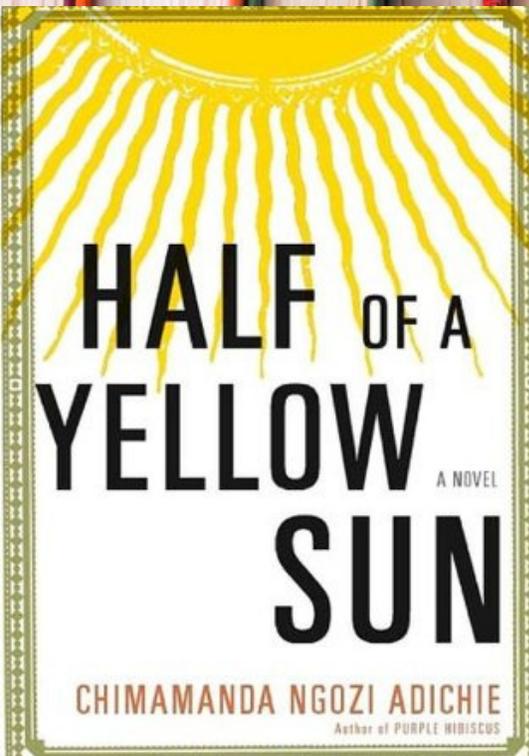


RECOMMENDED READS

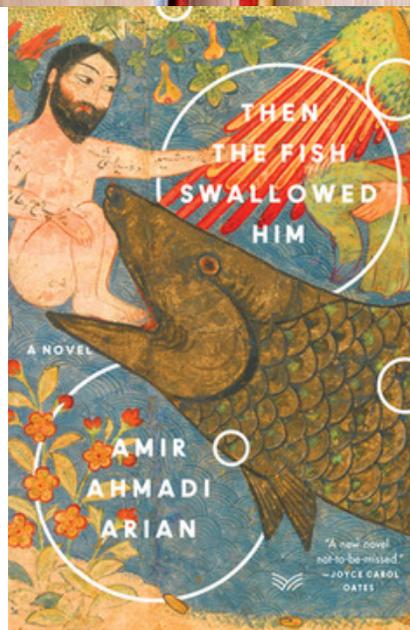
Around the World



THEN THE FISH SWALLOWED HIM

Amir Ahmadi Arian

Fans of *1984* will enjoy this exploration of the relationship between the individual and state. Set in Iran in the early 2000s, we see the how the effects of geopolitics play out on one individual. The life of Yunus Turabi, a Tehranian bus driver, is revealed in flashbacks during his stay in a notorious prison.



NOTES FROM A SMALL ISLAND

Bill Bryson

Bill Bryson is the perfect antidote for these uncertain times. He will take you on a hilarious adventure in any of his numerous books; however, he's at his best when writing about his adopted country, England. In *Notes from a Small Island*, Bryson sets off on a farewell tour of the county he has called home for the past twenty years, noting the endearing quirks of the English along the way. Bryson recently followed this up with a sequel: *The Road to Little Dribbling: Adventures of an American in Britain*, which was published in 2016, twenty year after his original journey. For fans of humor and armchair travel.

SAY NOTHING

Patrick Radden Keefe

Through the lens of one particularly notorious murder, Keefe chronicles The Troubles in Northern Ireland during the latter half of the twentieth century.

"Astute and funny... an amusing guide to the U.K.'s foibles, as well as a tribute to its enchantment." —*New York Times Book Review*

bill bryson

The *New York Times*-bestselling author of *A WALK IN THE WOODS*

notes from a small island



HALF OF A YELLOW SUN

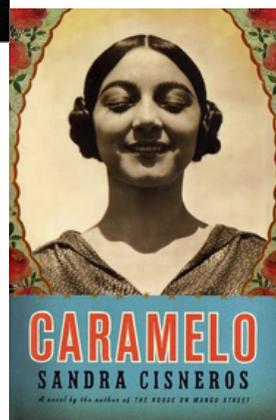
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

