

Book Discussion Kits - International Focus

[*Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*](#) by Bruce Feiler - In this timely and uplifting journey, the bestselling author of *Walking the Bible* searches for the man at the heart of the world's three monotheistic religions -- and today's deadliest conflicts.

[*Abundance: a novel of Marie Antoinette*](#) by Sena Jeter Naslund - Marie Antoinette lived a brief--but astounding--life. She rebelled against the formality and rigid protocol of the court; an outsider who became the target of a revolution that ultimately decided her fate.

[*The Alchemist*](#) by Paulo Coelho - A fable about undauntingly following one's dreams, listening to one's heart, and reading life's omens features dialogue between a boy and an unnamed being.

[*Americanah*](#) by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie - A young woman from Nigeria leaves behind her home and her first love to start a new life in America, where despite her academic success she is forced to grapple with what it means to be black for the first time.

[*Angela's Ashes: A Memoir*](#) by Frank McCourt - The Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir of childhood in the slums of Limerick, Ireland, told with humor, compassion and forgiveness.

[*Atlas of Unknowns*](#) by Tania James - Winning a scholarship to a prestigious school in New York, Anju leaves her sister behind in Kerala, India, and enters the elite world of her Hindu American host family.

[*The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*](#) by Gertrude Stein – Called one of the richest, wittiest, and most irreverent biographies ever written, filled with anecdotes of Stein's friendship with famous artists and writers of early 20th century Paris.

[*The Autobiography of My Mother*](#) by Jamaica Kincaid - A fictional chronicle of a woman obsessed with piecing together the story of the mother she never knew.

[*Away*](#) by Amy Bloom - Arriving in America alone after her family is destroyed in a Russian pogrom, Lillian Leyb receives word that her daughter might still be alive and embarks on a risky odyssey that takes her from New York's Lower East Side to Siberia.

[*Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*](#) by Dai Sijie - Two hapless city boys are exiled to a remote village for re-education during China's infamous Cultural Revolution where they discover a hidden stash of Western classics.

[*The Barbarian Nurseries*](#) by Héctor Tobar - When the recession hits, Araceli, a live-in maid in the Pacific Coast Torres-Thompson household, finds herself responsible for everything - including the family's two children. Then she wakes up to discover that the parents have vanished.

[*Beautiful Ruins*](#) by Jess Walter - In April 1962 a young Italian innkeeper in a remote village, Pasquale Tursi, puts up the "ethereal" American actress Dee Moray, who has arrived from the extravagant Rome location of "Cleopatra" supposedly sick with stomach cancer.

[*Behind the Beautiful Forevers*](#) by Katherine Boo - A bewildering age of global change and inequality is made human through the dramatic story of families striving toward a better life in Annawadi, a makeshift settlement in the shadow of luxury hotels near the Mumbai airport.

[*Bel Canto*](#) by Ann Patchett - A celebrated American soprano has just finished a recital in the home of the vice-president of a poor South American country when terrorists burst in, taking the international guests hostage.

[*The Blue Notebook*](#) by James Levine - Sold into sexual slavery as a young girl, fifteen-year-old Batuk spends her days in a cage on Mumbai's child-prostitute district while recording thoughts and stories in a diary.

[*The Book of Unknown Americans*](#) by Cristina Henríquez - Moving from Mexico to the United States when their daughter suffers a near-fatal accident, the Riveras confront cultural barriers, their daughter's difficult recovery, and her developing relationship with a Panamanian boy.

[*The Book Thief*](#) by Mark Zusak - Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

[*The Bookseller of Kabul*](#) by Asne Seierstad - Norwegian journalist Seierstad dons the burkha to live with a bookseller's family in post-Taliban Afghanistan, revealing intimate details of women's lives.

[*Breath, Eyes, Memory*](#) by Edwidge Danticat - A novel of both the poverty and richness of Haitian family life told by a poor Haitian woman, reunited with the mother she never knew, and the family bonds that extend beyond generations.

[*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*](#) by Junot Díaz - Living with an old-world mother and rebellious sister, an urban New Jersey misfit dreams of becoming the next J. R. R. Tolkien and believes that a long-standing family curse is thwarting his efforts to find love and happiness.

[*Brooklyn*](#) by Colm Tóibín - Leaving her home in post-World War II Ireland to work as a bookkeeper in Brooklyn, Ellis Lacey discovers a new romance in America with a charming blond Italian man before devastating news from home threatens her happiness.

