

Historical Fiction for Teens

Publication Date: 2015-Present

A Land of Permanent Goodbyes · Abawi, Atia

Find It: Y ABA

"Tareq lives with his big and loving family ... until the bombs strike. The city is in ruins, and in the wake of destruction, he's threatened by Daesh fighters and witnesses a public beheading. Tareq's family knows that to continue to stay alive, they must leave. As they travel as refugees from Syria to Turkey to Greece, facing danger at every turn, Tareq must find the resilience and courage to complete his harrowing journey."

A Madness So Discreet · McGinnis, Mindy

Find It: Y MCG

"Near the turn of the nineteenth century, Dr. Thornhollow helps teenaged Grace Mae escape from the Boston asylum where she was sent after becoming pregnant by rape, and takes her to Ohio where they put her intelligence and remarkable memory to use in trying to catch murderers."

A Very Large Expanse of Sea · Mafi, Tahereh

Find It: Y MAF

"2002. A year after 9/11, it's an extremely turbulent time politically for Shirin, a sixteen-year-old Muslim girl who's tired of being stereotyped. She's tired of the rude stares, the degrading comments, even the physical violence she endures as a result of her race, her religion, and the hijab she wears every day. Now she drowns her frustrations in music and spends her afternoons break-dancing with her brother. When she meets Ocean James, he seems to want to get to know Shirin. They seem to come from two irreconcilable worlds -- and Shirin has had her guard up for so long that she's not sure she'll ever be able to let it down." -- adapted from jacket

Ace of Shades · Foody, Amanda

Find It: Y FOO

"New Reynes -- the City of Sin -- is no place for a proper young lady like Enne, who had to leave finishing school early to pursue her missing mother with only one name as a clue. When she finds Levi Glaisyer, however, he is not a proper gentleman but a street lord and con man who brings his own troubles and enemies to tangle with hers and catch them both in a dangerous gamble that could mean their lives."

All Out ·

Find It: Y ALL

"From a retelling of Little Red Riding Hood set in war-torn 1870s Mexico featuring a transgender soldier, to an asexual girl discovering her identity amid the 1970s roller-disco scene, this collection of short stories crosses cultures and time periods to shed light on a world where queer figures live, love and shape the world round them."

All the Days Past, All the Days to Come · Taylor, Mildred D.

Find It: Y TAY

"Cassie Logan, first met in Song of the Trees and Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, is a young woman now, searching for her place in the world, a journey that takes her from Toledo to California, to law school in Boston, and, ultimately, in the 60s, home to Mississippi to participate in voter registration. She is witness to the now-historic events of the century: the Great Migration north, the rise of the civil rights movement, preceded and precipitated by the racist society of America, and the often violent confrontations that brought about change." (

All the Stars Denied · McCall, Guadalupe Garcia

Find It: Y MCC

"When resentment surges during the Great Depression in a Texas border town, Estrella, fifteen, organizes a protest against the treatment of tejanos and soon finds herself with her mother and baby brother in Mexico."(Depression)

All We Have Left · Mills, Wendy

Find It: Y MIL

“Now: Sixteen-year-old Jesse is used to living with the echoes of the past. Her older brother died in the September 11th attacks, and her dad has filled their home with anger and grief. When Jesse gets caught up with the wrong crowd, one momentary hate-fueled decision turns her life upside down. The only way to make amends is to face the past, starting Jesse on a journey that will reveal the truth about how her brother died. Then: In 2001, sixteen-year-old Alia is proud to be Muslim... it's being a teenager that she finds difficult. After being grounded for a stupid mistake, Alia is determined to show her parents that they must respect her choices. She'll start by confronting her father at his office in downtown Manhattan, putting Alia in danger she never could have imagined. When the planes collide into the Twin Towers Alia is trapped inside one of the buildings. In the final hours she meets a boy who will change everything for her as the flames rage around them.”

An Assassin's Guide to Love and Treason · Boecker, Virginia

Find It: Y BOE

“In the early sixteen-hundreds, two star-crossed assassins, nineteen-year-old Toby and seventeen-year-old Kit, go undercover as actors in a Shakespeare play in a plot to kill Queen Elizabeth.”

An Uninterrupted View of the Sky · Crowder, Melanie

Find It: Y CRO

“In Bolivia in 1999, when their father is unjustly arrested and their mother leaves, Francisco, seventeen, and his sister Pilar, eight, must move to the dirty, dehumanizing, and corrupt prison.”

And I Darken · White, Kiersten

Find It: Y WHI

“In this first book in a trilogy a girl child is born to Vlad Dracula, in Transylvania, in 1435--at first rejected by her father and always ignored by her mother, she will grow up to be Lada Dragwlya, a vicious and brutal princess, destined to rule and destroy her enemies.”

