



Book Suggestions 1

The Cazalet Chronicles (The Light Years, Marking Time, Confusion, Casting Off and All Change) by Elizabeth Jane Howard

The Chronicles were a family saga “about the ways in which English life changed during the war years, particularly for women.” They follow three generations of a middle-class English family and draw heavily on Howard’s own life and memories.[3] The first four volumes, The Light Years, Marking Time, Confusion, and Casting Off, were published from 1990 to 1995. The fifth, All Change, was written in just a year and published in 2013; it was her final novel. Millions of copies of the Cazalet Chronicles were sold worldwide

Summary by Wikipedia

Becoming by Michelle Obama

Becoming is the memoir of former United States first lady Michelle Obama published in 2018. Described by the author as a deeply personal experience, the book talks about her roots and how she found her voice, as well as her time in the White House, her public health campaign, and her role as a mother.

Summary by Wikipedia

The Overstory by Richard Powers

This novel is comprised of nine main narrators who all seem to be independent humans but by the end of the novel, the readers have discovered their lives are more intertwined than anyone could have ever imagined. Trees bring them together and death tears them apart but for many, they discover new life in death.

Summary by bookrags.com

Olive Again by Elizabeth Strout

The story of the indomitable Olive Kitteridge follows on two years after her husband Henry’s death. Olive is a little more introspective on how she, as a person, her behaviour and relationships have evolved as she ages into her eighties, especially as she experiences loss and loneliness.

Summary by www.goodreads.com

Girl, Woman, Other by Bernadine Evaristo

Girl, Woman, Other follows the lives and struggles of twelve very different characters. Mostly women, black and British, they tell the stories of their families, friends and lovers, across the country and through the years.

Winner of the Booker Prize 2019

Summary by amazon.co.uk

Fugitive Pieces by Anne Michaels

Fugitive Pieces by Anne Michaels is partly a memoir by the poet Jakob Beer about his life as a Holocaust survivor and reflections on Jakob’s poetry by a scholar, Ben, who is indebted for helping him understand his Holocaust-surviving and scarred parents. It is about struggling to cope with the past.

Summary by www.bookrags.com



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The Muse by Jessie Burton

Odelle Bastien is a Caribbean émigré trying to make her way in London. When she starts working at the prestigious Skelton Institute of Art, she discovers a painting rumored to be the work of Isaac Robles, a young artist of immense talent and vision whose mysterious death has confounded the art world for decades.

Summary by www.bookbrowse.com

David Copperfield by Dickens

David Copperfield Summary. Charles Dickens' David Copperfield relates the story of a young boy's growth and development into maturity. It is written from the point of view of the mature adult who recounts his own obstacles and the obstacles of those around him and how it all shaped his life and his beliefs.

Summary by www.gradesaver.com

Headlong by Michael Frayn

Headlong is a novel by Michael Frayn, published in 1999. The plot centres on the discovery of a long-lost painting from Pieter Bruegel's series The Months. The story is essentially a farce, but contains a large amount of scholarship about the painter.

Summary by Wikipedia

Wise Children by Angela Carter

Wise Children (1991) was the last novel written by Angela Carter. The novel follows the fortunes of twin chorus girls, Dora and Nora Chance, and their bizarre theatrical family. It explores the subversive nature of fatherhood, the denying of which leads Nora and Dora to frivolous "illegitimate" lechery.

Summary by Wikipedia

North and South by Elizabeth Gaskell

North and South by Elizabeth Gaskell is a social novel set in early Victorian times. It tells the story of Margaret Hale and her move from the South of England to the Industrial North. Margaret struggles to adapt to the harder lifestyle of the North, but after a series of tragedies, she finds she is a far stronger and braver person than she ever thought.

Summary by bookrags.com

The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet by David Mitchell

The novel begins in the summer of 1799 at the Dutch East India Company trading post Dejima in the harbor of Nagasaki. It tells the story of a Dutch trader's love for a Japanese midwife who is spirited away into a sinister mountain temple cult.

Summary by Wikipedia



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Book Suggestions 2

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

The narrator of *Invisible Man* is a nameless young black man who moves in a 20th-century United States where reality is surreal and who can survive only through pretense. Because the people he encounters "see only my surroundings, themselves, or figments of their imagination," he is effectively invisible.

Summary by www.britannica.com

Travels with Charley by John Steinbeck

Travels with Charley: In Search of America is a 1962 travelogue written by American author John Steinbeck. It depicts a 1960 road trip around the United States made by Steinbeck, in the company of his standard poodle, Charley. Steinbeck wrote that he was moved by a desire to see his country on a personal level, since he made his living writing about it.

Summary by [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Travels_with_Charley)

Lullaby by Leila Slimani

Myriam and Paul are an upper-middle-class couple living in a posh part of Paris, who are squeezed into a small apartment with their two children. Myriam is bored with being a stay-at-home mum and decides to resume her career as a criminal lawyer.

Summary by www.1843magazine.com

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman

The novel focuses on 29-year-old Eleanor Oliphant, a social misfit with a traumatic past who becomes enamoured of a singer, whom she believes she is destined to be with. It deals with themes of isolation and loneliness.

Summary by [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eleanor_Oliphant_is_Completely_Fine)

The Idea of Perfection by Kate Greenville

The Idea of Perfection tells the story of two ungainly, awkward people, Harley Savage and Douglas Cheeseman, who collide together through chance, and who gradually overcome their differences and learn to love.

Summary by kategreenville.com.au

Force of Nature by Jane Harper

From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Dry*, when a hiker goes missing, secrets and betrayal among friends are exposed, and Agent Aaron Falk will find out what happened. Five women reluctantly pick up their backpacks and start walking along the muddy track. Only four come out the other side.

Summary by www.bookbrowse.com

Any Human Heart by William Boyd

William Boyd's novel *Any Human Heart* is his disjointed autobiography, a massive tome chronicling "my personal rollercoaster"--or rather, "not so much a rollercoaster", but a yo-yo, "a jerking spinning toy in the hands of a maladroitness child." From his early childhood.

Summary by www.goodreads.com

The Birth of Venus by Sarah Dunant

The Birth of Venus is a historical novel that takes the reader on a journey through thirteenth century Florence through the eyes of a young woman who is both courageous and innocent. It is a novel of love and betrayal, but also a novel of personal growth that modern readers will have little trouble relating to.

Summary by www.bookrags.com



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A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

The Gentleman in Moscow is a novel written by Amor Towles. The novel's plot is set in the beginning of the 20th century Russian Empire and follows the story of Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov and his life in the Hotel Metropol where he has been under house arrest for thirty-two years.

Summary by www.amazon.co.uk

The Silence of the Girls by Pat Barker

In the Greek camp, another woman watches and waits for the war's outcome: Briseis. She was queen of one of Troy's neighboring kingdoms, until Achilles, Greece's greatest warrior, sacked her city and murdered her husband and brothers.

Summary by www.bookbrowse.com

The Speckled People by Hugo Hamilton

Set in 1950s Ireland, the play tells the story of a small boy trapped in a language war between Irish, from his nationalist west Cork father; German from his immigrant mother, who came from an anti-Nazi family; and English, spoken by the other children in Dublin.

Summary by dramaonlinelibrary.com

The Bookshop by Penelope Fitzgerald

The novel, set mainly in 1959, follows Florence Green, a middle-aged widow, who decides to open a bookshop in the small coastal town of Hardborough, Suffolk (a thinly-disguised version of Southwold). The location she chooses is the Old House, an abandoned, damp property said to be haunted by a "rapper" (a poltergeist).

Summary by [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org)



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