

# HISTORICAL FICTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS

## Middle Ages - Eighteenth Century

### *Catherine, Called Birdy*

CUSHMAN

The thirteen-year-old daughter of an English knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off. (Middle Ages)

### *My Lady Jane*

HAND

One the eve of her marriage to a stranger, sixteen-year-old Lady Jane Grey is swept in a conspiracy to usurp the throne from her cousin in sixteenth century England. (contains some elements of fantasy)

### *The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue*

LEE

Henry Montague and his friend Percy find themselves in a middle of a dangerous manhunt involving pirates and highwayman as they embark on a yearlong escapade across Europe prior to Henry taking over the family estate. (contains some elements of fantasy)

### *Mary, Bloody Mary*

MEYER

Mary Tudor, who would reign briefly as Queen of England during the mid-sixteenth century, tells the story of her troubled childhood as daughter of King Henry VIII.

## Colonial Period

### *A Break with Charity*

RINALDI

While waiting for a church meeting in 1706, Susanna English, daughter of a wealthy Salem merchant, recalls the malice, fear, and accusations of witchcraft that tore her village apart in 1692.

## American Revolution

### *Chains*

ANDERSON, Laurie

After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

### *Fever, 1793*

ANDERSON, Laurie

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

### *The Pox Party (Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing)*

ANDERSON, M.T.

Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young African American, from birth to age sixteen, as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War.

*My Brother Sam is Dead*

COLLIER

One son joins the rebel forces while the rest of the family tries to stay neutral in a Tory town, as tragedy strikes the Meeker family during the Revolution.

*A Ride Into the Morning: The Story of Tempe Wick*

RINALDI

When unrest spreads at the Revolutionary War camp in Morristown, New Jersey, under the command of General Anthony Wayne, a young woman cleverly hides her horse from the mutinous soldiers who have need of it.

Civil War and Reconstruction

*Crossing Ebenezer Creek*

BOLDEN

Freed from slavery, Mariah and her young brother Zeke join Sherman's march through Georgia, where Mariah meets a free black named Caleb and dares to imagine the possibility of true love, but hope can come at a cost.

*Soldier's Heart*

PAULSEN

Eager to enlist, fifteen-year-old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat

*My Name is Not Friday*

WALTER

Samuel and his younger brother, Joshua, are free black boys living in an orphanage during the Civil War, but when Samuel takes the blame for his brother's prank, he is sent South, given a new name, and sold into slavery--and somehow he must survive both captivity and the war, to find his way back to his brother.

Pre-World War I

*A Mad, Wicked Folly*

BIGGS

In 1909 London, as the world of debutante balls and high society obligations closes in around her, seventeen-year-old Victoria must figure out how much she is willing to sacrifice to pursue her dream of becoming an artist.

*Lost*

DAVIES

In 1911 New York, sixteen-year-old Essie Rosenfeld must stop taking care of her irrepressible six year old sister when she goes to work at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company, where she befriends a missing heiress who is hiding from her family.

*Cinders and Sapphires*

RASHEED

A terrible scandal has followed Ada Averley's beloved father all the way from India to England. Now Ada finds herself torn between her own happiness and her family's honor, and the intertwined lives of the prominent Averley family and their servants are forever changed.

*The Hired Girl*

SCHLITZ

Fourteen-year-old Joan Skraggs chronicles her life in a journal when she leaves her family's farm in Pennsylvania to work as a hired girl in Baltimore in the summer of 1911.

*The Cure for Dreaming*

WINTERS

In 1900 Portland, Oregon, seventeen-year-old Olivia Mead, a suffragist, is hypnotized by the intriguing Henri Reverie, who's paid by her father to make her more docile and womanly, but who, instead gives her the ability to see people's true natures, while she secretly continues fighting for women's rights.

World War I

*Hattie Big Sky*

LARSON

After inheriting her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana, sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa to make a home for herself and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war being fought in Europe.

*After the Dancing Days*

ROSTKOWSKI

A forbidden friendship with a badly disfigured soldier in the aftermath of World War I forces thirteen-year-old Annie to redefine the word "hero" and to question conventional ideas of patriotism.