Anthem · Wiles, Deborah

Find It: Y WIL

“The remarkable story of two cousins who must take a road trip across America in 1969 in order to let a teen know he's been drafted to fight in Vietnam. Full of photos, music, and figures of the time, this is the masterful story of what it's like to be young and American in troubled times.”

Blood and Sand · Wyk, C. V.

Find It: Y WYK

Set in Ancient Rome, Blood and Sand reimagines Spartacus as a seventeen-year-old girl. When Attia is sold as a slave to the House of Timeus, no one knows she's actually the warrior princess of Thrace, and the last of her people. She is given to Xanthus, a fellow slave and gladiator champion of Rome, as a gift from his master. Attia and Xanthus begin to build a trust through their shared skill in combat and a driving desire to seek revenge on the Roman leaders who wiped out their respective homes.”

Blood Water Paint · McCullough, Joy

Find It: Y MCC

“In Renaissance Italy, Artemisia Gentileschi endures the subjugation of women that allows her father to take credit for her extraordinary paintings, rape and the ensuing trial, and torture, buoyed by her deceased mother's stories of strong women of the Bible.”

Burn Baby Burn · Medina, Meg

Find It: Y MED

“Nora Lopez is seventeen during the summer of 1977, when New York is besieged by arson, a massive blackout, and a serial killer named Son of Sam.”

Chain of Gold · Clare, Cassandra

Find It: Y CLA

“Cordelia Carstairs, a Shadowhunter trained to battle demons, travels with her brother to London where they reconnect with childhood friends but soon must face devastating demon attacks in the quarantined city.”

Crossing Ebenezer Creek · Bolden, Tonya

Find It: Y BOL

“When Mariah and her young brother Zeke are suddenly freed from slavery, they set out on Sherman's long march through Georgia during the Civil War. Mariah wants to believe that the brutalities of slavery are behind them forever and that freedom lies ahead. When she meets Caleb, an enigmatic young black man also on the march, Mariah soon finds herself dreaming not only of a new life, but of true love as well.”

Daughters unto Devils · Lukavics, Amy**Find It: Y LUK**

"When sixteen-year-old Amanda Verner's family decides to move from their small mountain cabin to the vast prairie, she hopes it is her chance for a fresh start. She can leave behind the memory of the past winter; of her sickly ma giving birth to a baby sister who cries endlessly; of the terrifying visions she saw as her sanity began to slip, the victim of cabin fever; and most of all, the memories of the boy she has been secretly meeting with as a distraction from her pain. The boy whose baby she now carries. When the Verners arrive at their new home, a large cabin abandoned by its previous owners, they discover the inside covered in blood. And as the days pass, it is obvious to Amanda that something isn't right on the prairie. She's heard stories of lands being tainted by evil, of men losing their minds and killing their families, and there is something strange about the doctor and his son who live in the woods on the edge of the prairie."--provided by publisher.

Dream Country · Gibney, Shannon**Find It: Y GIB**

"Spanning two centuries and two continents, Dream Country is the story of five generations of young people caught in a spiral of death and exile between Liberia and the United States"-- Provided by publisher.

Duels and Deception · Anstey, Cindy**Find It: Y ANS**

"1800's London. Lydia Whitfield plans to run the family estate until she marries the man of her late father's choosing, spending the rest of her days as a devoted wife. Law clerk Robert Newton is tasked with drawing up the marriage contracts. Then Lydia is kidnapped, and Robert along with her. Someone is after her fortune and won't hesitate to destroy her reputation to get it."

Flame in the Mist · Ahdieh, Renee**Find It: Y AHD**

"The daughter of a prominent samurai, Mariko has long known her place-she may be an accomplished alchemist, whose cunning rivals that of her brother Kenshin, but because she is not a boy, her future has always been out of her hands. At just seventeen years old, Mariko is promised to Minamoto Raiden, the son of the emperor's favorite consort-a political marriage that will elevate her family's standing. But en route to the imperial city of Inako, Mariko narrowly escapes a bloody ambush by a dangerous gang of bandits known as the Black Clan, who she learns has been hired to kill her before she reaches the palace. Dressed as a peasant boy, Mariko sets out to infiltrate the Black Clan and track down those responsible for the target on her back. Once she's within their ranks, though, Mariko finds for the first time she's appreciated for her intellect and abilities."--Amazon.com.

Girls Like Us · Pink, Randi**Find It: Y PIN**

"Four teenage girls. Four different stories. What they all have in common is that they're dealing with unplanned pregnancies. In rural Georgia, Izella is wise beyond her years, but burdened with the responsibility of her older sister, Ola, who has found out she's pregnant. Their young neighbor, Mississippi, is also pregnant, but doesn't fully understand the extent of her predicament. When her father sends her to Chicago to give birth, she meets the final narrator, Susan, who is white and the daughter of an anti-choice senator."