[*Brother, I'm Dying*](#) by Edwidge Danticat - From the award-winning author of "The Dew Breaker" comes her first work of nonfiction: a deeply affecting story of home and family set in America and Haiti, of two men's lives and deaths, and of a daughter's great love for them both.

[*The Buddha in the Attic*](#) by Julie Otsuka – The story of a group of young women brought from Japan to San Francisco as “picture brides” from their arduous journeys by boat, and their tremulous first nights as new wives; from their experiences raising children who would later reject their culture and language, to the deracinating arrival of war.

[*Burial Rites*](#) by Hannah Kent – Based on the true story of Agnes Magnúsdóttir, a servant in northern Iceland who was condemned to death after the murder of two men, one of whom was her employer, and became the last woman put to death in Iceland.

[*Canada*](#) by Richard Ford - The story unfolds around 15-year-old Dell Parsons, whose world collapses when his parents are jailed for a bank robbery, his twin sister flees, and he is transported across the border by a family friend to an obscure town in Canada.

[*The Cats Table*](#) by Michael Ondaatje - The story by the author *The English Patient*, begins at "the cat's table" of ocean liner where 11-year narrator Michael shares meals and the company of an eccentric group of passengers as they journey from Sri Lanka to England.

[*Circling the Sun*](#) by Paula McLain - A fictionalized biography of the adventures and romances of beautiful, high-flying aviator and author Beryl Markham in British Kenya in the early 20th century. Her 1936 solo flight across the Atlantic in a two-seater prop plane transfixed the world.

[*Citizens of London: The Americans Who stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour*](#) by Lynne Olson - The behind-the-scenes story of how the United States forged its wartime alliance with Britain, told from the perspective of three key American players in London: Edward R. Murrow, Averell Harriman, and John Gilbert Winant

[*City of Thieves*](#) by David Benioff - Documenting his grandparents' experiences during the siege of Leningrad, a young writer learns his grandfather's story about how a military deserter and he tried to secure pardons by gathering hard-to-find ingredients for a powerful colonel's daughter's wedding cake.

[*City of Women*](#) by David Gillham - Hiding her clandestine activities behind the persona of a model Nazi soldier's wife at the height of World War II, Sigrid Schroeder dreams of her former Jewish lover and risks everything to hide a mother and two young children who she believes might be her lover's family.

[*Claire of the Sea Light*](#) by Edwidge Danticat - The interconnected secrets of a coastal Haitian town are revealed when one little girl, the daughter of a poor fisherman, goes missing on her seventh birthday.

[*Club Dumas*](#) by Arturo Perez-Reverte - In this intellectual thriller a rare-book specialist, called in to authenticate a Dumas manuscript, is drawn into a web of mystery.

[*The Commoner*](#) by John Burnham Schwartz - In 1959, Haruko marries the Crown Prince of Japan, becoming the first commoner to enter the mysterious and reclusive world of Japanese royalty, confronting the cruelty and suspicions of the court, until, three decades later, she helps arrange the marriage of her son.

[*A Constellation of Vital Phenomena*](#) by Anthony Marra - In war-torn Chechnya, a doctor watches as Russian soldiers abduct his neighbor, who has been accused of aiding Chechen rebels. He later rescues the neighbor's 8-year-old daughter, then colludes with another doctor to form an unlikely family amid the daily violence.

[*Cutting for Stone*](#) by Abraham Verghese - Twin brothers born in Ethiopia of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon are bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with medicine,

[*The Daughters of Mars*](#) by Thomas Keneally - Joining the war effort as nurses in 1915, two spirited Australian sisters, carrying a guilty secret, become the friends they never were at home and find themselves courageous in the face of danger as they serve during the first World War.

[*Day After Night*](#) by Anita Diamant - A tale inspired by the post-Holocaust experience is set in an immigrant holding camp in 1945 Palestine, where four women, refugees from Nazi Europe, find healing in the bonds of friendship that are forged while recounting their losses.

[*Dead Souls*](#) by Nikolai Gogol – In 19th century Russia an opportunist takes advantage of political corruption to buy landowners' rights to dead but registered and counted peasants in order to raise money on the certificates.

[*Digging to America*](#) by Anne Tyler - Two families, who would otherwise never have come together, meet by chance at the Baltimore airport, each awaiting the arrival of an adopted infant daughter from Korea. A penetrating light on the American way as seen from two perspectives.

