

READ-ALIKES FOR POPULAR HISTORICAL NOVELS AND THEMES

A short list by Sarah Johnson, Booth Library, Eastern Illinois University
sljohnson2@eiu.edu

Prepared for Western Mass. Regional Library System Workshop / June 5, 2007

Biblical Women

Benchmark title: Anita Diamant, *The Red Tent*

Other titles:

Ann Burton, *Abigail's Story*, *Rahab's Story*, *Jael's Story*, *Deborah's Story*

Orson Scott Card, *Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel and Leah*

India Edghill, *Queenmaker and Wisdom's Daughter*

Eva Etzioni-Halevy, *The Song of Hannah* and *The Garden of Ruth*

Margaret George, *Mary, Called Magdalene*

Beatrice Gormley, *Salome* (YA)

Marek Halter, *Sarah, Zipporah, and Lilah*

Rebecca Kohn, *The Gilded Chamber* and *Seven Days to the Sea*

Civil War Literary Fiction

Benchmark title: Charles Frazier, *Cold Mountain*

Other titles:

Geraldine Brooks, *March*

E.L. Doctorow, *The March*

Robert Hicks, *The Widow of the South*

Donald McCaig, *Jacob's Ladder* and *Canaan*

Peter Charles Melman, *Landsman*

John Reed, *A Still Small Voice*

British and European Royal Women

Benchmark title: Philippa Gregory, *The Other Boleyn Girl*

Other titles:

Suzannah Dunn, *The Queen of Subtleties*

Carolly Erickson, *The Last Wife of Henry VIII*

Laurien Gardner, *The Spanish Bride*, *A Lady Raised High*, *Plain Jane*

Philippa Gregory, *The Constant Princess*, *The Queen's Fool*, *The Virgin's Lover*, *The Boleyn Inheritance*

Robin Maxwell, *To the Tower Born* and others

Sena Jeter Naslund, *Abundance*

Alison Weir, *Innocent Traitor*

Women of Historical China

Benchmark title: Lisa See, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*

Other titles:

Alma Alexander, *The Secrets of Jin-Shei* (historical fantasy)

Lan Samantha Chang, *Inheritance*

Justin Hill, *Passing Under Heaven*

Lisa See, *Peony in Love*

Anchee Min, *Empress Orchid* and *The Last Empress*

Shan Sa, *Empress*

Adam Williams, *The Palace of Heavenly Pleasure*

Ancient Wars and Battles

Benchmark title: Steven Pressfield, *Gates of Fire*

Other titles:

James Duffy, *Sand of the Arena*

Michael Curtis Ford, *The Fall of Rome*

David Gemmell, *Troy: Lord of the Silver Bow* and *Troy: Shield of Thunder*

Conn Iggulden, *Emperor* series

Steven Pressfield, *The Afghan Campaign*

Women of the Italian Renaissance

Benchmark title: Sarah Dunant, *The Birth of Venus*

Other titles:

Sarah Dunant, *In the Company of the Courtesan*

Michael Ennis, *Duchess of Milan*

Karen Essex, *Leonardo's Swans*

Diane Haeger, *The Ruby Ring*

Louise Hawes, *The Vanishing Point* (YA)

Pauline Holdstock, *A Rare and Curious Gift*

Jeanne Kalogridis, *I, Mona Lisa* and *The Borgia Bride*

Lauro Martinez, *Loredana*

Susan Vreeland, *The Passion of Artemisia*

Religious Thrillers

Benchmark Title: Dan Brown, *The Da Vinci Code*

Other titles:

Lisa Tawn Bergren, *The Begotten*

Raymond Houry, *The Last Templar*

Tucker Malarkey, *Resurrection*

Kathleen McGowan, *The Expected One*

Julia Navarro, *The Brotherhood of the Holy Shroud*

Javier Sierra, *The Secret Supper*

Suspense in Old New York

Benchmark title: Caleb Carr, *The Alienist*

Other titles:

Michael Blaine, *The Midnight Band of Mercy*

Thomas Kelly, *Empire Rising*

Joel Rose, *The Blackest Bird*

Jed Rubinfeld, *The Interpretation of Murder*

Harold Schechter, *The Mask of Red Death*

Randall Silvis, *On Night's Shore*

Troy Soos, *Island of Tears* and *The Gilded Cage*

Artists and their Muses

Benchmark title: Tracy Chevalier, *Girl with a Pearl Earring*

Other titles:

Susan Vreeland, *Luncheon of the Boating Party*

Alyson Richman, *The Last Van Gogh*

Elizabeth Hickey, *The Painted Kiss* and *The Wayward Muse*

Diane Haeger, *The Ruby Ring*

Gioia Diliberto, *I Was Madame X*

Sylvie Matton, *Rembrandt's Whore*