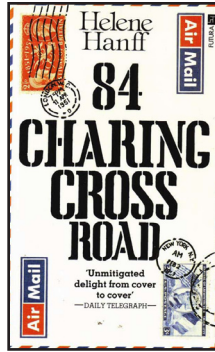
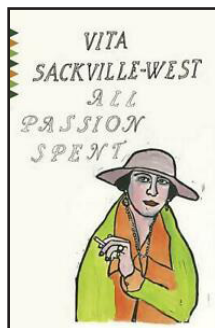


THE GREAT BOOKS



- ★ **84 Charing Cross Road**, Helene Hanff, (1970). A 20-year correspondence between Helene Hanff, a freelance writer in New York City, and Frank Doel, chief buyer of Marks & Co, an antiquarian bookseller in London England. Although never meeting and separated geographically and culturally, they share a deep friendship based on their love of books.

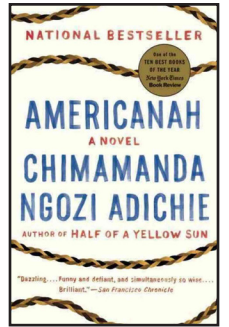
After the Parade, Lori Ostland, (2015). Aaron Englund leaves his longtime partner in New Mexico for a new life in San Francisco and embarks on a tragicomic road trip into the mysteries of his Mid-western childhood. Ostlund offers an openhearted contemplation of how we grow up and move on, and how we can turn our deepest wounds into our greatest strengths.



- ★ **All Passion Spent**, Vita Sackville-West, (1931). When Lord Slane dies, all assume his dutiful wife will live quietly with her children. Lady Slane, however, has other ideas as she revels in her new freedom, revives youthful ambitions, and gathers some unsuitable companions. Irreverent and entertaining, this is a tale of the unexpected joys of growing older.

Alliance, S. K. Dunstall, (2016). Captain Wang lost everything - her ship, her crew, her legs. But the New Alliance is not done with her yet. Teaming with Ean, they discover some world changing secrets. Not everyone wants the New Alliance to control these secrets and will do whatever it takes to stop them.

- ★ **Americanah**, Chimimanda Ngozie Adichie, (2013). Ifemelu immigrates to America to attend college. Due to post 9/11 restrictions, Obinze becomes an undocumented worker in London. Fifteen years later, they reunite in a newly democratic Nigeria, and reignite their passion each other and for their homeland. Adichie tells a strong story of race, identity, and love.



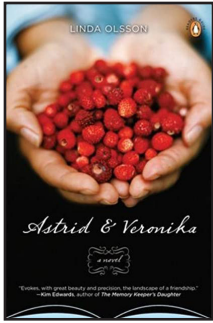
Angelology, Danielle Trussoni, (2010). A well-crafted adventure into untold realms of imagination, religion, and history. Meticulously researched, this novel weaves Western theology with ancient myth that will make readers question what they think they know about angels.

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life, Barbara Kingsolver, (2007). Kingsolver and her family decide to abandon the industrial-food pipeline for one year. They only ate food raised locally or they went without. Part memoir, part journalistic investigation, this book will open your eyes in a hundred new ways to an old truth: You are what you eat.

Anything Is Possible, Elizabeth Strout (2017). This short story collection explores the whole range of human emotion through the intimate dramas of small-town characters struggling to cope with love and loss.

Archangel, Sharon Shinn, (1996). Angels and mortals exist in harmony on the world of Samaria. Except when they are at odds with each other and question the existence of their god.

Assassin's Apprentice, Robin Hobb, (1995). In a faraway land where members of the royal family are named for the virtues they embody, the young boy Fitz will become a walking enigma. Adopted by the royal household, Fitz must embrace a new life of weaponry, scribing, and courtly manners as he trains to become a royal assassin.



★ **Astrid & Veronika**, Linda Olsson, (2005). Veronika 32, a writer whose boyfriend just drowned in New Zealand, rents a house in a small Swedish village next door to recluse Astrid 81. They share walks, meals, wine, and dangerous memories. This is lyrical and meditative story of love and loss will stick with you.

Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family, Amy Ellis Nutt, (2015). The inspiring true story of a transgender girl, her identical twin brother, and an ordinary American family's journey to understand, nurture, and celebrate the uniqueness in us all.

Behold the Dreamers, Imolo Mbue, (2016). A novel about marriage, immigration, class, race, and the trapdoors in the American Dream—the unforgettable story of a young Cameroonian couple making a new life in New York just as the Great Recession upends the economy.

Binti: Home, Nnedi Okorafor, (2017). A rich and complex futuristic story of identity, family, and friendship where Binti, a young Himba woman, returns home after one year at Oomza Uni, the best university in the galaxy.

Birth House, Ami McKay, (2006). McKay uses a rich tableau of characters to tell the story of childbirth from its most secretive early practices to modern maternity in a primitive and superstitious 20th century Nova Scotia rural community.

Blackwater, Kerstin Ekman, (1993). A unique thriller where the landscape and the people in a remote part of Sweden are woven around the story of a double murder that goes unsolved for 30 years.