[*The Dinner*](#) by Herman Koch - Meeting at an Amsterdam restaurant for dinner, two couples move from small talk to the wrenching shared challenge of their teenage sons' act of violence that has triggered a police investigation and revealed the extent to which each family will go to protect those they love.

[*Disgrace*](#) by J. M. Coetzee - In post-apartheid South Africa, a fifty-two-year-old college professor who has lost his job for sleeping with a student tries to relate to his daughter, Lucy, who works with an ambitious African farmer.

[*The Dream Lover*](#) by Elizabeth Berg – In 1831 Aurore Dupin, a free-spirited young woman, leaves her loveless marriage in the French countryside for a creative, bohemian life in Paris, a life that will lead her to become literary icon George Sand whose cross-dressing persona and many love affairs scandalized society.

[*Dreamers of the Day*](#) by Mary Doria Russell - Agnes Shanklin at 40 decides to take a trip to Egypt and the Middle East. Her social status puts her in contact with members of the post-World War I Cairo Peace Conference who designated the boundaries of many of the Middle Eastern countries of today.

[*Eat Pray Love: One Woman's Search for Everything across Italy, India, and Indonesia*](#) by Elizabeth Gilbert - Traces the author's decision to quit her job and travel the world for a year after suffering a midlife crisis and divorce, a journey that took her to three places in her quest to learn the art of spiritual balance

[*The Elegance of the Hedgehog*](#) by Muriel Barbery - The lives of fifty-four-year-old concierge Rene Michel and extremely bright, suicidal twelve-year-old Paloma Josse are transformed by the arrival of a new tenant, Kakuro Ozu.

[*Elizabeth and her German Garden*](#) by Elizabeth Von Arnim – Originally published in 1898, this is a year's diary of a noblewoman. It includes commentary on the beauty of nature and on society, but is primarily humorous due to Elizabeth's frequent mistakes and her idiosyncratic outlook on life.

[*Euphoria*](#) by Lily King - Frustrated by his research efforts and depressed over the death of his brothers, Andre Banson runs into two fellow anthropologists, a married couple, in 1930s New Guinea and begins a tumultuous relationship with them. The story is loosely based on events in the life of Margaret Mead.

[*Everything I Never Told You*](#) by Celeste Ng - When a teenager's body is dragged from the lake in the 1970s Ohio college town where she and her biracial family don't quite fit in, her parents, blonde home maker Marilyn and Chinese-American professor James, get swept into churning emotional conflicts.

[*Fathers and Sons*](#) by Ivan Turgenev – In 19th century Russia, Evgeny Bazarov, a young student and nihilist, professes to believe in nothing but science and thus disappoints his adoring parents.

[*Five Quarters of the Orange*](#) by Joanne Harris - A sensual novel follows a woman as she returns to the French village where she lived as a girl during the German occupation.

[*For the Benefit of Those Who See*](#) by Rosemary Mahoney – Not only the story of Braille Without Borders, the first school for the blind in Tibet, and of Sabriye Tenberken, the remarkable blind woman who founded the school, but also a cultural history of blindness.

[*The God of Small Things*](#) by Arundhati Roy - In 1969 in Kerala, India, Rahel and her twin brother, Estha, struggle to forge a childhood for themselves amid the destruction of their family life. Winner of the Booker Prize for best fiction.

[*The Good Earth*](#) by Pearl S. Buck - This great modern classic depicts life in China through one Chinese peasant and his family at a time before the vast political and social upheavals transformed an essentially agrarian country into a world power.

[*The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris*](#) by David G. McCullough - The story of the adventurous American artists, writers, doctors, politicians, and others who set off for Paris in the years between 1830 and 1900, hungry to learn and to excel in their work. What they achieved would profoundly alter American history.

[*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*](#) by Mary Ann Shaffer - An account of a writer's relationship with the members of a unique book club formed on the isle of Guernsey as an alibi to protect its members from arrest at the hands of the Nazis during WWII.

[*H is for Hawk*](#) by Helen Macdonald - When naturalist Helen Macdonald's beloved father died suddenly, she was devastated. An experienced falconer, she resolved to purchase and raise one of the most vicious predators, the goshawk, as a means to cope with her loss. Thus Mabel came into her life.

[*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*](#) by Jamie Ford - When artifacts from Japanese families sent to internment camps during World War II are uncovered during renovations at a Seattle hotel, Henry Lee embarks on a quest that leads to memories of growing up Chinese in a city rife with anti-Japanese sentiment.

