empire's chief architect, who takes Jahan under his wing as they construct (with Chota's help) some of the most magnificent buildings in history.



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A Trip Around the Globe



AFGHANISTAN

Hashimi, Nadia

The Pearl that Broke its Shell

Adopting the custom of bacha posh in 2007 Kabul, which allows her to dress and be treated as a boy, attend school and chaperone her sisters until she is of marriageable age, Rahima, the daughter of a drug-addicted father, discovers that she is not the first in her family to adopt this unusual custom.

Hosseini, Khaled

A Thousand Splendid Suns

Two women born a generation apart witness the destruction of their home and family in war torn Kabul, incurring losses over the course of thirty years that test the limits of their strength and courage.

Also by this author: *The Kite Runner*

AMSTERDAM

Ewan, Chris

A Good Thief's Guide to Amsterdam

Charlie Howard travels the globe writing suspense novels for a living, about an intrepid burglar named Faulks. To supplement his income - and to keep his hand in - Charlie also has a small side business: stealing for a very discreet clientele on commission.

AUSTRALIA

McCullough, Colleen

Bittersweet

Returning to the sweeping romantic saga, Colleen McCullough presents a new major work: the story of four unforgettable sisters navigating work, love, and their dreams in 1920s Australia.

Stedman, M.L.

The Light Between Oceans

A novel set on a remote Australian island, where a childless couple live quietly running a lighthouse, until a boat carrying a baby washes ashore.

BANGLADESH

Anam, Tahmima

The Golden Age

As she plans a party for her son and daughter, Rehana Haque's life will be transformed in a story of one family caught in the middle of the 1971 Bangladesh War of Independence, as they face changes and decisions that will have a profound impact on their lives. (Trilogy)

BELGIAN CONGO

Kingsolver, Barbara
The Poisonwood Bible

The Poisonwood Bible is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959.

BOSNIA

Brooks, Geraldine
People of the Book

This is the story of the journey of a rare illuminated prayer book through centuries of war, destruction, theft, loss, and love.

CAMBODIA

Fay, Kim
Map of Lost Memories

Seeking to restore her reputation after being passed over for a curator position, Irene Blum teams up with temple-robbler Simone Merlin in 1925 Shanghai to find a priceless set of scrolls believed to contain the lost history of Cambodia.

Ratner, Vaddey

In the Shadow of the Banyan

Told from the tender perspective of a young girl who comes of age amid the Cambodian killing fields, this searing first novel--based on the author's personal story--is one of survival, endurance, and forced exodus.

CHILE

Allende, Isabel
Ines of My Soul

Based on the amazing true story of Ines Suarez who left Spain to find her husband in the New World. When she learned that he had died, she continued her journey and ends up in Chile. A fascinating look at the New World colonization in South America during the 1500s.

CHINA

See, Lisa
Snow Flower and the Secret Fan

In nineteenth century China, in a remote Hunan county, a girl named Lily, at the tender age of seven, is paired with a laotong, or "old same," in an emotional match that will last a lifetime. The two women exchange messages written on silk fans and handkerchieves using nu shu, a unique language that women created in order to communicate in secret, sharing their experiences, but when a misunderstanding arises, their friendship threatens to tear apart.

EGYPT

Beauman, Sally
The Visitors

Recreation of the hunt for Tutankhamun's tomb in Egypt's Valley of the Kings—a dazzling blend of fact and fiction that brings to life a lost world of exploration, adventure, and danger, and the audacious men willing to sacrifice everything to find a lost treasure.

ENGLAND

Shaffer, Mary Ann
The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society
In 1946, as England emerges from the shadow of WWII, writer Juliet Ashton finds inspiration for her next book in her correspondence with a native of Guernsey and his eccentric friends, who tell her about their island, the books they love, the German occupation and the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society book club.

FRANCE

Mayle, Peter
A Year in Provence

Here is the month-by-month account of the charms and frustrations that Peter Mayle and his wife experience their first year in Provence restoring a two-centuries-old stone farmhouse that they bought on sight. *This is a nonfiction book, but a great read!

Mosse, Kate

Labyrinth

In the Pyrenees mountains at an archaeology dig, Alice stumbles into a cave and makes a startling discovery--two crumbling skeletons, strange writings on the walls, and the pattern of a labyrinth which is linked to a brutal crusade 800 years earlier.

GERMANY

Zusak, Markus
The Book Thief

Set during World War II in Germany, this is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing books.

IRELAND

Mehran, Marsha
Pomegranate Soup

Three Iranian sisters flee the turmoil of Iran and seek refuge in Ireland where they open the exotic Babylon Café. Is meat and potatoes Ireland ready for the spicy tastes of Iran?

KENYA

Zweig, Stefanie
Nowhere in Africa

When the Nazi regime comes to power, Jewish attorney Walter Redlich flees Germany with his family and finds refuge in Kenya, where the family must learn to adapt to their new life.

KOREA

Kim, Eugenia
The Calligrapher's Daughter

In early-twentieth-century Korea, Najin Han, the privileged daughter of a calligrapher, longs to choose her own destiny. Smart and headstrong, she is encouraged by her mother--but her stern father is determined to maintain tradition, especially as the Japanese steadily gain control of his beloved country.