

Fiction, Biography, History Reading List

6/9/2026

Read (JeP)	Title	Author	Category	Recommended By	Comments
	Raise Hell: The Life and Times of Molly Ivins	Engel, Janice	Biography		
	Jungle: A Harrowing True Story of Survival	Ghinsberg, Yossi	Biography		What begins as a dream adventure for four amicable, if hastily met, muchileros (backpackers) quickly becomes a struggle for survival as they unravel under the duress of the jungle.
	We Can Make a Life	Henry, Chessie	Biography		Chessie rebuilds her family's lives on the page, from her parents' honeymoon across Africa, to living in Tokelau as one of five children under ten before returning to New Zealand, where her mother would set her heart and home in the Clarence Valley only to see it devastated in the 2016 Kaikōura Earthquake, and the family displaced.
x	How to Feed a Dictator: Saddam Hussein, Idi Amin, Enver Hoxha, Fidel Castro, and Pol Pot Through the Eyes of Their Cooks	Szablowski, Witold	Biography	MN	The author tracked down the personal chefs of five dictators known for the oppression and massacre of their own citizens—Iraq's Saddam Hussein, Uganda's Idi Amin, Albania's Enver Hoxha, Cuba's Fidel Castro, and Cambodia's Pol Pot—and listened to their stories over sweet-and-sour soup, goat-meat pilaf, bottles of rum, and games of gin rummy.
	The Pianist	Szpilman, Wladyslaw	Biography		
	Sorcerer and the Crown	Cho, Zen	Fantasy		
	Jade City	Lee, Fonda	Fantasy		
	A Memory Called Empire	Martine, Arkady	Fantasy		Mahit Dzmare, the ambassador from Lsel Station to the Teixcalaanli Empire, as she investigates the death of her predecessor and the instabilities that underpin that society.
	A Darker Shade of Magic	Schwab, V.E.	Fantasy		
	When We Were Birds	Banwo, Ayanna Lloyd	Fiction		A mythic love story set in Trinidad and Tobago, introduces two unforgettable outsiders brought together by their connection with the dead.
x	This House Is Haunted	Boyne, John	Fiction		An eerie tale set in London
	Horse	Brooks, Geraldine	Fiction	CR	
	The Oregon Trail	Buck, Rinker	Fiction	CR	
	Nothing Like the Sun: A Story of Shakespeare's Love Life	Burgess, Anthony	Fiction		Fictional biography of William Shakespeare. It tells the story of Shakespeare's life with a mixture of fact and fiction
	A Month in the Country	Carr, J.L.	Fiction		A veteran of the Great War and a broken marriage, arrives in the remote Yorkshire village of Oxgodby where he is to restore a recently discovered medieval mural in the local church.
	Remarkable Creatures: A Novel	Chevalier, Tracy	Fiction		Historical novel that follows the story of Mary Anning and Elizabeth Philpot, two extraordinary 19th century fossil hunters who changed the scientific world forever.
	The Fox Wife	Choo, Yangsze	Fiction		A novel about old loves and second chances, the depths of maternal love, and ancient folktales that may very well be true.
	Piranesi	Clarke, Susanna	Fiction		The protagonist, identified only by his nickname of Piranesi, lives in a place called the House, a world composed of infinite halls and vestibules lined with statues, no two of which are alike.
	This is How You Lose the Time War	El-Mohtar, Amal and Max Gladstone	Fiction		Novel spanning time and space about two time-traveling rivals who fall in love and must change the past to ensure their future.
	The Pillars of the Earth	Follett, Ken	Fiction		Set in the 12th century, the novel covers the time between the sinking of the White Ship and the murder of Thomas Becket.
	Neverwhere	Gaiman, Neil	Fiction		A man in London encounters an injured young woman, and instantly exists only to those in London Below. As he helps the woman escape from assassins, he must try to find his way back to London
x	The Wager	Grann, David	Fiction		
	Rivers of London (book series)	Grant, Peter C.	Fiction		A series of urban fantasy novels
	Life and Fate	Grossman, Vadily	Fiction		A multi-faceted novel, one of its main themes is the tragedy of the common people, who have to fight both the invaders and the totalitarianism of their own state.
	Empire of the Summer Moon	Gwynne, S. C.	Fiction	SM	History of Comanches in Texas
	The Falcon Thief	Hammer, Joshua	Fiction	CR	
x	The Oceans and the Stars: A Sea Story, A War Story, a Love Story (a novel)	Helprin, Mark	Fiction	CG	
	War and Turpentine	Hertmans, Stefan	Fiction		The story of Urbain Martien lies contained in two notebooks he left behind when he died. In <i>War and Turpentine</i> , his grandson, a writer, retells his grandfather's story, the notebooks providing a key to the locked chambers of Urbain's memory.