[*House of Sand and Fog*](#) by Andre Dubus - A gripping tale of a tragic triangle involving a woman evicted from her home due to a bureaucrat's error, the sheriff who evicted her, and the immigrant who purchases the home.

[*The House of the Spirits*](#) by Isabel Allende - An epic tale of the influence of great families on history as well as the influence of history on great families set amidst the oppression and communism of Chile.

[*The House on Mango Street*](#) by Sandra Cisneros - For Esperanza, a young girl growing up in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago, life is an endless landscape of concrete and run-down tenements, and she tries to rise above the hopelessness..

[*The Husband's Secret*](#) by Liane Moriarty - Discovering a tattered letter that says she is to open it only in the event of her husband's death, Cecelia is unable to resist reading the letter and discovers a secret that shatters her life and the lives of two other women.

[*How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*](#) by Julia Alvarez -A vibrant tale of four sisters who flee the Dominican Republic during the 1960's and their stories of adjustment to the United States.

[*I Am Forbidden*](#) by Anouk Markovits - Of a Hasidic family's two daughters, one breaks with tradition to pursue a life of intellectual and emotional freedom, the other cleaves to convention only to find her childless marriage leads her to consider a course of action outside her religious beliefs.

[*I Am Malala*](#) by Malala Yousafzai - When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one Malala refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On October 9, 2012 she was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school and few expected her to survive.

[*In the Name of Salome*](#) by Julia Alvarez - An epic story of a strong woman, based upon the real-life Salome' Urena, a poet who was a national icon in the Dominican Republic.

[*In the Time of the Butterflies*](#) by Julia Alvarez - *A novelization of the true story the Mirabal sisters, three young wives and mothers who are assassinated after visiting their jailed husbands in the Dominican Republic.*

[*The Innocents Abroad*](#) by Mark Twain - This book offers a glimpse of a major writer when he was and just beginning to flex his muscles, and also serves as an enduring no-nonsense guide for the first-time traveler of Europe and the Holy Land.

[*Italian Love Stories: A Kentuckian's Journal of Tuscany*](#) by Donna Valtri Crane - Crane, a second generation Italian-American and first generation Kentuckian, gives a witty and observant account of life in the tiny Tuscan hill town of Volterra.

[*The Japanese Lover*](#) by Isabel Allende – In pre-war San Francisco a young Jewish refugee and the son of the Japanese gardener of her wealthy relations form a loving attachment that spans decades despite misfortunes, cultural differences and the realities of ageing.

[*Jerusalem Maiden*](#) by Leslie Carner -In the waning days of the Ottoman Empire, a young Orthodox Jewish woman in the holy city of Jerusalem is expected to marry and produce many sons. But Esther's artistic talent inspires her to secretly explore worlds outside her religion and to believe that God has a special destiny for her.

[*The Joy Luck Club*](#) by Amy Tan - Four older Chinese women living in San Francisco recall their memories of pre-war China and pass their culture and visions on to their American-born daughters.

[*Kafka on the Shore*](#) by Haruki Murakami - An unlikely alliance forms between Kafka Tamura, a fifteen-year-old runaway, and the aging Nakata, a man who has never recovered from a wartime affliction, as they embark on a surreal odyssey through a strange, fantastical world.

[*Kingdom of Shadows*](#) by Alan Furst - In 1938 Paris, Nicholas Morath, a Hungarian aristocrat and former cavalry officer, is recruited by his uncle, Count Janos Polanyi, to try to bring down the Hungarian fascists, as Europe moves ever closer to all-out war.

[*The Kitchen Boy: a Novel of the Last Tsar*](#) by Robert Alexander - A novel based on the 1918 Bolshevik revolutionary murder of Czar Nicholas II and the rest of the Russian royal family as told from the perspective of the event's only surviving witness, a young kitchen boy.

[*The Kitchen God's Wife*](#) by Amy Tan - Pressured to reveal to her adult American-born daughter her secret past in war-torn China in the 1940s, Winnie weaves an account of loneliness, love, courage and endurance.

[*The Kite Runner*](#) by Khaled Hosseini - (Regular and Large Print) Traces the unlikely friendship of a wealthy Afghan youth and a servant's son in a tale that spans the final days of Afghanistan's monarchy through the atrocities of the present day.

[*Leap of Faith: Memoirs of an Unexpected Life*](#) by Queen Noor - (Regular and Large Print) The young American woman who became wife and partner to Lebanon's King Hussein gives an intimate account of a woman who lost her heart to a king and to his people.

