

The Great War



Washington, D.C., circa 1919. "Soldiers at Walter Reed."
Displaying their handiwork. Harris & Ewing Collection glass

Select Fiction

about

World War I

Tewksbury Public Library
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The Absolutist. John Boyne

Tristan Sadler recalls his time spent fighting in WWI and the intensity of his friendship with Will Bancroft, a soldier who became a conscientious objector and was shot as a traitor.

All Quiet on the Western Front. Erich Maria Remarque

The testament of Paul Baumer, who enlists with his classmates in the German army of WWI, illuminates the savagery and futility of war.

The Beekeeper's Apprentice. Laurie R. King

When Mary Russell meets famous detective Sherlock Holmes, she discovers that he is also a beekeeper. Soon she finds herself on the trail of kidnappers and discovers a plot to kill both Holmes and herself. (First in a series)

Birdsong. Sebastian Faulks

After loving and losing a French woman from Amiens, Stephen Wraysford serves in the French army during WWI.

The Blindness of the Heart. Julia Franck

A multi-generational family story set in the Germany of the early twentieth century that reveals the devastating effect of war on the human heart.

The Cartographer of No Man's Land. P. S. Duffy

When his beloved brother-in-law goes missing at the front in 1916, Angus defies his pacifist upbringing to join the war and find him. Assured a position as a cartographer in London, he is instead sent directly into the visceral shock of battle. Meanwhile, at home, his son Simon Peter must navigate escalating hostility in a fishing village torn by grief.

The Cove. Ron Rash

Living deep within a cove in the Appalachians of North Carolina during WWI, Laurel Shelton finally finds the happiness she deserves in Walter, a mysterious stranger who's mute, but their love can't protect them from a devastating secret.

The Daughters of Mars. Thomas Keneally

Joining the war effort as nurses in 1915, two spirited Australian sisters, carrying a guilty secret, become the friends they never were at home and find themselves courageous in the face of extreme danger as they serve alongside remarkable women during WWI.

A Duty to the Dead (Bess Crawford Mysteries). Charles Todd

Independent-minded Bess Crawford's upbringing is far different from that of the usual upper-middle-class British gentlewoman. At the outbreak of WWI, she volunteers for the nursing corps, serving from the battlefields of France to the doomed hospital ship Britannic. (First in a series)

A Farewell to Arms. Ernest Hemingway

A story of love and pain, of loyalty and desertion, this is the unforgettable story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front and his passion for a beautiful English nurse.

The First of July. Elizabeth Speller

Follows the lives of four very different men--Frank, Benedict, Jean-Batiste, and Harry--as their fates converge on the most terrible and destructive day of WWI, the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

Maisie Dobbs. Jacqueline Winspear.

When her remarkable intelligence is discovered by her employer, Maisie Dobbs becomes the pupil of Maurice Blanche. Following an apprenticeship with Blanche, Maisie hangs out her shingle: M. Dobbs, Trade and Personal Investigations. (First in a series)

My Dear I Wanted to Tell You. Louisa Young

The lives of two very different couples--an officer and his aristocratic wife and a young soldier and his childhood sweetheart--are irrevocably intertwined and forever changed in this WWI epic of love and war.

No Graves as Yet. Anne Perry

In June of 1914, Cambridge professor Joseph Reavley learns that his father was carrying a vitally important secret document when he died, and that his best student has been murdered. (First in a series)

Parade's End. Ford Madox Ford

Presents four novels which tell the terrifying story of a good man tortured, pursued, driven into revolt, and ruined as far as the world is concerned by the clever devices of a jealous and lying wife.

Regeneration. Pat Barker

Stressed by the war, poet and protestor Siegfried Sassoon is sent to Craiglockhart Hospital, where his views challenge the patriotic vision of Dr. William Rivers, a neurologist assigned to restore the sanity of shell-shocked soldiers. (First in a trilogy)

The Sandcastle Girls. Chris Bohjalian

Parallel stories of a woman who falls in love with an Armenian soldier during the Armenian Genocide and a modern-day New Yorker prompted to rediscover her Armenian past.

Somewhere in France. Jennifer Robson

In the dark and dangerous days of WWI, a daring young woman will risk her life to find her destiny.

A Star for Mrs. Blake. April Smith

Meeting for the first time for a shared pilgrimage to France to visit the graves of their WWI soldier sons, an Irish maid, a chicken farmer's wife, a Boston socialite, a former tennis star, and a librarian meet a brutally scarred journalist before confronting a shocking secret.

The Star of Istanbul. Robert Olen Butler

American spy and war correspondent Christopher Marlowe Cobb follows a man who may be a German secret service agent with vital information onto the Lusitania during WWI.

Stella Bain. Anita Shreve

Suffering from shell shock and memory loss from her time spent as a nurse's aide on a French battlefield during WWI, American Stella Bain is taken in by London surgeon August Bridge and his wife.

A Soldier of the Great War. Mark Helprin

An old man, Alessandro Giuliani, leaves a streetcar when a boy without a fare is denied entry and, while walking with the boy, tells him about the wealthy life he led until WWI altered it.

A Test of Wills (Inspector Ian Rutledge Mysteries). Charles Todd

Ian Rutledge returns to his career at Scotland Yard after fighting in the war, still suffering from shell shock. His next case, with a war-ravaged ex-soldier as the witness, could spell disaster for him. (First in a series)

Toby's Room. Pat Barker

A portrait of an upper-class family torn by WWI explores the experiences of the family members and the working-class people who support them.

Wake. Anna Hope

Three women confront the aftershocks of WWI and its impact on the men in their lives.