



NONFICTION

Catastrophe 1914: Europe Goes to War by Max Hastings

Max Hastings re-creates World War I's dramatic first year, from the diplomatic crisis to the fighting in Belgium and France on the western front and Serbia and Galicia to the east. He gives vivid accounts of the battles and frank assessments of generals and political leaders, and shows why it was inevitable that this first war among modern industrial nations could not produce a decisive victory, resulting in a war of attrition. Throughout we encounter high officials and average soldiers, as well as civilians on the home front, giving us a vivid portrait of how a continent became embroiled in a war that would change everything.

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson

A Pulitzer-Prize winning writer documents the life journeys of Ida May--a sharecropper from Mississippi, George--a citrus picker from Florida, and Robert--an aspiring doctor from Louisiana, as they establish new lives in cities in the North and West during the era of the Great Migration (1915 to 1970).



*I Always
Meant To
Read That...*



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Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides

This is the story of three generations of a Greek-American family. It is narrated by Callie who undergoes a startling transformation and in the process discovers family secrets.

Water for Elephants by Sarah Gruen

Ninety-something year old Jacob still remembers himself as a young man, tossed by fate onto a rickety train that was home to the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth. To Jacob it was both salvation and a living hell.

The Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro

This book is the story of Stevens, who has been a butler at Darlington Hall for his whole working life. Although he seems to enjoy his life and is excellent at his job, from the memories that Stevens divulges, he seems to have some regrets. It's an excellent look into the lives of some of the "downstairs" people of England.

Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline

At the age of 91, Vivian Daly is living a quiet life on the coast of Maine until she meets Molly, an eighteen-year-old foster child. As the unlikely pair work together in Vivian's attic sorting through her possessions, Vivian reveals stories from her past, having been placed on an orphan train in the late 1920s and shipped from NYC to the Midwest to live with farm families and others in need of child labor.

I Know This Much is True by Wally Lamb

Forty-year-old Dominick Birdsey tries to reconcile his feelings about his identical twin brother, Thomas, who is schizophrenic. While he agonizes over his twin's illness, he also resents him. Dominick's life is complicated when Thomas cuts off his own hand in a misplaced belief that his sacrifice will stop the war in the Middle East. Dominick begins seeing a therapist on Thomas's behalf and then for himself. In the process he deals with the ever-present longing to know who is father is. He also comes to understand Thomas's illness and the effects of their dysfunctional home life while growing up with a violent stepfather and weak mother.

The Fortress of Solitude by Jonathan Lethem

Two motherless teenage boys, one white and one black, come of age in racially-divided 1970s Brooklyn.

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers

A novel centered on a deaf-mute named John Singer in a small mill town in Georgia in the 1930s. After his companion is sent away to an insane asylum, John encounters four characters struggling with their own isolation.

I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith

In a classic English story, Cassandra Mortmain chronicles in her diary what happens to her eccentric family when a young American man inherits the local estate. Readers of Jane Austen will enjoy this story of class, sisters, and marriage.

The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt

Theo Decker, a 13-year-old New Yorker, miraculously survives an accident that kills his mother. Abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by the family of a wealthy friend. He clings to the small painting that reminds him of his mother.

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

Walls' memoir of growing up as one of four children of two dysfunctional parents; an alcoholic father and a free-spirited mother. As a child, she had to learn to take care of herself and persevere. Looking back on her life, she sees that it was far from normal but it made her the person she is today.

The Book Thief by Marcus Zuzak

Death is the narrator; yes, really. Nine year old Liesel goes to live with a foster family in Germany after stealing a book. Her foster father teaches her to read and books become her treasure. Life in the working class as WWII rages.