	A Clean Kill in Tokyo	Isler, Barry	Fiction		Thrillers
	The Shadow of What Was Lost (The Licanus Trilogy)	Islington, James	Fiction		Davian is a young man studying at Caladel, a school under the supervision of the Tol Athian council.
	The Wayfinder	Johnson, Adam	Fiction	CG	A historical epic about a girl from a remote Tongan island who becomes her people's queen.
	The Feather Thief	Johnson, Kirk	Fiction	CG, AS	
	Palmares	Jones, Gayle	Fiction		Follows Almeyda, who retrospectively tells the story of her life, from growing up as a slave in a plantation in 1670s Brazil to her journey throughout the country to find her missing husband.
x	The Moor's Account	Lalami, Laila	Fiction		A fictional memoir of Estebanico, the Moroccan slave who survived the Narvaez expedition and accompanied Cabeza de Vaca.
x	Endurance	Lansing, Alfred	Fiction	SM	

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	The Dispossessed: An Ambiguous Utopia	Le Guin, Ursula	Fiction		Shevek, a brilliant physicist, decides to take action. He will seek answers, question the unquestionable, and attempt to tear down the walls of hatred that have isolated his planet of anarchists from the rest of the civilized universe.
	The Queen of the Night	Lee, Alexander	Fiction		Story of Lilliet Berne, an orphan who left the American frontier for Europe and was swept into the glamour and terror of Second Empire France.
	Mr G: A novel about the Creation	Lightman, Alan	Fiction	CG	
	Wolf Hall	Mantel, Hilary	Fiction	CR	
x	All the Pretty Horses	McCarthy, Cormac	Fiction		
x	Cities of the Plain	McCarthy, Cormac	Fiction		
x	No Country for Old Men	McCarthy, Cormac	Fiction		
	Stella Maris	McCarthy, Cormac	Fiction		
x	The Crossing	McCarthy, Cormac	Fiction		
x	The Passenger	McCarthy, Cormac	Fiction		
x	The Road	McCarthy, Cormac	Fiction		
	Atonement	McEwan, Ian	Fiction	VR	symphonic novel of love and war, childhood and class, guilt and forgiveness
	Against the Ice: The Classic Arctic Survival Story	Mikkelsen, Ejnar	Fiction		harrowing, amazing, and often amusing personal account of two mismatched Arctic explorers who banded together to keep themselves sane on an historic expedition gone horribly wrong
	The Starless Sea	Morgenstern, Erin	Fiction		Told through a non-linear structure built around a number of overlapping embedded narratives; Each of the six books of the novel (apart from book IV) intersperses the linear primary narrative with excerpts from an in-universe text that the characters read through and analyze in step with the reader.
	Beloved	Morrison, Tony	Fiction		the story of formerly enslaved people whose Cincinnati home is haunted by a malevolent spirit
	Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage	Murakami, Haruki	Fiction		
	Kafka on the Shore	Murakami, Haruki	Fiction		
x	Thistlefoot: A Novel	Nethercott, GennaRose	Fiction		Fantasy saga, a debut novel about estranged siblings who are reunited after receiving a mysterious inheritance.
x	The Sympathizer	Nguyen, Thanh	Fiction		A North Vietnamese mole in the South Vietnamese army, who stays embedded in a South Vietnamese community in exile in the United States.
	The Bird Artist	Norman, Howard	Fiction	CR	
	Wise Blood	O'Connor, Flannery	Fiction	CG	
	Anil's Ghost	Ondaatje, Michael	Fiction		Anil arrives in Sri Lanka after a 15-year absence abroad. Her visit comes as a result of the increasing number of deaths in Sri Lanka from all the warring sides in the 1980s' civil war.
	The Buddha in the Attic	Otsuka, Julie	Fiction		Japanese picture brides immigrating to America in the early 1900s
	A Long Long Time Ago and Essentially True	Pasulka, Brigid	Fiction		On the eve of World War II, in a place called Half-Village, a young man nicknamed the Pigeon falls in love with a girl fabled for her angelic looks. To court Anielica Hetmanská he offers up his "golden hands" to transform her family's modest hut into a beautiful home, thereby building his way into her
	Dark Matter	Paver, Michelle	Fiction		A chilling Arctic ghost story where a man faces supernatural terrors during the endless polar night.
x	The Moviegoer: A Novel	Percy, Walker	Fiction	CG	
	The Bourban Thief: A southern gothic novel – A Historical Fiction Mystery and Kentucky Family Saga	Reisz, Tiffany	Fiction		When Cooper McQueen wakes up from a night with a beautiful stranger, it's to discover he's been robbed
	The Starless Crown	Rollins, James	Fiction		An alliance embarks on a dangerous journey to uncover the secrets of the distant past and save their world in this captivating, deeply visionary adventure
	Radetzky March	Roth, Joseph	Fiction		a 1932 family saga novel by Joseph Roth chronicling the decline and fall of the Habsburg Monarchy via the story of the Trotta family.
