

## Africa

**Abani, Chris** (Nigerian)  
*Graceland*. 2004

A young Elvis impersonator struggles to come of age in spite of a soul-crushing environment. Immigration to the United States is his dream for salvation.

**Achebe, Chinua** (Nigerian)  
*Things Fall Apart*. 1959

The conflicting values of traditional village life and colonialism are mirrored in the struggles of one man, Okonkwo, the leader of the Igbo community.

**Brink, Andre** (South African)  
*The Other Side of Silence*. 2002

A young German woman seeks a new life in turn of the century South-West Africa. After being brutalized by a German officer, she seeks revenge.

**Coetzee, J. M.** (South African)  
*The Life and Times of Michael K*. 1983

On a journey to return his mother to her homeland, Michael K is caught up in war, but continues to live life on his own terms.

**Dongala, Emmanuel** (Congolese)  
*Little Boys Come from the Stars*. 2001

In the tradition of Grass and Rushdie, Dongala attempts to tell the story of his country through the life of his young hero in this political satire.

**Gordimer, Nadine** (South African)  
*The Pickup*. 2001

Gordimer explores the paradoxes of privilege in this tale of a young suburban woman who falls in love with an illegal Arab immigrant. When he is deported, she decides to accompany him to his desert village.

**Okri, Ben** (Nigerian)  
*Famished Road*. 1992

In this Booker Prize winning novel, Azaro, the spirit-child narrator, moves the reader seamlessly from stories of present day villains to those of the evil spirits that inhabit them.

**Vera, Yvonne** (Zimbabwean)  
*Stone Virgins*. 2003

Through the life of two sisters, Vera tells the story of Zimbabwe from colonial repression through the brutality of civil war. Without sensationalism, this searing novel speaks of dislocation, terror, betrayal and strength.

## Australia

**Bradley, James**  
*The Deep Field*. 2000

This futuristic, multi-layered story chronicles the lives of a photographer and a paleontologist and offers meditations on love, philosophy, and science.

**Carey, Peter**  
*My Life as a Fake*. 2003

Drawing on a famous literary hoax, Carey creates a spellbinding and inventive story of obsession and deceit.

**Flanagan, Richard**  
*Gould's Book of Fish*. 2002

William Gould uses his talent for painting Tasmanian sea life to improve the quality of penal colony life in this blazing look at Australia's colonial history.

**Gilling, Tom**  
*The Adventures of Miles and Isabel*. 2002

Born on the same day in 1856 into very different circumstances, the paths of Miles and Isabel collide as they pursue their passion for flying machines.

**Keneally, Thomas**  
*Office of Innocence*. 2003

As Japanese forces threaten invasion in the early days of WW II, a young Catholic priest is faced with a series of complex moral challenges.

**London, Joan**  
*Gilgamesh*. 2001

19 year old Edith leaves her home in rural Australia to seek her son's father and self-fulfillment, arriving in Soviet Armenia in 1939 as WWII begins.

## India

**Mukherjee, Bharati**  
*Desirable Daughters*. 2002

Three extraordinary Calcutta-born sisters come of age in a changing world. Moving effortlessly between generations, the author weaves together fascinating stories of the sisters' ancestors, childhood memories, and dramatic scenes from India's history.

**Mistry, Rohinton**  
*Family Matters*. 2002

Set during the 1990s in an overcrowded and politically corrupt Bombay, *Family Matters* depicts a family being torn apart by lies, love, and its unresolved demons of the past.

**Desai, Anita**  
*Fasting, Feasting*. 2000

Uma, the plain older daughter of an Indian family, is tied to the household of her childhood and tending to her parents' every extravagant demand, while her younger brother, Arun, across the world in Massachusetts, is bewildered by his new life in college and the suburbs.

**Daswani, Kavita**

*For Matrimonial Purposes.* 2003

Anju has moved from her upper-class family's home in Bombay to America, but the often hilarious search for a proper husband continues. "I don't want you to be happy," her mother says, "I want you to be married."

**Desai, Kiran**

*Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard.* 1998

Sampath loses his menial job at the post office after performing an impromptu cross-dressing strip-tease at his boss's daughter's wedding. In disgrace, he runs away from home and takes refuge in the branches of a guava tree. He soon becomes unintentionally famous as a holy man, setting off a series of comical events that spin increasingly out of control.

**Roy, Arundhati**

*The God of Small Things.* 1997

Twins Rahel and Estha are at the center of a family in crisis and at the heart of this tale, set in southern India in the late 1960s. The story is told in sensuous prose, in a dreamlike style infused with breathtakingly beautiful images and keen insight into human nature.

**Malladi, Amulya**

*Mango Season.* 2003

An Indian woman hides her engagement to an American man from her traditional Brahmin family. When Pirya returns to India after seven years in the United States, she is forced to choose between the love of her family and Nick, the love of her life.

**Lahiri, Jhumpa**

*The Namesake.* 2003

The Ganguli family leave their tradition-bound life in Calcutta and begin a fraught transformation into Americans. Their son stumbles along the first-generation path, strewn with conflicting loyalties, comic detours, and wrenching love affairs.

**Seth, Vikram**

*A Suitable Boy.* 1993

Set in the post-colonial India of the 1950s, this sprawling saga involves four families whose domestic crises illuminate the historical and social events of the era. The story revolves around independent-minded Lata Mehra: will she defy the stern order of her widowed upper-caste Hindu mother by marrying the Muslim youth she loves?

**Badami, Anita Rau**

*Tamarind Woman.* 2002

In this story of two generations of Indian women, Kamini has moved to Canada to begin her graduate studies. Her mother, Saroja, has sold their home and is traveling through India by train. Both are plunged into the past to confront their dreams and losses.

**Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee**

*Vine of Desire.* 2002

Anju and Sudha formed a close friendship during their childhood in India. When Anju invites Sudha, a single mother in Calcutta, to live with her and her husband in California, Sudha foolishly accepts, knowing full well that Anju's husband Sunil has long desired her.

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