

Women in the World



Stories by and
about women
around the globe

The Bastard of Istanbul by *Elif Shafak*
A secret is uncovered that links two families to the 1915 Armenian deportations and massacres.

The Birth of Venus by *Sarah Dunant*
A young woman experiences art, love, politics, and betrayal in 15th-century Florence.

Desirable Daughters by *Bharati Mukherjee*
Three Calcutta-born sisters lead different lifestyles in separate parts of the world.

Dreaming in Cuban by *Cristina Garcia*
A family of women with clairvoyant powers is divided by the Cuban revolution.

The Family Tree by *Carole Cadwalladr*
Pop-culture Welsh sociologist struggles with nature/nurture influence on her troubled family.

***Girls of Tender Age** by *Mary-Ann Tirone Smith*
A woman raised in 1950s working class Hartford recalls the murder of a young classmate by a serial pedophile.

The God of Small Things by *Arundhati Roy*
Seven year-old twins in India learn that love and life can be lost in a moment.

The Hiding Place by *Trezza Azzopardi*
The disfigured daughter of a Welsh mother and Maltese immigrant father copes with family life.

The House on Mango Street by *Sandra Cisneros*
A Latina coming of age in Chicago expresses herself in poems and stories.

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents by *Julia Alvarez*
Four lively Latinas move from a pampered life on an island to the big-city chaos of New York.

If You Lived Here by *Dana Sachs*
Two women confront life-changing choices on a trip to Vietnam to claim one's adopted child.

Inés of My Soul by *Isabel Allende*
A poor widowed seamstress takes up with a fiery war hero to wage war in 16th century South America.

Keeping the World Away by *Margaret Forster*
The story of an actual early 20th century painting, its fictional adventures, and the women whose lives it touches.

The Kitchen God's Wife by *Amy Tan*
An aging Chinese woman unfolds her life's secrets to her suspicious, Americanized daughter.

Leaving Home by *Anita Brookner*
An introverted graduate student leaves the cloistered world she shares with her reclusive mother in 1970s London to study in Paris.

***Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust** by *Immaculee Ilibagiza*
A young woman's faith sees her through the darkness of fear, suffering, and loss.

The Map of Love by *Adhaf Soueif*
Two Western women at opposite ends of the 20th century are in love with men whose histories anchor them to another place and time.

The Master Bedroom by *Tessa Hadley*
A Welsh woman becomes the object of two men's affections—a father and his teenage son.

Moll Flanders by *Daniel Defoe*
A 18th century Englishwoman's determination to secure an acceptable place in society propels her into sin, and redemption.

My Name is Sei Shonagon by *Jan Blensdorf*
A Japanese-American woman's search for self occurs amid displacement, tragedy, and cultural conflict.

Nada by *Carmen Laforet*
A young orphan leaves her small town to attend university in war-ravaged Barcelona.

***Out of Africa** by *Isak Dinesen*
A Danish woman remembers life on her 4,000-acre coffee plantation in the hills near Nairobi.

The Poisonwood Bible by *Barbara Kingsolver* The wife and daughters of a Southern Baptist missionary confront family demons and challenges of life in the Congo.

Quentins by *Maeve Binchy*

A woman researches a popular Dublin pub for a documentary, then realizes not all the stories she has uncovered should be told.

***Reading Lolita in Tehran** by *Azar Nafisi*

Seven young women meet to read and discuss forbidden works of Western literature.

The Red Tent by *Anita Diamant*

Lush, evocative tale portrays the strength, unity, love, and wisdom among women of the Old Testament.

Serving Crazy with Curry by *Amulya Malladi*

Indian woman copes with stresses of her life and family by cooking--her way.

The Seven Sisters by *Margaret Drabble*

A divorced, middle-aged woman moves to a rundown London neighborhood and forms unlikely friendships there.

The Sixteen Pleasures by *Robert Hellenga*

A young American woman in Florence encounters adventure, spiritual challenge, and a unique erotic manuscript.

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by *Lisa See*

A misunderstood message tears apart two life-long Chinese friends.

Stones from the River by *Ursula Hegi*

A German dwarf woman struggles to find acceptance in her small town during WWII.

The Story of Zahra by *Hanan Al-Shayk*

A young Lebanese woman attempts to stem the violence in Beirut by initiating a sexual liaison with a sniper.

Suite Française by *Irène Némirovsky*

A novelist's account of Nazi occupation in wartime France, written at the time, published 64 years after her death in Auschwitz.

Sweetness in the Belly by *Camilla Gibb*

A British orphan raised in Morocco makes a pilgrimage to Harar, Ethiopia, where she confronts love, loss, and political unrest.

Tamarind Woman by *Anita Rau Badami*

A woman leaves her native India and acidic mother for Canada, and clarity.

A Thousand Splendid Suns by *Khaled Hosseini*

Two Afghani women of different generations marry the same abusive man.

A Thread of Grace by *Mary Doria Russell*

The true story of the underground effort by Italian citizens that saved the lives of 43,000 Jews during the final phase of WWII.

The Transit of Venus by *Shirley Hazzard*

Two orphan sisters leave Australia for a better life in post-war England.

Unknown Errors of Our Lives by *Chitra Banerjee*

A collection of stories about family, culture, and the seduction of memory.

The Virgin's Knot by *Holly Payne*

A woman crippled by polio weaves rugs that possess supernatural powers in 1950s Turkey.

West of the Jordan by *Laila Halaby*

Four cousins are torn between the expectations of their culture and their emerging identities as young Arab American women.

***When Broken Glass Floats: Growing Up Under the Khmer Rouge** by

Chanrithy Him A child's experience of the "killing fields" and labor camps of Cambodia.

***When I Was Puerto Rican** by

Esmeralda Santiago The author recounts her childhood from rural Puerto Rico to "the better life" in a decaying Brooklyn tenement.

**Denotes non-fiction*

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