	The God of Small Things	Roy, Arundhati	Fiction		An affluent Indian family is forever changed by one fateful day in 1969.
	The Eleventh Hour: A Quintet of Stories	Rushdie, Salman	Fiction		A quintet of stories that span the three countries in which he has made his work—India, England, and America—and feature an unforgettable cast of characters.
	Doc	Russell, Mary Doria	Fiction		Born to the life of a Southern gentleman, Dr. John Henry Holliday arrives on the Texas frontier hoping that the dry air and sunshine of the West will restore him to health.
	40 Rules of Love	Shafak, Elif	Fiction		About a thirteenth century poet, Shams Tabrizi, who was the spiritual teacher to Rumi
	There are Rivers in the Sky	Shafak, Elif	Fiction		Tale about three characters living along two rivers, all under the shadow of one of the greatest epic poems of all time.
	Great Circle	Shipstead, Maggie	Fiction		story of a daredevil female aviator determined to chart her own course in life, at any cost:
	Blood and Thunder	Sides, Hampton	Fiction	SM	Kit Carson & the Navajos
	I Capture the Castle	Smith, Dodie	Fiction		an eccentric family struggling to live in genteel poverty in a decaying castle during the 1930s.
	Where the River Changes Direction	Spragg, Mark	Fiction	SM	
	The Secret History	Tartt, Donna	Fiction		The story of a closely knit group of six Classics students at Hampden College, a small, elite liberal arts college in Vermont. An inverted detective story narrated by one of the six students,
	Night of Fire: A Haunting Meditation on Life and Memory – Six Tenants in a Burning Home	Thurbron, Colin	Fiction		
	The Lincoln Highway	Towles, Amor	Fiction		A multilayered tale of misadventure and self-discovery, populated by an eclectic cast of characters.

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	The Samurai's Garden	Tsukiyama, Gail	Fiction		he daughter of a Chinese mother and a Japanese father during the Japanese invasion of China during the late 1930s as a somber backdrop for this extraordinary story.
	Fire Weather	Vailant, John	Fiction	MAR	
	The Golden Spruce	Vailant, John	Fiction	MAR	
	The Tiger	Vailant, John	Fiction	SM	
	The Thousand Deaths of Ardor Benn: Liar. Thief. Legend.	Whitesides, Tyler	Fiction		Mission Impossible, but with magic, dragons, and a series of heists that go from stealing a crown to saving the world"
	Our Woman in Moscow	Williams, Beatrice	Fiction		In the autumn of 1948, Iris Digby vanishes from her London home with her American diplomat husband and their two children. The world is shocked by the family's sensational disappearance.
	Liars Dictionary	Williams, Eley	Fiction		chronicles the charming misadventures of a lovelorn Victorian lexicographer
	The Bird King	Wilson, G. Willow	Fiction		Set in 1491 during the reign of the last sultanate in the Iberian peninsula, The Bird King is the story of Fatima, the only remaining Circassian concubine to the sultan, and her dearest friend Hassan, the palace mapmaker.
	The Stolen Child	Yeats, Y.B.	Fiction	CG	
	The Zookeeper's Wife	Ackerman, Diane	Fiction, Historical		
	The Zone of Interest	Amis, Martin	Fiction, Historical		Set in Auschwitz, it tells the story of a Nazi officer who has become enamoured of the camp commandant's wife.
z	HHHH	Binet, Laurent	Fiction, Historical		This is Operation Anthropoid, Prague, 1942: two Czechoslovakian parachutists sent on a daring mission by London to assassinate Reinhard Heydrich
	The Bielski Brothers: The True Story of Three Men Who Defied the Nazis, Built a Village in the Forest, and Saved 1,200 Jews – A History of Resistance, Rescue, and Hope in WWII	Duffy, Peter	Fiction, Historical		
	The Signature of All Things	Gilbert, Elizabeth	Fiction, Historical		A glorious, sweeping novel of desire, ambition, and the thirst for knowledge.
	Isola	Goodman, Allegra	Fiction, Historical		
	Homegoing	Gyasi, Yaa	Fiction, Historical		the story of two half-sisters, separated by forces beyond their control: one sold into slavery, the other married to a British slaver.