In the Neighborhood of True · Carlton, Susan Kaplan**Find It: Y CAR**

"In the very white, very Christian world of Atlanta society in 1958, New York transplant Ruth decides not to tell her new high school friends and boyfriend that she is Jewish, but when a violent act rocks the city, Ruth must figure out where her loyalties lie."

Listen to the Moon · Morpurgo, Michael**Find It: Y MOR**

"1915. A young British boy and his father take in a lost girl, who the villagers suspect may be German." (WWI)

Lost Boys · Rosenblatt, Darcey**Find It: Y ROS**

"In 1982 Iran, twelve-year-old Reza is more interested in music than war, but enlists in obedience to his devout mother and soon finds himself in a prison camp in Iraq."

Loving Vs. Virginia: A Documentary Novel of the Landmark Civil Rights Case · Powell, Patricia Hurby**Find It: Y POW**

"Written in blank verse, the story of Mildred Loving, an African American girl, and Richard Loving, a Caucasian boy, who challenge the Virginia law forbidding interracial marriages in the 1950s."

Midnight at the Electric · Anderson, Jodi Lynn

Find It: Y AND

"Kansas, 2065: Adri has been handpicked to live on Mars. But weeks before launch, she discovers the journal of a girl who lived in her house more than a hundred years ago and is immediately drawn into the mystery surrounding her fate. Oklahoma, 1934: Amid the fear and uncertainty of the Dust Bowl, Catherine's family's situation is growing dire. She must find the courage to sacrifice everything she loves in order to save the one person she loves most. England, 1919: In the recovery following World War I, Lenore tries to come to terms with her grief for her brother, a fallen British soldier, and plans to sail to America. But can she make it that far?."--Amazon.com.

Murder, Magic, And What We Wore · Jones, Kelly

Find It: Y JON

"Deciding to become a spy after her father is killed and his money goes missing, Annis Whitworth uses her talent for sewing magical garments to open a dressmaking shop as a cover while she quietly searches for her father's murderer."

My Plain Jane · Hand, Cynthia

Find It: Y HAN

"Refusing a job with the Society for the Relocation of Wayward Spirits, Jane Eyre heads to Thornfield Hall to work as a governess for Mr. Rochester."

Night Witches: A Novel of World War II · Lasky, Kathryn

Find It: Y LAS

"16-year-old Valya knows what it feels like to fly. She's a pilot who's always felt more at home soaring through the sky than down on earth. But since the Germans surrounded Stalingrad, Valya's been forced to stay on the ground and watch her city crumble ... [et al.]"--Back cover.

Outrun the Moon · Lee, Stacey

Find It: Y LEE

"Fifteen-year-old Mercy Wong is determined to break out of poverty in Chinatown. She gains admission to a prestigious finishing school through cunning and bribery and soon discovers that getting in was easy: carving a niche among the spoiled heiresses proves more difficult. When the earthquake strikes, Mercy and her classmates are forced to a survivor encampment where her quick-witted leadership rallies them to help in the tragedy's aftermath."

Projekt 1065 · Gratz, Alan

Find It: Y GRA

"It is 1943, and thirteen-year-old Michael O'Shaunessey, son of the Irish ambassador to Nazi Germany in Berlin, is also a spy for the British Secret Service, so he has joined the Hitler Youth, and pretending that he agrees with their violence and book-burning is hard enough--but when he is asked to find out more about "Projekt 1065" both his and his parents' lives get a lot more dangerous."

Rise of the Wolf · Nielsen, Jennifer A.

Find It: Y NIE

"Now a driver in the chariot races, Nic is still a target of the Praetors because of the magical amulet he found, and they will do anything to get their hands on it--and meanwhile Atroxia is beginning to wake up."

Salt to the Sea · Sepetys, Ruta

Find It: Y SEP

"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"-- Provided by publisher.

Soldier Boy · Hutton, Keely

Find It: Y HUT

"Follows Ricky from 1987-1991, and Samuel in 2006, as they are abducted to serve as child-soldiers in Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda. Includes historical notes and information about Friends of Orphans, an organization founded by Ricky Richard Anywar, on whose life the story is partly based."

The Downstairs Girl · Lee, Stacey

Find It: Y LEE

"1890, Atlanta. By day, seventeen-year-old Jo Kuan works as a lady's maid for the cruel Caroline Payne, the daughter of one of the wealthiest men in Atlanta. But by night, Jo moonlights as the pseudonymous author of a newspaper advice column for 'the genteel Southern lady'"-- Provided by publisher.

The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue · Lee, Mackenzi

Find It: Y LEE

"Henry "Monty" Montague was bred to be a gentleman. His passions for gambling halls, late nights spent with a bottle of spirits, or waking up in the arms of women or men, have earned the disapproval of his father. His quest for pleasures and vices have led to one last hedonistic hurrah as Monty, his best friend and crush Percy, and Monty's sister Felicity begin a Grand Tour of Europe. When a reckless decision turns their trip abroad into a harrowing manhunt, it calls into question everything Monty knows, including his relationship with the boy he adores."