[*Leaving Before the Rains Come*](#) by Alexandra Fuller - A child of the Rhodesian wars and of two deeply complicated parents, noted memoirist Alexandra Fuller turns to her African past for clues to rebuild her life after a painful divorce.

[*Life of Pi*](#) by Yann Martel - Pi Patel, a zookeeper's son, sets sail for America. When the ship sinks, he escapes on a life boat and is lost at sea with a dwindling number of animals until only he and a hungry Bengal tiger remain.

[*The Light Between Oceans*](#) by M. L. Stedman - A novel set on a remote Australian island in the years following WWI, where a childless couple live quietly running a lighthouse, until a boat carrying a dead man and a living baby washes ashore

[*The Light in the Ruins*](#) by Chris Bohjalian— In Florence in 1955 a serial killer is at work, preying on the noble and once- wealthy Rosati family. Is it connected to 1943 when the family lived in the Villa Chimera and reluctantly played host to a number of Nazis who come to visit a recently discovered Etruscan tomb on their land?

[*Like Water for Chocolate*](#) by Laura Esquivel - A bittersweet romance set in Mexico, where romance and sensuality are combined with magical realism in the celebration of food.

[*Little Bee*](#) by Chris Cleave - Presents a tale of a precarious friendship between an illegal Nigerian refugee and a recent widow from suburban London, a story told from the alternating and disparate perspectives of both women.

[*The Little Prince*](#) by Antoine de Saint-Exupery - (available in English, French and Spanish) - An aviator whose plane is forced down in the Sahara Desert encounters a little prince from a small planet who relates his adventures in seeking the secret of what is important in life.

[*Long Way Gone*](#) by Ishmael Beah - At the age of twelve, Beah fled attacking rebels in Sierra Leone and became a child soldier in the government army. Soon, he was being fed amphetamines and trained to shoot an AK-47.

[*Love and Treasure*](#) by Ayelet Waldman - A tale inspired by the World War II Hungarian Gold Train follows the 1945 American capture of a locomotive filled with riches and the efforts of a Jewish-American lieutenant's granddaughter to track down a mysterious woman 70 years later.

[*The Lover*](#) by Marguerite Duras - An adolescent French girl living with her family in pre-World War II Indochina in the waning days of France's colonial empire has a scandalous and tumultuous affair with the son of a wealthy Chinese businessman.

[*The Lowland*](#) by Juhmpa Lahiri - Brothers Subhash and Udayan Mitra pursue vastly different lives--Udayan in rebellion-torn Calcutta, Subhash in a quiet corner of America--until a shattering tragedy compels Subhash to return to India, where he endeavors to heal family wounds.

[*Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*](#) by Helen Simonson – (Large Print) Major Ernest Pettigrew (retired) leads a quiet life in an English village until his brother's death sparks an unexpected friendship with Mrs. Jasmina Ali, the local Pakistani shopkeeper.

[*A Man Called Ove*](#) by Fredrik Backman - A curmudgeon hides a terrible personal loss beneath a cranky and short-tempered exterior while clashing with his new neighbors, a boisterous family whose chattiness and habits lead to unexpected friendship.

[*Matterhorn*](#) by Karl Marlantes - Lieutenant Waino Mellas and his fellow Marines venture into the mountain jungle of Vietnam as boys and fight their way into manhood, confronting external obstacles as well as racial tension, competing ambitions, and underhanded officers.

[*Memoirs of a Geisha*](#) by Arthur Golden – (Regular and Large Print) Historical fiction about the experience and art of being a Geisha during 1900s.

[*The Meursault Investigation*](#) by Kamel Daoud - This work revisits Albert Camus's *The Stranger* from the Arab perspective. The narrator, Harun, recalls the murder of his older brother, Musa, who is all but anonymous in Camus's work, and the heavy consequences of this act.

[*Midnight's Children*](#) by Salman Rushdie - A family saga set against the vast, colorful background of the India of this century.

[*The Mistress of Spices*](#) by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni - A hypnotizing tale of joy and sorrow and one special woman's magical powers.

[*Monique and the Mango Rains: Two years with a midwife in Mali*](#) by Kris Holloway - Holloway blends a vivid description of her Peace Corps experiences in the West African nation of Mali from 1989 to 1991, with a warm tribute to her colleague, dear friend, and host.

