

**Fresh Lit! New and Forthcoming Literary Fiction
For Readers and Book Groups
Rosalind Reisner
<http://areadersplace.net>
LibraryLinkNJ, July 10, 2012**

Books already published

Behrens, Peter. *The O'Briens*. Pantheon. March, 2012.

A sprawling family saga follows the orphaned Joe O'Brien as he takes charge of his siblings and makes a name for himself in railroad construction in Canada in the first half of the twentieth century.

Other historical/family sagas where character is important and historical events play a role:

The Glass Palace by Amitav Ghosh

Freedom by Jonathan Franzen

West of Here by Jonathan Evison

Daughter of Fortune by Isabel Allende

The Northern Clemency by Philip Hensher

The Time in Between by Maria Duenas

Benaron, Naomi. *Running the Rift* Algonquin. January, 2012.

In civil war-torn Rwanda, a young man tries to excel as a runner and dreams of running in the Olympics.

Other coming of age novels with fraught political settings:

Long Way Gone by Ishmael Beah (memoir)

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Tiny Sunbirds Far Away by Christie Watson

Little Bee by Chris Cleave

Cash, Wiley. *A Land More Kind Than Home*. Wm. Morrow. April, 2012.

A teenage boy overhears an encounter that puts his life at risk from a corrupt fundamentalist preacher.

Other southern gothic novels with strong characters:

Salvage the Bones by Jesmyn Ward

Under the Mercy Trees by Heather Newton

The Scent of Rain and Lightning by Nancy Pickard

Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter by Tom Franklin

The Cove by Ron Rash

What Dies in Summer by Tom Wright

Cleave, Chris. *Gold*. Simon & Schuster. July 3, 2012.

Two women cyclists battle it out for a spot on the British Olympic cycling team.

Other novels with strong female characters or intense plotlines:

Brick Lane by Monica Ali

A Short History of Women by Kate Walbert

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

The Lace Reader by Brunonia Barry

The Bee Season by Myla Goldberg

Ivey, Eowyn. *The Snow Child*. Reagan Arthur/Back Bay Books. Feb. 2012.

In this retelling of a Russian folktale, a couple on a farm in 1920s Alaska finds a little girl in the snow.

Other books with elements of magical realism:

The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake by Aimee Bender

Like Water for Chocolate by Laura Esquivel

Practical Magic by Alice Hoffman

Snow in August by Pete Hamill

The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern

Livesey, Margot. *The Flight of Gemma Hardy*. HarperCollins. January, 2012.

If Jane Eyre had lived in the 1960s...

Other novels with strong, thoughtful women characters or are based on other novels (not to mention the host of Jane Austen wannabe novels):

How it All Began by Penelope Lively

Death Comes to Pemberley by P.D. James

The Three Weissmans of Westport by Cathleen Schine

Miller, Madeline. *The Song of Achilles*. Ecco Press. March 6, 2012.

A retelling of the story of the *Iliad* from the point of view of Patroclus, lover of Achilles.

Other novels set in ancient civilizations:

The King Must Die or ***The Bull From the Sea*** by Mary Renault

The Red Tent by Anita Diamant

The Dovekeepers by Alice Hoffman

Rich, Roberta, *Midwife of Venice*. S&S/Gallery. February, 2012

Other historical novels with strong women characters:

The Book of Madness and Cures by Regina O'Melveny

The Queen's Fool by Philippa Gregory (and other Gregory novels)

Equal of the Sun by Anita Amirrezvani

Walker, Karen Thompson. *The Age of Miracles*. Random House. June 26, 2012.

In this unusual coming of age novel, 11-year old Julia awakens one morning to find that the rotation of the earth has slowed.

Other titles about changes in the natural order of things:

Ella Minnow Pea: A Novel in Letters by Mark Dunn

The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger

Timequake by Kurt Vonnegut

Walter, Jess. *Beautiful Ruins*. HarperCollins. June 2012.

From the coast of Italy in 1962 to today's Hollywood film industry, a large and colorful cast of characters—including Richard Burton--populate this funny, inventive and satisfying tale.