The Lady's Guide to Petticoats and Piracy · Lee, Mackenzi

Find It: Y LEE

"A year after a whirlwind grand tour with her brother Monty, Felicity Montague has returned to England with two goals in mind: avoid the marriage proposal of a lovestruck suitor from Edinburgh and enroll in medical school. But the administrators, see men as the sole guardians of science. When a doctor she idolizes marries a friend of hers in Germany, Felicity believes he could change her future. A mysterious young woman will pay Felicity's way, if Felicity will let her travel along-- as her maid. Soon they're on a perilous quest that leads them across the promenades of Zurich to secrets lurking beneath the Atlantic". -- Adapted from jacket. (Sequel to The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue)

The Lie Tree · Hardinge, Frances

Find It: Y HAR

"On an island off the south coast of Victorian England, fourteen-year-old Faith investigates the mysterious death of her father, who was involved in a scandal, and discovers a tree that feeds upon lies and gives those who eat its fruit visions of truth."

The Lost Girl of Astor Street · Morrill, Stephanie

Find It: Y MOR

"When her best friend Lydia disappears, Piper Sail goes searching for answers in the dark underbelly of 1924 Chicago, uncovering deep corruption that may lead back to her affluent neighborhood."

The Pearl Thief · Wein, Elizabeth

Find It: Y WEI

"Fifteen-year-old Julia Beaufort-Stuart wakes up in a hospital not knowing how she was injured, and soon befriends Euan McEwen, the Scottish Traveler boy who found her, and later, when a body is discovered, she experiences the prejudices his family has endured and tries to keep them from being framed for the crime."

The War Outside · Hesse, Monica

Find It: Y HES

"Teens Haruko, a Japanese American, and Margot, a German American, form a life-changing friendship as everything around them starts falling apart in the Crystal City family internment camp during World War II."

The Weight of Our Sky · Hanna, Alkaf

Find It: Y HAN

"Amidst the Chinese-Malay conflict in Kuala Lumpur in 1969, sixteen-year-old Melati must overcome prejudice, violence, and her own OCD to find her way back to her mother"-- Provided by publisher.

These Shallow Graves · Donnelly, Jennifer

Find It: Y DON

"A young woman in nineteenth-century New York City must struggle against gender and class boundaries when her father is found dead of a supposed suicide, and she believes there is more than meets the eye, so in order to uncover the truth she will have to decide how much she is willing to risk and lose."

They Went Left · Hesse, Monica

Find It: Y HES

"Zofia, a teenage Holocaust survivor, travels across post-war Europe as she searches for her younger brother and seeks to rebuild her shattered life"-- Provided by publisher.

Thirteen Doorways, Wolves Behind Them All · Ruby, Laura

Find It: Y RUB

"When Frankie's mother died and her father left her and her siblings at an orphanage in Chicago, it was supposed to be only temporary - just long enough for him to get back on his feet and be able to provide for them once again. That's why she is not prepared for the day that he arrives for his weekend visit with a new woman on his arm and out-of-state train tickets in his pocket. Now Frankie and her sister, Toni, are abandoned alongside so many other orphans, two young, unwanted women doing everything they can to survive.. -- Provided by publisher.

Waer · Caddy, Meg

Find It: Y CAD

"When Lowell Sencha finds a strange girl called Lycaea lying as if dead on the riverbank, he is startled to find that she is like him: waer. Human, but able to assume the form of a wolf. Then soldiers descend on the village with fire and sword, searching for her. Lowell and Lycaea are among the few to escape. Now they must find their way to the city of Luthan. Their mission is to bring down Daeman Leldh, the deranged tyrant whose fantasies of blood purity threaten them all. And they will need help that only Lycaea's former comrades in Luthan can give. If she can persuade them not to kill her."

Wait for Me · Leech, Caroline

Find It: Y LEE

"On her father's farm in Scotland in 1945, Lorna Anderson's life consists of endless chores, rationing, knitting Red Cross scarves, and praying for an Allied victory. So when Paul Vogel, a German prisoner of war, is assigned as the new farmhand, Laura is appalled. How can she possibly work alongside the enemy when her own brothers are risking their lives for their country?"-- from book jacket.

What the Night Sings: A Novel · Stamper, Vesper

Find It: Y STA

"Liberated from Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp in 1945, Gerta has lost her family and everything she knew. Without her Papa, her music, or even her true identity, she must move past the task of surviving and onto living her life."

Wolf by Wolf · Graudin, Ryan

Find It: Y GRA

"The first book in a duology about an alternate version of 1956 where the Axis powers won WWII, and hold an annual motorcycle race across their conjoined continents to commemorate their victory." -- Provided by publisher.