

Novels Featuring Gay Men

Another Country by James Baldwin

Set in Greenwich Village, Harlem, and France, among other locales, *Another Country* is a novel of passions--sexual, racial, political, artistic--that is stunning for its emotional intensity and haunting sensuality, depicting men and women, blacks and whites, stripped of their masks of gender and race by love and hatred at the most elemental and sublime. In a small set of friends, Baldwin imbues the best and worst intentions of liberal America in the early 1970s.

Giovanni's Room by James Baldwin

This tale of conflicted sexual identity in the 1950s centers around the experiences of the American expatriate David, living in Paris and struggling with his feelings of attraction to other men. Unable to face the truth about himself, David proposes to Hella Lincoln. While she is in Spain mulling over his proposal, David falls in love Giovanni, an Italian bartender and must choose between a conventional life or being true to his own feelings.

Bitch Slap by Michael Craft (Mystery)

Mark Manning and his lover, Neil Waite, investigate when a proposed merger between the family newspaper, "The Dumont Daily Register," and a local paper company leads to a fracas between society reporter Glee Savage and the other company's manager, who later turns up murdered.

Maurice by E. M. Forster

Written during 1913 and 1914, *Maurice* deals with the then unmentionable subject of homosexuality. More unusual, it concerns a relationship that ends happily.

Three Junes by Julia Glass

Reveals the interconnected lives, loves, and relationships of different generations of the McLeod family over the course of three crucial summers.

The Lost Weekend by Charles Jackson

This is the story of a man in the grip of alcohol; it moves forward with speed, force, and heartbreaking truth. Don Birnam is someone you know and care about. His loneliness, his need to drink, his dangerous hangovers, his daydreams of himself as a genius and actual nightmares are unforgettable experiences. No matter how it shocks or upsets you, you will find, after reading *The Lost Weekend*, that you have acquired a knowledge you can never forget.

Tales of the City by Armistead Maupin

The eccentric, mysterious, naive, jaded, up-and-coming, down-and-out, adventuresome, and withdrawn boarders in Russian Hill share their dissimilar worlds and worries.

Kiss of the Spider Woman by Manuel Puig

In an Argentine prison, the growing friendship between a thirty-seven-year-old homosexual, Molina, and a young Marxist, Valentin is threatened when police officials start pressuring Molina to spy against Valentin.

Fire from Heaven by Mary Renault

Aristotle influences the young Alexander, along with Alexander's friend and lover, his mother, and others before the death of his father, Philip of Macedonia.

The Persian Boy by Mary Renault

In the sequel to *Fire from Heaven*, Bagoas the eunuch tells of Alexander the Great's expedition into Asia.

The Blackwater Lightship by Colm Toibin

Under a crumbling roof in 1990s Ireland, Helen and five other friends and loved ones wait impatiently as her brother, Declan, dies of AIDS. "*The Blackwater Lightship*" is a novel about morals and manners and the clashes of culture and personality. Yet most of all, it's a novel about stories and their incomparable capacity to heal the deepest wounds.

Blind Eye by John Morgan Wilson (Mystery)

Disgraced and stripped of his Pulitzer Prize for having invented sources, HIV-positive journalist Benjamin Justice, struggling to put his life back together, is asked for help in identifying the hit-and-run killer of a columnist, a case involving a decades-old child murder, a controversial cardinal, and elements from his own past.

Memoirs of Hadrian by Marguerite Yourcenar

Both an exploration of character and a meditation on history, Marguerite Yourcenar's novel *Memoirs of Hadrian* has received international acclaim since its publication in France in 1951. Written in the form of a testamentary letter from the emperor Hadrian to his successor, the youthful Marcus Aurelius, the work is as extraordinary for its psychological depth as for its accurate reconstruction of the second century of our era. In it, Yourcenar reimagines Hadrian's arduous boyhood, his triumphs and reversals, and finally, as emperor, his reordering of a war-torn world.