

1.The Indigo Girl - Natasha Boyd

The year is 1739. Eliza Lucas is sixteen years old when her father leaves her in charge of the family's three plantations in rural South Carolina and then proceeds to bleed the estates dry in pursuit of his military ambitions. Tensions with the British, and with the Spanish in Florida, just a short way down the coast, are rising, and the slaves are starting to become restless. Her mother wants nothing more than for their S. Carolina endeavor to fail so they can go back to England. Soon her family is in danger of losing everything. Upon hearing how much the French pay for indigo dye, Eliza believes it's the key to their salvation. Thwarted at nearly every turn, even by her own family, Eliza finds that her only allies are an aging horticulturist, an older gentleman lawyer, and a slave with whom she strikes a dangerous deal: teach her the thousand year old secret process of making indigo dye and in return - against the laws of the day - she will teach the slaves to read. Based on historical documents.

2. The Secret Book of Flora - Lee Patti Callahan Henry

When 14 year old Hazel and her younger sister Flora leave London as part of Operation Pied Piper, Hazel makes up a fantasy world called Whisperwood to distract Flora from the harsh realities of war. Soon after evacuating, Flora goes missing and is presumed dead. Twenty years later Hazel works in a bookstore and comes across a book about a place called Whisperwood. Is Flora alive? This unputdownable novel seamlessly blends historical fiction, mystery and fantasy.

3. How to Read A Book - Monica Wood

Violet Powell, a twenty-two-year-old from rural Abbott Falls, Maine, is being released from prison after serving twenty-two months for a drunk-driving crash that killed a local kindergarten teacher. Harriet Larson, a retired English teacher who runs the prison book club, is facing the unsettling prospect of an empty nest. Frank Daigle, a retired machinist, hasn't yet come to grips with the complications of his marriage to the woman Violet killed. When the three encounter each other one morning in a bookstore in Portland—Violet to buy the novel she was reading in the prison book club before her release, Harriet to choose the next title for the women who remain, and Frank to dispatch his duties as the store handyman—their lives begin to intersect in transformative ways. How to Read a Book is an unsparingly honest and profoundly hopeful story about letting go of guilt, seizing second chances, and the power of books to change our lives. With the heart, wit, grace, and depth of understanding that has characterized her work, Monica Wood illuminates the decisions that define a life and the kindnesses that make life worth living. "A deeply humane and touching novel; highly recommended for book clubs and fans of Shelby Van Pelt's Remarkably Bright Creatures." — Booklist

4.The Last Romantics - Tara Conklin

When the renowned poet Fiona Skinner is asked about the inspiration behind her iconic work, *The Love Poem*, she tells her audience a story about her family and a betrayal that reverberates through time. It begins in a big yellow house with a funeral, an iron poker, and a brief variation forever known as the Pause: a free and feral summer in a middle-class Connecticut town. Caught between the predictable life they once led and an uncertain future that stretches before them, the Skinner siblings—fierce Renee, sensitive Caroline, golden boy Joe and watchful Fiona—emerge from the Pause staunchly loyal and deeply connected. Two decades later, the siblings find themselves once again confronted with a family crisis that tests the strength of these bonds and forces them to question the life choices they've made and ask what, exactly, they will do for love. A novel that pierces the heart and lingers in the mind, *The Last Romantics* is also a beautiful meditation on the power of stories—how they navigate us through difficult times, help us understand the past, and point the way toward our future.

5. *At First* - Nikki Roadman

Despite her intense passion, her knowledge of music, and her knack for writing, Maggie Stephens was ready to throw in the towel. After years of interning and interviewing, Maggie had finally accepted that she was not finding full-time work as a music critic. Forced to settle and accept an entertainment position at *The New York Telegraph* covering pop culture, Maggie had her work cut out for her.

Her first 'undercover' assignment had her studying the whereabouts of Home Network star Henry Barnes in the quaint and very familiar town of Hudson. Little did she know that this unwanted opportunity would lead her all the way back home. Home, the place Maggie had spent the last seven years avoiding. In her breaks from professionally stalking Henry, Maggie's hometown visit reconnects her with old friends, family, new love and possibly even the 'spotlight.' Not without many mistakes and life lessons, this book is full of surprises, honesty and a touch of humor.

6. *The Women* - by Kristin Hannah

The Women is a historical fiction novel by American author Kristin Hannah published by St. Martin's Press in 2024. The book tells the story of Frances "Frankie" McGrath, a young nurse who serves in the United States Army Nurse Corps during the Vietnam War.

7. *Dear Edward* - Ann Napolitano

The story of Edward Adler, a boy who survives a plane crash that kills every other passenger, including his family members; as Edward and others try to make sense of life after the crash, unexpected friendships, romances and communities are formed.

8. *Trust* - (historical fiction)- Hernan Diaz

Even through the roar and effervescence of the 1920s, everyone in New York has heard of Benjamin and Helen Rask. He is a legendary Wall Street tycoon; she is the daughter of eccentric aristocrats. Together, they have risen to the very top of a world of seemingly endless wealth—all as a decade of excess and speculation draws to an end. But at what cost have they acquired their immense fortune? This is the mystery at the center of *Bonds*, a successful 1937 novel that all of New York seems to have

9. The Flower Sisters- Michelle Collins Anderson

Drawing on the little-known true story of a tragic event that took place in the author's Missouri hometown at an Ozarks dance hall in 1928, this beautifully written novel, told through twin storylines fifty years apart, explores the unpredictable effect of split-second decisions, small-town tragedy, and the ways family secrets reverberate through generations.

10. Summer Island- Kristin Hannah

Summer Island: Thirty-four year old Ruby Bridge is a not-too-successful comedienne who uses her mother, a nationally-syndicated "moral and spiritual counselor" as the main fodder for her cynical, rather bitter humor. Her mother Nora, long divorced from Ruby's father, is a woman whose past is just about to catch up with her - in the form of blackmail by a former lover. After an accident (an attempted suicide?) Ruby returns to care for her stricken mother - bitterly resenting the fact that once again her mother's life has colonized hers. When she is approached by a publisher to write a biography of her mother, Ruby is desperate for the princely sum offered. Yet her research into her mother's past reveals a woman very different from the one Ruby expected. And what began as "mommy dearest" ends as a love story - not only between mother and daughter, but involving two very different men who play a key role in linking the past to the present. True Colors: The Grey sisters had only each other when their mother died years ago. Their father provided for them physically on Water's Edge, the ranch that had been in their family for three generations, each of them however, longed for their father's love. Winona, the oldest, knew early on that she could never get it. An overweight dreamer and reader, she didn't exhibit the kinds of talents and strengths her father valued. Vivi Anne, the youngest, had those things. And it was Vivi Anne who only ever saw a glimmer of their father's approval. When Vivi Anne makes a fateful decision to follow her heart, rather than take the route of a dutiful daughter, events are set in motion that will test the love and loyalties of the Grey sisters.