

RWA 2011 Conference

Reading Your Way to Creating a Great Novel

Romance

Brontë, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*.

Orphaned Jane Eyre becomes a governess to the ward of brooding, enigmatic Rochester at his home, Thornfield, and confronts mystery and danger in this romantic Victorian gothic.

Castle, Jayne. *Sweet Starfire*

Cidra Rainforest must team up with handsome fortune hunter Teague Severance on a deadly quest during which they will battle both human and alien dangers.

Chase, Loretta. *Lord of Scoundrels*.

Intrepid bluestocking Jessica Trent sets out to save her brother from the infamous Marquess of Dain and is appalled to find herself attracted to him--just as he is to her.

Du Maurier, Daphne. *Rebecca*

The second Mrs. DeWinter discovers that although her husband's first wife, Rebecca, is long gone her legacy lingers on at Manderley.

Gabalton, Diana. *Outlander*.

While on Scotland on her second honeymoon, Claire Randall walks into an ancient circle of stones and is transported from 1945 back to 1743, where she meets the love of her life: James Fraser.

Heyer, Georgette. *An Infamous Army*.

Scandalous widow Lady Barbara Childe and Colonel Charles Audley find love and understanding during the weeks leading up to and following the Battle of Waterloo.

Holt, Victoria. *Mistress of Melyn*.

After taking a job with a family in Cornwall, a governess discovers the mother of her new charges was murdered, and that everyone believes her new employer is the killer.

Kinsale, Laura. *Flowers from the Storm*.

When rich, powerful, and debauched Christian, Duke of Jervaulx, is put into an asylum after a stroke, the only person who believes he will speak again is quiet Quaker, Maddy Timms.

Kitt, Sandra, *The Color of Love*.

African American artist Leah Downey falls in love with white cop Jason Horn, but can their newfound romance survive all the obstacles thrown in their path?

Michaels, Barbara. *Wait for What Will Come*.

Carla Tregellas arrives at the mansion she has inherited in Cornwall only to be warned to leave immediately or become another victim of the “family” curse.

Mitchell, Margaret. *Gone with the Wind*.

Scarlett O’Hara is willing to fight anyone – including Rhett Butler - who gets in her way as she struggles to hold onto her beloved Tara.

Phillips, Susan Elizabeth. *It Had to Be You*.

Phoebe Somerville inherits her father’s football team, the Chicago Stars only to discover there’s a catch: she has to find a way to work with the team’s irritatingly sexy head coach Dan Calebow.

Small, Bertrice, *Skye O’Malley*.

Beautiful, tempestuous Skye O’Malley matches wiles with Elizabeth I while falling in lust with many men but in love with only Lord Niall Burke.

Stewart, Mary. *My Brother Michael*.

A woman becomes caught up in a dangerous game of wits between a man searching for the truth about his brother’s death during the war and a Greek collaborator, who is equally determined to stop him.

Woodiwiss, Kathleen. *The Wolf and the Dove*.

Norman warrior Wulfgar arrives in Darkenwald to claim the land and its people for King William, but Saxon princess Aislinn vows she will never surrender.

Other Genres

Bradford, Barbara Taylor. *A Woman of Substance*.

In 1904 pregnant servant Emma Harte begins her rags-to-riches journey of revenge against the Fairlie family.

Byatt, A.S. *Possession*.

Scholars Roland Michell and Maud Bailey find themselves stuck working together as they try to unravel the mystery as to whether Victorian poets R.H. Ash and Christabel LaMotte were romantically involved.

Chandler, Raymond. *The Big Sleep*.

After being hired to investigate a case of blackmail, Philip Marlowe becomes entangled in a dangerous web of deceit and murder.

Clavell, James. *Shogun*.

After being shipwrecked off the coast of Japan, English navigator John Blackthorne learns the complex ways of the Japanese from Lady Mariko.

Fielding, Helen. *Bridget Jones's Diary*.

30-something London "singleton" Bridget Jones struggles to stop smoking, lose weight, and find the perfect man.

Gilman, Dorothy. *The Unexpected Mrs. Pollifax*.

Bored with her life, sixtyish widow Emily Pollifax applies for a volunteer job with the CIA and is mistakenly given a job as a courier.

Grisham, John. *The Firm*.

Newly minted law school graduate Mitchell McDeere discovers his new employers at a Memphis law firm may have ties to organized crime.

Kostova, Elizabeth. *The Historian*.

A woman stumbles across some old family documents that hint at a possible connection between Dracula and Vlad the Impaler.

McGuire, Gregory. *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*.

Everyone knows Dorothy Gale's side of the story, but now it is wicked witch Elphaba's turn.

McMillan, Terry. *Waiting to Exhale*.

Four friends – Savannah, Gloria, Robin, and Bernadine – are all waiting for the right man to turn up so they can finally "exhale."

McMurtry, Larry. *Lonesome Dove*.

Retired Texas Rangers Augustus "Gus" McCrae and Woodrow F. Call are total opposites, but they will need to figure out a way to work together on an adventure-filled cattle drive.

Michael, Judith. *Deceptions*.

Identical twins Sabrina and Stephanie are both bored to tears with their lives so they decide to switch places with some unexpected results.

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*.

Runaway slave Sethe kills her infant daughter rather than allow her to be captured, but the act haunts Sethe for the rest of her life.

Neville, Katherine. *The Eight*.

Computer expert Catherine Velis finds herself caught up in the search for a mystical chess set once owned by Charlemagne.

Puzo, Mario. *The Godfather*.

Vito Corleone, Mafia don, rises to power but doubts his sons Michael and Sonny will be able to hold onto his empire.

Segal, Erich. *Love Story*.

Poor Radcliffe music student Jenny falls in love with wealthy Harvard jock Oliver.

Tan, Amy. *The Kitchen God's Wife*.

As Weili "Winnie" Jiang tells her daughter Pearl the story of her harrowing life before coming to America, the emotional rift between mother and daughter finally begins to heal.

Valdes-Rodriguez, Alisa. *The Dirty Girl's Social Club*

Ever since they first met in college, six Latina friends find time once every six months to meet and catch up on what is going on in each other's lives.

**Need more suggestions as to what to read next?
Try these resources:**

Hill, Susan. *Howards End is on the Landing: A Year of Reading from Home*.

While searching for something to read in her home, Hill discovers a year's worth of reading right on her bookshelves.

Huang, Jim, ed. *100 Favorite Mysteries of the Century*.

Short essays by booksellers on their choices for the 100 best mysteries of the 20th century.

Morrell, David and Hank Wagner, eds. *Thrillers: 100 Must Reads*.

Today's best-selling thriller and suspense writers chose their 100 favorite thrillers everyone should read.

Murnihgan, Jack. *Beowulf on the Beach: What to Love and What to Skip in Literature's 50 Greatest Hits*.

Missed the point of all those great books in college (or just never bothered to read them)? A professor gives you his choices of which classics are must reads (and what parts of the book it's okay to skip).

Newman, Sandra and Howard Mittelmark. *Read This Next: 500 of the Best Books You'll Ever Read*.

Two literary professionals (and authors of *How Not to Write a Novel*) offer their wonderfully opinionated thoughts on novels and works of nonfiction they think everyone should read.

Perrin, Noel. *A Reader's Delight*.

A classic guide to some lesser know (but equally life-enriching) books by a New England professor of English

*List compiled by John Charles, Kristin Ramsdell,
and Leah Hultenschmidt*