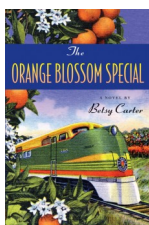


Life in the 50s



Bastard Out of Carolina by Dorothy Allison

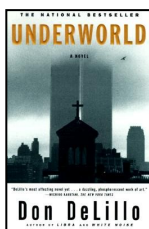
Bone, an illegitimate child in a family of social outcasts, sees her mother's happiness with her new husband and will not tell when the stepfather begins abusing her in the 1950s.

The Orange Blossom Special by Betsy Carter

In 1958, widow Tessie Lockhart and her seventh-grade daughter, Dinah, uproot from Carbondale, Illinois to Gainesville, Florida, where their lives become entwined with the powerful Landy family and everyone learns the language of loss.

Everything She Thought She Wanted by Elizabeth Buchan

A married mother of two grown children, forty-two-year-old Barbara Beeching embarks on an unexpected affair with a younger man at the expense of everything she has ever known, while Siena, a career woman in her mid-thirties, re-evaluates her chosen childless state in the wake of her husband's hopes about parenthood.



Saint of Lost Things by Christopher Castellani

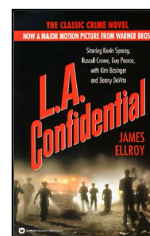
In a 1953 Italian neighborhood in Delaware, Maddalena Grasso, her husband Antonio, and Giulio Fabbri live in the shadows of St. Anthony's Church, where their prayers are heard and fate and circumstances intervene to answer them in unforeseeable ways.

Underworld by Don DeLillo

A work combining fiction and history in a collaboration that encompasses fifty years gives readers a glimpse into the realities upon which America's modern culture is based and explores the complex relationship between waste analyst Nick Shay and artist Klara Sax.

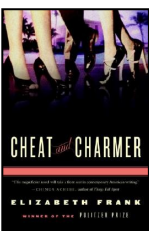
Where Trouble Sleeps by Clyde Edgerton

When the stranger Jack Umstead shows up in Listre, North Carolina, during the 1950s, the town soon realizes that he has ulterior motives for being there.



L.A. Confidential by James Ellroy

An epic crime novel that stands as a steel-edged time capsule – Los Angeles in the 1950's, a remarkable era defined in dark shadings. This is the story of three cops in a spiral, a nightmare that tests loyalty and courage, a nightmare that offers no mercy, allows for no survivors.

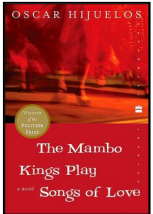


Cheat and Charmer by Elizabeth Franks

A richly textured novel set against the backdrop of 1950s Hollywood, the McCarthy era, the blacklist, and expatriate Europe chronicles the story of Dinah Lasker, the wife of a successful producer, writer, and director, who confronts a series of conflicting loyalties when she is subpoenaed to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee.



Life in the 50s



Unfinished Desires by Gail Godwin

Mother Suzanne Ravenel, a nun at Mount St. Gabriel's School, remembers the 1951-1952 school year and the teenage girls who struggled with friendships while they tried to define themselves.

The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love by Oscar Hijuelos

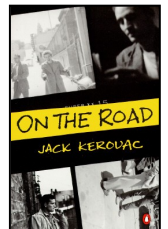
Hijuelos, evokes, by day, a New York of crowded Harlem apartments made cheery by Cuban hospitality, and by night, a raucous club scene of stiletto heels and waxy pompadours – all set against a backdrop of a square, 1950s America that thinks worldliness means knowing cha-cha.

Seventh Heaven by Alice Hoffman

During the steamy summer of 1959, a sleepy Long Island suburban community is transformed by the arrival of Nora Silk, an attractive young divorcee, and her two young sons.

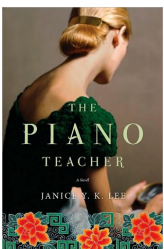
Lake Wobegon Summer 1956 by Garrison Keillor

During the summer of 1956, fourteen-year-old Gary struggles with the hormonal pains and obsessions of puberty as he experiences a passionate devotion to his rebellious cousin Kate and pursues his dream of becoming a writer.



On the Road by Jack Kerouac

Narrated by Sal Paradise, one of Kerouac's alter-egos, On the Road is a cross-country bohemian odyssey that not only influenced writing in the years since its 1957 publication but penetrated into the deepest level of American thought and culture.



The Piano Teacher by Janice Y.K. Lee

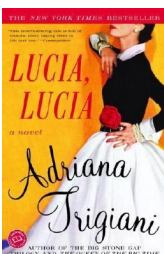
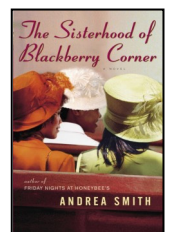
A newly married Claire Pendleton arrives in Hong Kong in 1952 and is hired by the wealthy Chen family as a piano instructor, only to be seduced by the social life of Hong Kong's expatriate community and begin an affair with Will Triesdale, an enigmatic Englishman with a devastating past.

The Last Picture Show by Larry McMurtry

Meet Jacy, Duane and Sonny: teenagers stumbling towards adulthood, discovering the beguiling mysteries of sex and the even more baffling mysteries of love.

The Sisterhood of Blackberry Corner by Andrea Smith

In 1950s Canaan Creek, South Carolina, childless Bonnie Wilder braves the antagonism of the town's close-knit African-American community when she creates a secret adoption network for unwanted babies.



Lucia, Lucia by Adriana Trigiani

The daughter of an Italian immigrant family in 1950 Greenwich village, Lucia Sartori pursues a career in the fashion industry until she falls in love with a handsome stranger, who must win over her traditional family to marry her.