

The All-Time Classics

Pride And Prejudice – Jane Austen
It is a truth universally acknowledged that every 'best books' list must pay homage to Austen's wittiest social commentary.

North And South – Elizabeth Gaskell
For something a bit grittier than *Pride And Prejudice*, try this compassionate portrait of poor mill workers in the industrial Victorian North.

Wuthering Heights – Emily Brontë
Just gorgeously gothic, this novel is a passionate, windswept romance in which love runs dangerously close to hate...

Anna Karenina – Leo Tolstoy
This Russian romance is epic in scope and scale – it's quite a tome so you might prefer to get the e-book unless you're into weightlifting!

Little Women – Louisa May Alcott
Forget *Moby Dick* – many say this coming-of-age tale of four struggling sisters is the first great American novel.

Jane Eyre – Charlotte Brontë
The orphaned Jane, the enigmatic Mr Rochester, the mad woman in the attic... This mysterious romance never fails to enthrall.

30 Books Every Woman Should Read

From must-read classics to addictive new novels, Hannah Bass picks the books that you won't want to miss out on

A Fine Vintage

Wide Sargasso Sea – Jean Rhys
Read *Jane Eyre* and then get the other side of the story. Rhys gives Brontë's 'mad woman in the attic' her own Caribbean prequel.

A Room Of One's Own – Virginia Woolf
'A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction,' argues Virginia Woolf.

Women In Love – D. H. Lawrence
Lady Chatterley's Lover may not shock today, but this tale of two sisters in a mining town in the 1910s is as atmospheric as ever.

The Heat Of The Day – Elizabeth Bowen
A spy romance from an author who is often thought of as 'the undiscovered Virginia Woolf'...

Cold Comfort Farm – Stella Gibbons
Laughing at the doom and gloom of 'rural' writers like Thomas Hardy, this 1930s parody is as roaringly enjoyable as the real thing.

To Kill A Mockingbird – Harper Lee
A novel that rails against racism in America's Deep South with an unforgettable cast of characters.

Race-To-The-Finish Page-Turners

Where'd You Go, Bernadette – Maria Semple
Steeped in spiky humour, this quirky story about a missing mother was one of 2013's must-reads.

One Day – David Nicholls
An unconventional love story that tracks a thwarted relationship – that never was – over 20 years. You'll need a hanky for this one.

Tigers In Red Weather – Liza Klaussmann
By turns cool and sultry, a tale of two families darkly entwined in post-war America.

Atonement – Ian McEwan
If you haven't yet read the book behind the film, about love lost through war, then prepare to have your heart broken all over again.

A Prayer For Owen Meany – John Irving
The moving story of the diminutive, squeaky-voiced Owen Meany, who accidentally kills his best friend's mother.

The Secret History – Donna Tartt
A cult novel about students stumbling into murder that'll have you reading feverishly under the bedcovers.

New Leading Ladies

Half Of A Yellow Sun – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Telling a tale of two sisters caught in the Biafran War, Adichie is a bright light in the constellation of new women writers.

The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood
If you can imagine a genre such as feminist sci-fi then this seminal novel, set in a chilling dystopian future, defines it.

White Teeth – Zadie Smith
Written when she was only 21, this multicultural tale of two London families is the young author's most gripping work.

How To Be A Woman – Caitlin Moran
Don't miss out on this hilarious half-memoir, half-rant about the state of womanhood from today's wittiest columnist.

Wolf Hall – Hilary Mantel
Mantel won the Booker Prize twice for this fictionalised biography of Thomas Cromwell and then its sequel, *Bring Up The Bodies*.

Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit – Jeanette Winterson
A moving portrait of a young girl's struggle with family, sexuality and extremist faith told through allegory and humour.

WOMAN'S WEEKLY'S PERSONAL FAVOURITES!

We asked the team to pick their top books of all time...

Diane Kenwood, Editor
The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini
A heartbreakingly powerful book about the relationship between two young boys in 1970s Afghanistan and the shattering event that shapes their friendship for the rest of their lives as well as their individual destinies.

Gaynor Davies, Fiction Editor
The Help – Kathryn Stockett
A story about American civil rights activists in the 1960s, told with the perfect balance of devastating power and priceless humour. Stockett captures the voice of African-American maid Aibileen brilliantly.

Jayne Marsden, Lifestyle Editor
Me Before You – Jojo Moyes
I defy anyone to have a dry eye after reading this story of two people who have no idea how they will change each other's lives. I messaged the author to give her my verdict and she replied immediately!

Sue Pilkington, Features Editor
An Equal Music – Vikram Seth
I'm a sucker for romance and this powerful story of love lost and – perhaps – found between two young musicians certainly tears at the heartstrings. If music be the food of love, read on...

Hannah Bass, Features Writer
I Capture The Castle – Dodie Smith
My childhood copy of this coming-of-age novel set in a crumbling castle is quite literally worn to pieces by repeated reading. Once you've entered its romantic, nostalgic world, you won't want to leave.

Sue Thomas, Features Writer
Anne Of Green Gables – L. M. Montgomery
A book I read over and over as a child and still enjoy today. Farmers Matthew and Marilla are expecting a boy to help with the work, so what are they to do with the feisty, red-haired Anne?