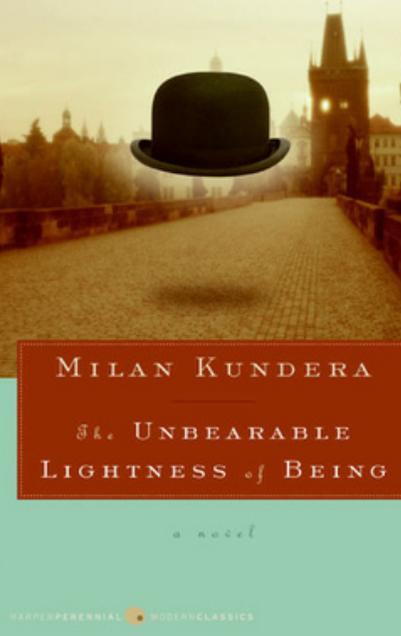
Adichie brings 1960s Nigeria to life through the intertwined lives of three characters and their experience during the Nigerian Civil War. Biafra, a region in the southeast of Nigeria, declared its independence in 1967. A devastating civil war followed in which nearly two million Biafrans (the majority of which were small children) died from starvation caused by the Nigerian government's blockade. Like in *Americanah*, Ngozi's mastery of depicting interpersonal relationship serves as a vehicle to explore themes of race, class, and colonialism. For fans of historical fiction, literary fiction, and stories set in other countries.

CARAMELO

Sandra Cisneros

Cisneros explores intergenerational relationships and storytelling as the Reyes family leaves Chicago to spend their summer in Mexico City.

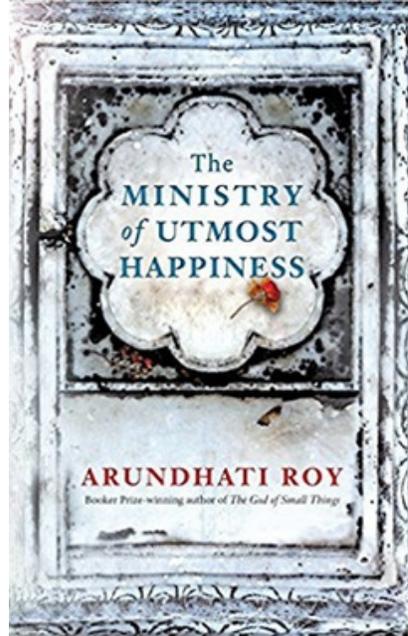




THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING

Milan Kundera

The Unbearable Lightness of Being is a modern classic set in Soviet-era Czechoslovakia in the 1960s and 1970s. It follows the lives of Tomas, a chronic womanizer, his wife Tereza, his mistress Sabina, and her lover Franz. Meanwhile, the politics of communist Eastern Europe play out in the background. Kundera explores several elements of the human experience: love, the weight of irreversible choices, and the stories we tell to explain fortuitous events.



THE MINISTRY OF UTMOST HAPPINESS

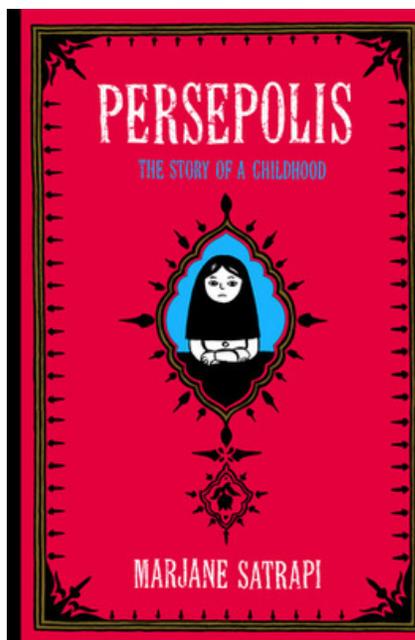
Arundhati Roy

The Ministry of Utmost Happiness transports us across a subcontinent on a journey of many years. It takes us deep into the lives of its gloriously rendered characters, each of them in search of a place of safety - in search of meaning, and of love.