[*Monkey Hunting*](#) by Christina Garcia - The story of a Chinese immigrant's enslavement on a Cuban sugar plantation, his escape and eventual prosperity, interwoven with the stories of his Chinese and American descendants.

[*The Moor's Account*](#) by Laila Lalami - Moorish slave Estebanico accompanies Spanish conquistadors on a voyage to the New World. Struggling to survive in the uncharted territory of La Florida Estebanico witnesses the Europeans' brutal treatment of the Indians and dreams of his own idea.

[*The Moor's Last Sigh*](#) by Salman Rushdie - Booker Prize-winning author Salman Rushdie combines a ferociously witty family saga with a surreally imagined and sometimes blasphemous chronicle of modern India and flavors the mixture with peppery soliloquies on art, ethnicity, religious fanaticism, and the terrifying power of love.

[*Mountains Beyond Mountains*](#) by Tracy Kidder - A thought-provoking portrait of Harvard professor and world-renowned infectious disease expert Dr. Paul Farmer and his struggle to bring modern healthcare to Haiti and the world.

[*My Beloved World*](#) by Sonia Sotomayor - Sotomayor recounts her life from a Bronx housing project to the federal bench, a journey that offers an inspiring testament to her own extraordinary determination and the power of believing in oneself.

[*My Brilliant Friend*](#) by Elena Ferrante - The world of Elena and Lila, Neapolitan girls growing up after the Second World War, is small, casually violent, and confined to their poor neighborhood. Lila: smarter and bolder than the others, does what she wants, drawing shy Elena, who narrates the story, in her wake.

[*My Life in France*](#) by Julia Child - Exuberant, affectionate, and boundlessly charming, this is the delightful and highly acclaimed memoir from the woman who revolutionized American cooking in the 20th century.

[*My Love Affair with England*](#) by Susan Toth - A travel memoir of England recounting numerous trips over a lifetime.

[*My Name is Red*](#) by Orhan Pamuk - In sixteenth-century Istanbul, a furor erupts when the Sultan hires a group of artists to illuminate a great book in the European style at a time in which all figurative art is considered Islamic heresy, but the situation becomes worse when one of the miniaturists vanishes.

[*The Namesake*](#) by Jhumpa Lahiri - A portrait of the immigrant experience follows the Ganguli family from their traditional life in India through their arrival in Massachusetts in the late 1960s.

[*Night*](#) by Elie Wiesel - An autobiographical account about Wiesel's terrifying and tragic experience as a child in Nazi death camps.

[*Nora Webster*](#) by Colm Toibin - Struggling with grief and financial hardships after the death of her beloved husband, Nora struggles to support her four children and clings to secrecy in the intrusive Irish community of her childhood before finding her voice and creating a new life for herself.

[*Not Quite Paradise: An American Sojourn in Sri Lanka*](#) by Adele Barker – The saga of an American professor's sojourn in Sri Lanka -- or rather, her two sojourns, one teaching as a Fulbright fellow to college students in the mountains near Kandy; another, two years later, as she returns to investigate what has happened to the 'pearl' of Southeast Asia in the wake of the tsunami.

[*One Hundred Years of Solitude*](#) by Gabriel Garcia-Marquez - A weaving of spiritual, personal and political worlds into a history of the mysterious and magical Buendia family.

[*Out of Africa*](#) by Isak Dinesen – With classic simplicity and a painter's feeling for atmosphere and detail, Isak Dinesen tells of the years she spent from 1914 to 1931 managing a coffee plantation in Kenya

[*The Palace of Illusions*](#) by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni - Panchaali, wife of the five legendary Pandavas brothers, offers her own version of the ancient Indian epic, The Mahabharat, as she chronicles the story of her magical birth, the problems of dealing with five husbands who have been cheated out of their birthright, the trials she endures, and her attraction to her husband's enemy.

[*Palace Walk*](#) by Naguib Mahfouz - Volume I of the masterful Cairo Trilogy this novel introduces the engrossing saga of a Muslim family in Cairo during Egypt's occupation by British forces in the early 1900s.

[*The Paris Wife*](#) by Paula McLain - Meeting through mutual friends in Chicago, Hadley is intrigued by brash "beautiful boy" Ernest Hemingway, and after a brief courtship and small wedding, they take off for Paris, where Hadley makes a convincing transformation from an overprotected child to a game and brave young woman.

