

Women's History Month

El Camino College Library

March 2014

Best Female Lead Characters: This list features books from all genres with the most interesting female lead characters

1Q84 / Haruki Murakami

PL 856 U673 A61213

The title is a play on the Japanese pronunciation of the year 1984, the letter Q and the Japanese number 9 (typically Romanized as "kyu," but as "kew" on the book's Japanese cover) are homophones, which are often used in Japanese wordplay. It is described 1Q84 as a complex and surreal narrative which shifts back and forth between tales of two characters, a man and a woman, who are searching for each other. *Book Annotation*

Cleopatra: A Life / Stacy Schiff

DT 92.7 S35

Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Schiff paints a lavishly detailed portrait of Cleopatra VII, skillfully integrating anecdotes from ancient documents, material evidence from art and archaeology, and the work of modern scholars to produce a thoroughly engaging and eloquently related life history that is a fine addition to other recent biographies of the queen. *Choice*

The Color Purple / Alice Walker

PS 3573 A425 C6

An eloquent portrait of black women's lives that are sustained by faith, love, and trust in the face of brutality, poverty, and racism. *Booklist*

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo / Stieg Larsson

PT 9876.22 A6933 M3613

Larsson's gripping debut thriller about the decades-old disappearance of a teenage heiress exposes the darkness beneath Sweden's sunny blond veneer and introduces us to the memorable Lisbeth Salander, a tattooed, antisocial computer hacker. *Library Journal*

The Handmaid's Tale / Margaret Atwood

PR 9199.3 A8 H3

In this Orwellian dramatization, religion becomes a tool of repression and social control to force women into the roles of stay-at-home wives, domestic staff, prostitutes, or surrogate mothers. *Library Journal*

The Historian / Elizabeth Kostova

PS 3611 O74927 H57

Is Dracula alive (so to speak) and well in modern-day Europe? That question, sparked by a strange medieval text and some letters, sets an American girl on the quest that wrecked her father. *Library Journal*

The Host / Stephanie Meyer

PS 3613 E979 H67

In this tantalizing SF thriller, planet-hopping parasites are inserting their silvery centipede selves into human brains, curing cancer, eliminating war and turning Earth into paradise. But some people want Earth back, warts and all, especially Melanie Stryder, who refuses to surrender, even after being captured in Chicago and becoming a host for a "soul" called Wanderer. *Publishers Weekly*

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The Hunger Games / Suzanne Collins

PZ 7 C6837

Twenty-four young people are dropped off in a remote area and must fight for survival against the harsh conditions and each other. Only one is allowed to live. *Voice of Youth Advocates*

The Lovely Bones / Alice Sebold

PS 3619 E26 L68

The heroine of Sebold's first novel (after the memoir Lucky) is already dead, but that doesn't keep her from talking. Teenager Susie Salmon looks down benevolently from Heaven as her family heals and her murderer is run to ground. *Library Journal*

Memoirs Of A Geisha / Arthur Golden

PS 3557 O35926 M45

Golden puts to good use his studies of Japanese culture at Harvard and Columbia in this story of Sayuri, sold into slavery at a geisha house in 1929, who finds that she's on her own when World War II starts. *Library Journal*

The Poisonwood Bible / Barbara Kingsolver

PS 3561 I496 P65

This intense family drama is set in an Africa on the verge of independence and upheaval. In 1959, evangelical preacher Nathan Price moves his wife and four daughters from Georgia to a village in the Belgian Congo, later Zaire. Their dysfunction and cultural arrogance proves disastrous as the family is nearly destroyed by war, Nathan's tyranny, and Africa itself.

Library Journal

Rebecca / Daphne du Maurier

PR 6007 U47 R4

A novel of mystery and passion, a dark psychological tale of secrets and betrayal, dead loves and an estate called Manderley that is as much a presence as the humans who inhabit it. The reader is ushered into an isolated gray stone mansion on the windswept Cornish coast, as the second Mrs. Maxim de Winter recalls the chilling events that transpired as she began her new life as the young bride of a husband she barely knew. Book Description

Room: A Novel / Emma Donoghue

PR 6054 O547 R66

Five-year-old Jack and his Ma enjoy their long days together, playing games, watching TV, and reading favorite stories. Through Jack's narration, it slowly becomes apparent that their pleasant days are shrouded by a horrifying secret. *Library Journal*

Sexual Politics / Kate Millett

HQ 1154 M5

Sexual Politics laid the foundation for subsequent feminist scholarship by showing how cultural discourse reflects a systematized subjugation and exploitation of women. Book annotation