

[The Color Purple](#)

by Walker, Alice

Celie is a poor black woman whose letters tell the story of 20 years of her life, beginning at age 14 when she is being abused and raped by her father and attempting to protect her sister from the same fate, and continuing over the course of her marriage to "Mister," a brutal man who terrorizes her. Celie eventually learns that her abusive husband has been keeping her sister's letters from her and the rage she feels, combined with an example of love and independence provided by her close friend Shug, pushes her finally toward an awakening of her creative and loving self.

[America Is Not the Heart](#)

by Castillo, Elaine

How many lives can one person lead in a single lifetime? When Hero de Vera arrives in America, disowned by her parents in the Philippines, she's already on her third. Her uncle, Pol, who has offered her a fresh start and a place to stay in the Bay Area, knows not to ask about her past. And his younger wife, Paz, has learned enough about the might and secrecy of the De Vera family to keep her head down. Only their daughter, Roni, asks Hero why her hands seem to constantly ache.

[Phoenix extravagant](#)

by Lee, Yoon Ha

Gyen Jebi isn't a fighter, or a subversive. They just want to paint. One day they're jobless and desperate; the next, Jebi finds themselves recruited by the

Ministry of Armor to paint the mystical sigils that animate the occupying government's automaton soldiers. But when Jebi discovers the depths of the Razanei government's horrifying crimes--and the awful source of the magical pigments they use--they find they can no longer stay out of politics. What they *can* do is steal Arazi, the ministry's mighty dragon automaton, and find a way to fight..

[The Jasmine Throne](#)

by Suri, Tasha

Exiled by her despotic brother, princess Malini spends her days dreaming of vengeance while imprisoned in the Hirana: an ancient cliffside temple that was once the revered source of the magical deathless waters but is now little more than a decaying ruin. Priya, in order to keep the truth of her past safely hidden, works as a servant in the loathed regent's household, biting her tongue and cleaning Malini's chambers. But when Malini witnesses Priya's true nature, their destinies become irrevocably tangled. One is a ruthless princess seeking to steal a throne. The other a powerful priestess seeking to save her family. Together, they will set an empire ablaze.



Reads for the Rainbow...

[When Katie met Cassidy](#)

by Perri, Camille

Katie is living the New York dream. She's engaged to a charming art curator, has successfully made her way up the ladder at a multinational law firm, and has a hold on apartments in Soho and the West Village. She has come a long way from her Kentucky upbringing. But the rug is swept from under Katie when she is suddenly dumped leaving her completely lost. On a whim, she agrees to have a drink with Cassidy Price - a self-assured, sexually promiscuous woman she meets at work. The two form a newfound friendship, which soon brings into question everything Katie thought she knew about sex - and love.

[One last stop](#)

by McQuiston, Casey

For August, moving to New York City is supposed to prove her right: that things like magic and cinematic love stories don't exist, and the only smart way to go through life is alone. She can't imagine how waiting tables, weird roommates and subway commutes could possibly change that. But then, there's this gorgeous girl on the train. Jane. Dazzling, charming, mysterious, impossible Jane. August's subway crush becomes the best part of her day, but pretty soon, she discovers there's one big problem: Jane doesn't just look like an old school punk rocker. She's literally displaced in time from the 1970s. Can August help?

[The Hours](#)

by Cunningham, Michael

The Hours tells the story of three women: Virginia Woolf, beginning to write Mrs. Dalloway as she recuperates in a London suburb with her husband in 1923; Clarissa Vaughan, beloved friend of an acclaimed poet dying from AIDS, who in modern-day New York is planning a party in his honor; and Laura Brown, in a 1949 Los Angeles suburb, who slowly begins to feel the constraints of a perfect family and home. By the end of the novel, these three stories intertwine in remarkable ways, and finally come together in an act of subtle and haunting grace.

[Less : a Novel](#)

by Greer, Andrew Sean

Who says you can't run away from your problems? You are a failed novelist about to turn fifty. A wedding invitation arrives in the mail: your boyfriend of the past nine years is engaged to someone else. You can't say yes--it would be too awkward--and you can't say no--it would look like defeat. On your desk are a series of invitations to half-baked literary events around the world.

QUESTION: How do you arrange to skip town?

ANSWER: You accept them all.

What would possibly go wrong?

[The Starless Sea](#)

by Morgenstern, Erin

Zachary Ezra Rawlins is a graduate student in Vermont when he discovers a mysterious book hidden in the stacks. As he turns the pages,

entranced by tales of lovelorn prisoners, key collectors, and nameless acolytes, he reads something strange: a story from his own childhood. Bewildered by this inexplicable book and desperate to make sense of how his own life came to be recorded, Zachary uncovers a series of clues that lead him through a doorway to an ancient library with more to discover.

[The Picture of Dorian Gray](#)

by Wilde, Oscar

Spellbound before his own portrait, Dorian Gray utters a fateful wish. In exchange for eternal youth he gives his soul, to be corrupted by the influence of his mentor, Lord Henry Wotton. Dorian tries to watch impassively as he brings misery and death to those who love him. But the picture is watching him, and, made hideous by the marks of sin, it confronts Dorian with the reflection of his fall from grace.

[This is how it always is](#)

by Frankel, Laurie

Claude is not like his brothers. One day he puts on a dress and refuses to take it off. He wants to bring a purse to kindergarten. He wants hair long enough to sit on. When he grows up, Claude says, he wants to be a girl. Soon the entire family is keeping Claude's secret. Until one day it explodes. *This Is How It Always Is* is a novel about revelations, transformations, fairy tales, and family.