[*The Pearl That Broke Its Shell*](#) by Nadia Hashimi - In Kabul, 2007, with a drug-addicted father and no brothers, Rahima and her sisters can only sporadically attend school and rarely leave the house, and their only hope lies in the ancient custom of bacha posh, which allows young Rahima to dress and be treated as a boy until she is of marriageable age.

[*Persepolis*](#) by Marjane Satrapi - The great-granddaughter of Iran's last emperor and the daughter of ardent Marxists describes growing up in Tehran in a country plagued by political upheaval and vast contradictions between public and private life.

[*The Piano Teacher*](#) by Janice Y. K. Lee - Hired by the wealthy Chen family as a piano instructor, Claire Pendleton is seduced by the social life of Hong Kong's expatriate community and begins an affair with Will Truesdale, an enigmatic Englishman with a devastating past.

[*The Poisonwood Bible*](#) by Barbara Kingsolver - A story of a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family on a mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. A suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction.

[*Possessing the Secret of Joy*](#) by Alice Walker - Confronting the modern controversial issue of genital mutilation, Walker's main character, Tashi struggles with understanding and madness.

[*The Power and the Glory*](#) by Graham Greene - A Christian parable pitting God and religion against 20th century materialism in the story of a priest in Mexico who is painfully remorseful about his own human inadequacies.

[*The Quiet American*](#) by Graham Greene - In 1952, while the French Army in Indo-China is grappling with the Vietnamese, back at Saigon a young and high-minded American begins to channel economic aid to a 'Third Force'.

[*Reading Lolita in Tehran*](#) by Azar Nafisi - A glimpse into women's lives in revolutionary Iran; the story of the author and the women invited into her home to read and discuss forbidden works of Western Literature.

[*Redeployment*](#) by Phil Klay - A collection of short stories by a former Marine captain and Iraq veteran focuses on the complexities of life for soldiers on the front lines and after, exploring themes ranging from brutality and faith to guilt and survival.

[*Remembering Babylon*](#) by David Malouf - A compelling tale of a young Australian left for dead who is brought up by the Aborigines, and the bigotry he faces when he returns to Australian society.

[*The Road from Coorain: An Autobiography*](#) by Jill Kerr Conway - Conway's captivating autobiography covers her childhood in Australia to her adulthood in America, where she later became the first woman president of Smith College.

[*The Sandcastle Girls*](#) by Chris Bohjalian - Parallel stories of a woman who falls in love with an Armenian soldier during the Armenian Genocide and a modern-day New Yorker prompted to rediscover her Armenian past

[*The Shadow of the Wind*](#) by Carlos Ruiz Zafón - A boy named Daniel selects a novel from a library of rare books, enjoying it so much that he searches for the rest of the author's works, only to discover that someone is destroying every book the author has ever written.

[*Shanghai Girls*](#) by Lisa See - Forced to leave Shanghai when their father sells them to California suitors, sisters May and Pearl struggle to adapt to life in 1930s Los Angeles while still bound to old customs, as they face discrimination and confront a life-altering secret.

[*Snow Falling on Cedars*](#) by David Guterson - A murder trial of a Japanese American for the murder of a fellow fisherman reveals the racism of a small community.

[*Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*](#) by Lisa See - A story of friendship set in nineteenth-century China follows an elderly woman and her companion as they communicate their hopes, dreams, joys, and tragedies through a unique secret language.

[*The Sorrows of Young Werther*](#) by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe - Chronicles a young man's unrequited love and fatal passion for a married woman.

[*State of Wonder*](#) by Ann Patchett - In a narrative replete with poison arrows, devouring snakes, scientific miracles, and spiritual transformations, Dr. Marina Singh embarks upon an uncertain odyssey to find her former mentor in the insect-infested Amazon.

[*Stones from the River*](#) by Ursula Hegi - The story of a dwarf librarian living in Germany during the two World Wars whose craving for normalcy results in her attention to gossip and narrative.

[*The Stranger*](#) by Albert Camus - Through the story of an ordinary man unwittingly drawn into a senseless murder on an Algerian beach, Camus explores what he termed "the nakedness of man faced with the absurd."

[*Suite Francaise*](#) by Irène Némirovsky - When Irène Némirovsky began this work, she was already a highly successful writer living in Paris. But she was also a Jew, and in 1942 she was arrested and deported to Auschwitz, where she died. For sixty-four years, this novel remained hidden and unknown.