Bohemian Flats, Mary Relindes Ellis, (2014). From a nineteenth-century German farm to the thriving, diverse immigrant village below Minneapolis on the Mississippi to the European front in World War I, and returning to twentieth-century America—this is a story that takes a reader to the far reaches of human experience and the depths of the human heart

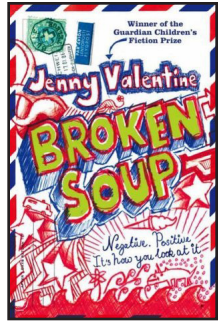
Bold Spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk Across Victorian America, Linda Lawrence Hunt (2003). In 1896 Helga Estby dared to walk unescorted with her daughter across America to win a \$10,000 wager and stave off the foreclosure of her family farm. The trip, however, had such devastating consequences that their achievement is forgotten for nearly a century until Hunt encounters their inspirational story.

The Bookshop, Penelope Fitzgerald, (1978). Florence Green, a kind-hearted widow with a small inheritance, risks everything to open a bookshop – the only bookshop – in the seaside town of Hardborough. Only too late does she begin to suspect the truth: a town that lacks a bookshop is not always a town that wants one.

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants, Robin Wall Kimmerer, (2013). Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, Kimmerer shows how other living beings asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices.

Broken Colors, Michele Zackheim, (2007). Sophie Marks' journey to artistic and personal fulfillment takes her from World War II England to France and Italy to the American Southwest. Finally acclaimed as an artist, she returns to England to confront hidden childhood memories and test the possibility of a renewed love, a passion ripened by maturity.

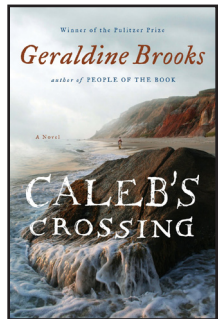
Broken for You, Stephanie Kallos, (2004). When two women in self-imposed exile cross paths, their lives transform forever. This witty and charming novel is a testament to the saving grace of surrogate families and how far the tiniest repair jobs can go in the righting of the world's wrongs.



★ **Broken Soup**, Jenny Valentine, (2008). Rowan has much on her plate: the death of her older brother, her father's abandonment, the escalating depression of her mother, and the care of her little sister. When a boy slips her a negative, she begins a journey of discovery. Valentine delivers a powerful and life-affirming story about grief, friendship, and healing.

Brown Girl Dreaming, Jacqueline Woodson, (2014). In vivid poems, Woodson shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow, and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.

Butterflies in November, Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir, (2004). Blackly comic and uniquely moving, this novel is an extraordinary, and hilarious tale of motherhood, relationships, and the legacy of life's mistakes – all revealed on a road trip across Iceland.



★ **Caleb's Crossing**, Geraldine Brooks, (2011). In 1665, a young man from Martha's Vineyard became the first Native American to graduate from Harvard College. Upon this slender factual scaffold, Brooks has created a luminous tale of love and faith, magic, and adventure.

The Camel Bookmobile, Masha Hamilton, (2007). This novel follows an American librarian who travels to the arid bush of northeastern Kenya to give meaning to her life, but ultimately loses a piece of her heart. Hamilton's story shows how one life can change many other lives despite dangerous and seemingly immutable obstacles.

Charms for the Easy Life, Kaye Gibbons, (1993). Sophia, Margaret, and Charlie Kate find strength in a time when women usually depended on men, and their bond deepens as each one experiences love and loss during World War II. A passionate and exhilarating story about embracing what life has to offer even if it means finding it in unconventional ways.

★ **City of Light**, Lauren Belfer, (1999). As headmistress of Buffalo's most prestigious school in 1901, Louisa is at ease in a world of men, but nothing prepares her for a startling discovery: evidence of a murder tied to the city's cathedral-like power plant at nearby Niagara Falls. This shocking crime--followed by another mysterious death--will ignite an explosive chain of events.

Crossing with the Virgin: Stories from the Migrant Trail, Kathryn Ferguson, Norma Price and Ted Parks, (2010). Many undocumented persons attempt to cross the treacherous Arizona desert to find work, join families, or start a new life. Some die on the road. This book collects their stories as told to the volunteers for the Samaritans, a humanitarian group committed to assisting the travelers with medical aid, water, and food.

★ **Cure for Death by Lightning**, Gail Anderson-Dargatz, (1996). This coming-of-age story casts a look to the struggles of Beth Weeks, a young woman living with her dysfunctional family on an isolated farm in British Columbia during WWII. Beth struggles to find love in an emotionally barren landscape. This story includes elements of native magic and myth.

Cutting for Stone, Abraham Verghese, (2009). This is family saga focuses on a pair of twin boys, born and raised in an African missionary hospital. Their story combines elements of Indian and Ethiopian language and culture, third world medicine, sexual awakening, political revolution, and foreign travel all within an emotional and complex family drama.

Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands, Margaret Regan, (2010). Using Arizona as a microcosm, Regan explores a host of urgent issues: the border militarization threatening the rights of American citizens, the environmental damage wrought by the border wall, the desperation compelling migrants to come north, and the human tragedy of the unidentified dead in Arizona's morgues.