Other stories with a satirical tone about relationships between men and women:

Paradise News by David Lodge (also ***Thinks*** and ***Nice Work***)

Le Divorce by Diane Johnson (also ***L'Affaire*** and ***Le Mariage***)

Calling Invisible Women by Jeanne Ray

FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Attenberg, Jami. *The Middlesteins*. Grand Central. Oct., 2012

The Middlesteins have been happily married for 30 years, but now Edie's obsession with food threatens to break them apart.

Readers might also enjoy:

The Next Best Thing by Jennifer Weiner

I See You Everywhere by Julia Glass

Carry the One by Carol Anshaw

Chabon, Michael. *Telegraph Avenue*. HarperCollins. Sept. 11, 2012.

Set in Berkeley, this story follows two families, one African-American family and one white, whose lives are inextricably intertwined.

Readers might also enjoy:

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay by Michael Chabon

The Yiddish Policeman's Union by Michael Chabon

Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese

Diaz, Junot *This Is How You Lose Her*. Riverhead. September 11, 2012.

A collection of linked stories by the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of ***The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao***, about the love lives of Dominican men.

Readers might also enjoy:

When Tito Loved Clara by Jon Michaud

We the Animals by Justin Torres

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

Joyce, Rachel *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*. Random House. July 24, 2012.

Harold is unhappily retired until he receives a letter from a friend, setting him off on a life-changing journey.

Readers might also enjoy:

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson

The World We Found by Thrity Umrigar

Kingsolver, Barbara. *Flight Behavior*. HarperCollins. Nov., 2012.

When Dellarobia Turnbow sees a strange fiery glow in the hills above her home, she unwittingly ignites changes in the lives of everyone around her in this environmental cautionary tale.

Readers might also enjoy:

State of Wonder by Ann Patchett

When the Killing's Done by T.C. Boyle

The Orchard by Theresa Weir (memoir)

Powers, Kevin. *The Yellow Birds*. Little, Brown. Sept. 11, 2012.

Two soldiers in the Iraqi War struggle with the nature of the things they are asked to do. The decisions they make change their lives and their families' lives forever.

Readers might also enjoy:

The Absolutist by John Boyne

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

A Rumor of War by Philip Caputo (memoir)

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Ratner, Vaddey. *In the Shadow of the Banyan*. Simon & Schuster. August, 2012.

The Khmer Rouge uprising in Cambodia uproots a family and sends them off on a nightmarish journey of loss and redemption.

Readers might also enjoy:

A Different Sky by Meira Chand

The Latehomecomer : A Hmong Family Memoir by Kao Kalia Yang

When the Emperor Was Divine by Julie Otsuka

Shapiro B.A. *The Art Forger*. Algonquin Books. Oct. 23, 2012.

A starving artist is offered a Faustian bargain: copy of a famous stolen painting and achieve success.

Readers might also enjoy:

An Object of Beauty by Steve Martin

The Archivist by Martha Cooley

People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks

Smith, Zadie *NW*. Penguin Press. September 4, 2012

This book is under wraps until publication date; it follows 4 young people as they make their way from a council housing estate in north London into the wider world.

Readers might also enjoy:

White Teeth by Zadie Smith

Brick Lane by Monica Ali

The Northern Clemency by Philip Hensher

A SELECTION OF RESOURCES FOR KEEPING UP

For e-galleys:

<http://www.netgalley.com/>

<http://www.abovethetreeline.com/edelweiss/>

For publishing industry news; reviews and information about forthcoming books:

www.publishersweekly.com

<http://www.shelf-awareness.com/>

<http://www.earlyword.com/>

<http://booksonthenightstand.com/>

<http://reviews.libraryjournal.com/category/prepub/?ref=ljnav>

For book group resources:

http://www.nationalreadinggroupmonth.org/ggr_selections.html

<http://www.bookreporter.com/>

<http://www.goodreads.com/>

<http://www.readinggroupchoices.com/>

Resources for displays, booklists, etc.:

<http://flavorwire.com/category/books>