

Try these classics



Catch-22

You have to be a little insane to fly bombing missions but if you ask to be relieved of duty because of the danger, the answer will be no. Why? Because if you recognize the danger you must be sane. It's 1943 and Yossarian and his fellow bombardiers are ensnared by war and bureaucracy in this bitterly funny book.

Fiction/Heller, Joseph [check catalog](#)

Ethan Frome

Set in a small New England community this is the story of Ethan and his ill-advised marriage to Zeena, the woman who has helped him care for his ailing parents. She soon turns into a bitter hypochondriac and makes his life miserable. The arrival of a young female relative in their household leads to tragic complications.

Fiction/Wharton, Edith [check catalog](#)

Go Tell It on the Mountain

John is a 14-year-old African American boy living in Harlem in the early part of the 20th century. For John and his family their fundamentalist church is the theatre in which their spiritual and emotional tensions are played out.

Fiction/Baldwin, James [check catalog](#)

I, Claudius

This is the fictional secret autobiography of the fourth emperor of Rome. Because he is afflicted with a limp and a stammer, amongst other minor disabilities, his relatives and his enemies all underestimate his intelligence. He unexpectedly becomes emperor at the age of 49 having witnessed much drama and scandal.

Fiction/Graves, Robert [check catalog](#)

One Hundred Years of Solitude

This book traces the history of the fictional town of Macondo and the family that founded it. Full of intriguing characters and events that are both realistic and magical it can also be seen as a metaphor for the whole continent of South America. It is an absorbing and engaging read.

Fiction/*Garcia Marquez, Gabriel* [check catalog](#)

On The Road

Based on actual road trips taken by the author and his friends across mid-century America, this is a hymn to a post war generation that was influenced by poetry, jazz and drugs. It was typed in a three-week burst of energy, and the pages were taped together in one continuous roll.

Fiction/*Kerouac, Jack* [check catalog](#)

Pride and Prejudice

Elizabeth Bennet is a playful and witty young woman who takes an instant dislike to the seemingly haughty and cold Mr. Darcy. Both characters have to revise their opinions of one another before this entertaining story of early nineteenth century English society is over.

Fiction/*Austen, Jane* [check catalog](#)

The Quiet American

The title of the book refers to a young CIA operative in Saigon at the end of the 1950's who becomes involved in a romantic triangle with a beautiful Vietnamese girl and the British journalist whom she lives with. The story is also about how the US was drawn into the Vietnam War.

Fiction/*Greene, Graham* [check catalog](#)

Ragtime

Set in the early 1900's this tale follows the lives of three fictional American families and intertwines their lives with well-known people of those tumultuous times.

Fiction/*Doctorow, E.L.* [check catalog](#)

Travels with Charley in Search of America

John Steinbeck made his living writing superb novels about America and its people. In 1960, when he was already suffering from terminal heart disease, he set out to get to know his country on a more personal level. His standard poodle Charley was his sole companion on this 10,000-mile road trip.

Adult Non-Fiction/917.3/STE [check catalog](#)

Wide Sargasso Sea

Antoinette Mason is a young and beautiful Creole heiress who is married off to an Englishman called Rochester. Her story takes her from the Caribbean to the cold and alien north of England. Her mental state declines and she becomes the mad wife in the attic who we later meet in Charlotte Bronte's 'Jane Eyre'

Fiction/*Rhys, Jean* [check catalog](#)

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