

THE GREAT DEPRESSION IN FICTION

Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen

Ninety-something-year-old Jacob Jankowski remembers his time in the circus as a young man during the Great Depression, and his friendship with Marlena, the star of the equestrian act, and Rosie, the elephant, who gave them hope.

North River by Pete Hamill

Tending to his poor and sick neighbors throughout a Depression-era winter, New York City doctor James Delaney is haunted by memories from World War I and the disappearances of his wife and daughter, until his three-year-old grandson is abandoned on his doorstep.

Stormy Weather by Paulette Jiles

Witnessing the rise and loss of her family's oil business in the wake of her father's gambling problems, proud young Jeanine accompanies the other women in her family to an abandoned farm when her father dies under dubious circumstances.

Empire Rising by Thomas Kelly

Follows the heart-wrenching love story of an Irish immigrant and an artist told against the backdrop of the Great Depression and the construction of the Empire State Building.

Until That Good Day by Marjorie Kemper

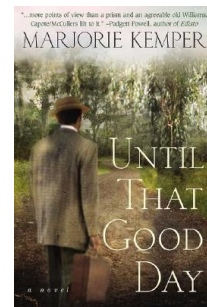
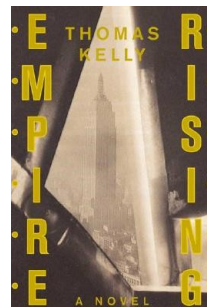
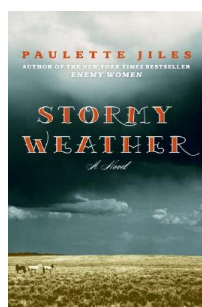
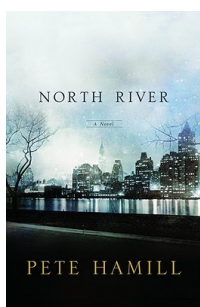
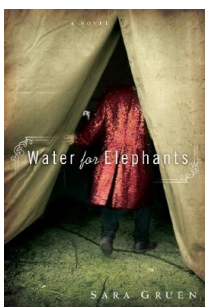
Tolerated in his white Depression-era Louisiana community, traveling salesman John Washington finds his dissatisfaction and time on the road taking him away from his family and manifesting in an affair with African American mistress Odessa.

Oh My Stars by Lorna Landvik

In a novel set during the early days of rock 'n' roll, Violet Mathers, a down-and-out woman, becomes embroiled with a handsome musical pioneer.

The Hot Kid by Elmore Leonard

Having made his name by killing notorious bank robber Emmet Long, Deputy U.S. Marshal Carl Webster embarks on a dangerous search for Jack Belmont, the son of an oil millionaire who dreams of becoming Public Enemy Number One.



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The Lost Mother by Mary McGarry Morris

Enduring the Great Depression from within a tent during a Vermont summer, Henry struggles to support his two young children and considers a proposition from a wealthy neighbor, who would hire the children as companions for her homebound son.

Heir to the Glimmering World by Cynthia Ozick

James A'baire, whose father is the author of the popular series "The Bear Boy," has taken in the eccentric Mitwisser family and the orphaned Rose Meadows, who must resist the pull of the actual Bear Boy, in a novel of Depression-era New York.

The Sucker's Kiss by Alan Parker

Accidentally stumbling into a pickpocket career during the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, Thomas Moran becomes a master thief and meets a host of colorful characters in search of the American dream.

The First Desire by Nancy Reisman

The lives of the four Cohen siblings--Sadie, Jo, Goldie, and Irving--are turned upside down by the secrets that they have kept hidden, even from themselves, as the sudden disappearance of Goldie sparks revelations about their family.

Sea Glass by Anita Shreve

When Honora and Sexton Beecher are rendered penniless by the crash of the stock market, Sexton is forced to work in a nearby mill that is plagued by violence, and as they try to reconstruct their lives, they are confronted by passions of every kind.

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

The Joad family, Okie farmers forced from their dustbowl home during the Depression, try to find work as migrant fruitpickers in California.

Whistle Stop by Maritta Wolff

A portrait of a post-Depression American family follows the Veeches in their small midwestern hometown throughout the course of a scorching summer, a period marked by poverty, family conflicts, and neighborhood scandals.