PERSEPOLIS

Marjane Satrapi

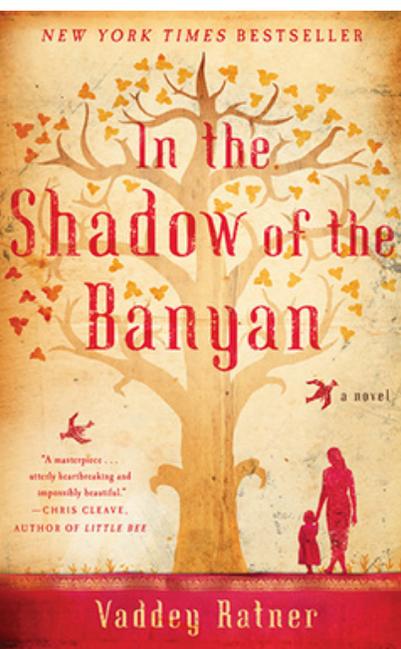
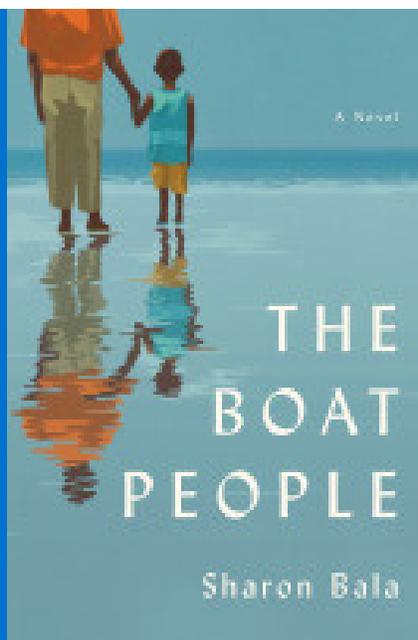
An intelligent and outspoken only child, Satrapi - the daughter of radical Marxists and the great-granddaughter of Iran's last emperor - bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country. For fans of memoir and graphic novels.



THE BOAT PEOPLE

Sharon Bala

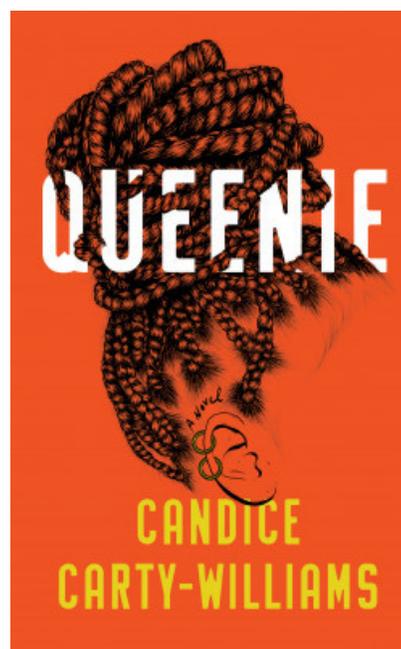
This work of contemporary fiction is broadly based on the real events of 2009 in which over 500 Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka arrived on Canada's doorstep. Sprinkled with flashbacks to war-torn Sri Lanka, the main narrative of the book takes us through the refugee process: from the boat journey to detention and admissibility hearings. The value of this book comes from the different perspectives of the main characters. Chapters alternate between the lives of a refugee who is separated from his son once they reach Canada, a Tamil-Canadian lawyer reconnecting with her family's past, and a third-generation Japanese-Canadian who has been handpicked by the conservative Minister of Public Safety to adjudicate the hearings. Bala expertly navigates the mixed feelings of fear, hypocrisy, connection, and hope that surround the events of 2009.



IN THE SHADOW OF THE BANYAN

Vaddey Ratner

Told from the tender perspective of a young girl who comes of age amid the Cambodian killing fields, this novel is based on the author's personal story. For seven-year-old Raami, the shattering end of childhood begins with the footsteps of her father returning home in the early dawn hours bringing details of the civil war that has overwhelmed the streets of Phnom Penh. Soon the family's world of carefully guarded royal privilege is swept up in the chaos of revolution and forced exodus. Over the next four years, as she endures the deaths of family members, starvation, and brutal forced labor, Raami clings to the only remaining vestige of childhood, the mythical legends and poems told to her by her father. In a climate of systematic violence where memory is sickness and justification for execution, Raami fights for her improbable survival.



QUEENIE

Candice Carty-Williams

Queenie tells the story of a British woman whose grandparents emigrated from Jamaica several decades before the novel takes place. While the book mainly deals with issues of racism, sexism, and mental health, it also explores culture clashes between Queenie's Jamaican family and the British world they live in.