*In the Shadow of Blackbirds*

WINTERS

In San Diego in 1918, as deadly influenza and World War I take their toll, sixteen-year-old Mary Shelley Black watches desperate mourners flock to séances and spirit photographers for comfort and, despite her scientific leanings, must consider if ghosts are real when her first love, killed in battle, returns.

Post World War I

*The Fire Horse Girl*

HONEYMAN

When Jade Moon, born in the unlucky year of the Fire Horse, and her father immigrate to America in 1923 and are detained at Angel Island Immigration Station, Jade Moon is determined to find a way through and prove that she is not cursed.

*Dreamland Burning*

LATHAM

When Rowan finds a skeleton on her family's property, investigating the murder leads to painful discoveries about the past. Alternating chapters tell the story of William, another teen grappling with the racial firestorm leading up to the 1921 Tulsa race riot, providing some clues to the mystery.

*Out of Darkness*

PEREZ

Loosely based on the school explosion that took place in Texas in 1937, this is the story of two teenagers, Naomi, who is Mexican, and Wash, who is black, and their dealings with race, segregation, love, and the forces that destroy people.

*Black Dove, White Raven*

WEIN

Having moved to Ethiopia to avoid the prejudices of 1930s America, Emilia Menotti, her black adoptive brother Teo, and their mother Rhoda, a stunt pilot, are devoted to their new country even after war with Italy looms, drawing the teens into the conflict.

## World War II

### *The Boy Who Dared*

BARTOLETTI

In October, 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hubener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bringing the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people.

### *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*

BOYNE

Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

### *Girl in the Blue Coat*

HESSE

In 1943 Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, teenage Hanneke--a 'finder' of black market goods--is tasked with finding a Jewish girl a customer had been hiding, who has seemingly vanished into thin air, and is pulled into a web of resistance activities and secrets as she attempts to solve the mystery and save the missing girl.

### *The Librarian of Auschwitz*

ITURBE

Follows the true story of Dita Kraus, a fourteen-year-old girl from Prague who after being sent to Auschwitz is chosen to protect the eight volumes prisoners have smuggled past the guards.

### *Almost Autumn*

KAURIN

As autumn approaches Ilse Stern is thinking about her infatuation with Hermann Rod, and whether his determination to be a painter will interfere with their romance--but the reality of being Jewish in occupied Oslo is about to turn her whole world upside down, as the deportation of the Norwegian Jews begins.

### *Between Shades of Gray*

SEPETYS

In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death while she fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil.

### *Salt to the Sea*

SEPETYS

As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull.

### *Code Name Verity*

WEIN

In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage as she relates what she must do to survive while keeping secret all that she can.

Vietnam War Era – present

*Death Coming Up the Hill*

CROWE

Douglas Ashe keeps a weekly record of historical and personal events in 1968, the year he turns seventeen, including the escalating war in Vietnam, assassinations, rampant racism, and rioting; his first girlfriend, his parents' separation, and a longed-for sister.

*The Car*

PAULSEN

A teenager left on his own travels west in a kit car he builds himself, and along the way picks up two Vietnam veterans, who take him on an eye-opening journey.

*The Smell of Other People's Houses*

HITCHCOCK

Growing up in Alaska in the 1970s isn't like growing up anywhere else: Don't think life is going to be easy. Know your place. And never talk about yourself. Four vivid voices tell intertwining stories of hardship, tragedy, wild luck, and salvation.

*Four-Four-Two*

HUGHES

Forced into an internment camp at the start of World War II, eighteen-year-old Yuki enlists in the Army to fight for the Allies as a member of the "Four-Four-Two," a segregated Japanese American regiment.

*Burn, Baby Burn*

MEDINA

During the summer of 1977, when New York City is besieged by arson, a massive blackout, and a serial killer named Son of Sam, seventeen-year-old Nora must also face her family's financial woes, her father's absence, and her brother's growing violence.

*You Bring the Distant Near*

PERKINS

From 1965 to the present, an Indian American family adjusts to life in New York City, alternately fending off and welcoming challenges to their own traditions.

*Okay for Now*

SCHMIDT

As a teen who just moved to a new town, with no friends, an abusive father, and an older brother who just returned home from serving in Vietnam, Doug Swieteck has all the stats stacked against him until he finds an ally in Lil Spicer. (1960s)