	Lavinia	Le Guin, Ursula	Fiction, Historical		In The Aeneid, Vergil's hero fights to claim the king's daughter, Lavinia, with whom he is destined to found an empire. Lavinia herself never speaks a word. Here she has a voice
	The Great Fortune (Fortunes of War Series)	Manning, Olivia	Fiction, Historical		The novels tell an unfolding story of how the Second World War impacts on the lives of a group of British expatriates
	Florenzer	Melanson, Phil	Fiction, Historical		Leonardo da Vinci
	A Rising Man: A Novel (Wyndham & Banerjee Mysteries)	Mukherjee, Abir	Fiction, Historical		Calcutta, 1919. Captain Sam Wyndham, former Scotland Yard detective, is a new arrival to Calcutta. Desperately seeking a fresh start after his experiences during the Great War, Wyndham has been recruited to head up a new post in the police force
	The Antidote	Russell, Karen	Fiction, Historical		The Antidote opens on Black Sunday, as a historic dust storm ravages the fictional town of Uz, Nebraska. But Uz is already collapsing—not just under the weight of the Great Depression and the dust bowl drought but beneath its own violent histories.
	The Hunters	Salter, James	Fiction, Historical		a tale of USAF fighter pilots during the Korean War, first published in 1956
	Girl at War	Sara Nović	Fiction, Historical		Ten-year-old Ana Jurić is a carefree tomboy who runs the streets of Croatia's capital with her best friend, Luka, takes care of her baby sister, Rahela, and idolizes her father. But as civil war breaks out across Yugoslavia, soccer games and school lessons are supplanted by sniper fire and air raid drills.
	Cutting for Stone	Verghese, Abraham	Fiction, Historical	JB	family saga of Africa and America, doctors and patients, exile and homefamily saga of Africa and America, doctors and patients, exile and home
	The Covenant of Water	Verghese, Abraham	Fiction, Historical	JB	Spanning the years 1900 to 1977, set in Kerala, on India's Malabar Coast, and follows three generations of a family that suffers a peculiar affliction: in every generation, at least one person dies by drowning
	Fingersmith	Waters, Sarah	Fiction, Historical		historical crime novel set in Victorian-era Britain
	Personal Librarian	Benedict, Marie and Victoria Christopher Murray	History		tells of the lifework of Belle da Costa Greene, the personal librarian to J. P. Morgan, as well as the first director of the Morgan Library & Museum.
	The Eagle and the Hart: The Tragedy of Richard II and Henry IV	Castor, Helen	History		The dual biography of Richard II and Henry IV, two cousins whose tumultuous reigns shaped the course of English history.
	The Heroes of Hosingen: Their Untold Story	Flynn, Alice M.	History		the untold story of what happened in the frontline village of Hosingen, Luxembourg, the last garrison of the 110th Infantry Regiment to fall in the early days of the Battle of the Bulge.

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	The Confidence Men: How Two Prisoners of War Engineered the Most Remarkable Escape in History	Fox, Margalit	History		
	The Daughters Of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans: A Story of Love and War	Katz, Catherine Grace	History		
	Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam	Logevall, Fredrik	History		illuminates the hidden history of the French and American experiences in Vietnam
	Beneath the Window - Early Ranch life in the Big Bend Before it was a National Park	Wilson Clothier, Patricia	History	AS	Before it became a national park, the Big Bend was home to a number of ranches and mining operations. On the Wilson ranch, which stood at the center of the current park, the author spent her youth exploring the wonders of ranch life in the Chisos.
	Consider Phlebas	Banks, Iain M.	Science Fiction		The first in a series of novels about an interstellar post-scarcity society called the Culture. The novel revolves around the Idiran–Culture War, and Banks plays on that theme by presenting various microcosms of that conflict. Its protagonist Bora Horza Gobuchul is an enemy of the Culture.
	The Long Way to a Small Angry Planet (Wayfarers series)	Chambers, Becky	Science Fiction		
	Hyperion	Simmons, Dan	Science Fiction		Multiple time-lines and is told from the points of view of many characters. It follows a similar structure to The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer. A framing narrative serves as a means to present the tales of a group of pilgrims sent to Hyperion's Time Tombs, to make a request of the Shrike, a metallic creature that is said to grant one wish to each pilgrim.
	Children of Time	Tchaikovsky, Adrian	Science Fiction		has two plot strands, one of which follows the evolution of a civilization of genetically modified Portia labiata (arachnoid) on a terraformed exoplanet, guided by an artificial intelligence based on the personality of one of the human terraformers of the planet