[*The Sympathizer*](#) by Viet Thanh Nguyen - A communist double agent, a half-French, half-Vietnamese army captain, comes to America after the Fall of Saigon, and while building a new life with other Vietnamese refugees in Los Angeles is secretly reporting back to his communist superiors in Vietnam.

[*Things Fall Apart*](#) by Chinua Achebe - A novel warning of the problems of colonialism in Africa and its impact on national culture.

[*Three Cups of Tea*](#) by Greg Mortenson - Dangerously ill after a climb in 1993, Mortenson was sheltered for seven weeks by a small Pakistani village; in return, he promised to build the impoverished town's first school, a project that has since constructed more than 50 schools across rural Pakistan.

[*The Tiger's Wife*](#) by Tea Obreht - A young doctor living in an unnamed country, crosses the border in search of answers about the death of her beloved grandfather, who raised her on tales from the village he grew up in, and where in 1941, a tiger escaped from the zoo in a nearby city and befriended a mysterious deaf-mute woman.

[*The Trial*](#) by Franz Kafka - The terrifying tale of Josef K., a respectable bank officer who is suddenly and inexplicably arrested and must defend himself against a charge about which he can get no information.

[*Waiting*](#) by Ha Jin - An ambitious and dedicated Chinese doctor, Lin Kong finds himself torn between two very different women--the educated and dynamic nurse with whom he has fallen in love and the traditional, meek, and humble woman to whom his family married him when they were both very young.

[*We Need New Names*](#) by NoViolet Bulawayo - Follows ten-year-old Zimbabwe native, Darling, as she escapes the closed schools and paramilitary police control of her homeland in search of opportunity and freedom with an aunt in America.

[*West with the Night*](#) by Beryl Markham - Beryl Markham, the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic from east to west, describes her childhood on a farm in Kenya, her apprenticeship as a horse trainer, and her later career as a pioneer aviator in the remote corners of Africa.

[*What Happened to Anna K*](#) by Irina Reyn - Exploring struggles of identity, fidelity, and community, "What Happened to Anna K." is a remarkable retelling of the Anna Karenina story set among early 21st-century Russian Jewish immigrants in New York City.

[*What is the What?*](#) by Dave Eggers - A biographical novel traces the story of Valentino Achak Deng, who as a boy of seven was separated from his family in southern Sudan and became one of the estimated 17,000 "lost boys of Sudan" before relocating from a Kenyan refugee camp to Atlanta in 2001.

[*When the Emperor Was Divine*](#) by Julie Otsuka – (Regular and Large Print) A story told from five different points of view chronicles the experiences of Japanese Americans caught up in the nightmare of the World War II internment camps.

[*Where God Was Born*](#) by Bruce Feiler - (Large Print) Weaving together strands of theology, biblical exegesis, physical exploration, history and personal reflection, Feiler continues his journey of discovery, looking at the common roots of Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

[*White Teeth*](#) by Zadie Smith - Set in post-war London, this novel of the racial, political, and social upheaval of the last half-century follows two families--the Joneses and the Iqbals, both outsiders from within the former British empire--as they make their way in modern England.

[*The White Tiger*](#) by Aravind Adiga - The white tiger of this novel is Balram Halwai, a poor Indian villager whose great ambition leads him from a driver and servant to a wealthy Indian family to the zenith of Indian business culture, the world of the Bangalore entrepreneur.

[*Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*](#) by Jung Chang - A memoir reflecting upon the astonishing changes seen by three generations of women in 20th century China.

[*The Woman Upstairs*](#) by Claire Messud - Relegated to the status of schoolteacher and friendly neighbor after abandoning her dreams of becoming an artist, Nora advocates on behalf of a charismatic Lebanese student and is drawn into the child's family until his artist mother's careless ambition leads to a shattering betrayal.

[*The World is Flat*](#) by Thomas L. Friedman - (Large Print) China and India are taking advantage of systems of communications, production, and distribution that can connect the entire globe instantaneously. With this "flattening" of the globe, can human beings and their political systems adjust in a stable manner?

[*The World We Found*](#) by Thrity N. Umrigar - As university students in late 1970s Bombay, four friends were inseparable. Spirited and unconventional, they challenged authority and fought for a better world.. Now: 30 years later, Armaiti, who moved to America, is gravely ill and wants to see the old friends she left behind.

[*You Have Given Me a Country*](#) by Neela Vaswani - Combining memoir, history, and fiction, the book follows the paths of the author's Irish-Catholic mother and Sindhi-Indian father on their journey toward each other and the biracial child they create.