A Partial and Random List of Books

The following list is both random, because I just scanned my bookshelves without thinking too much about how these books relate to one another, and partial, because for all the books I have included I am sure I have forgotten about an equal number that deserve to be on this list. There are some obvious omissions, by choice. For instance, I have listed only a few books by Dickens – these happen to be my favourites, but it does not mean that his other works are not worth reading. If you have never read Dickens – start with one of my recommendations and then explore the rest. There are other notables who do not appear – I have never enjoyed the works of D.H. Lawrence, for example, but there is no doubt that he is an important writer. Just because I don’t like him, doesn’t mean you won’t, so take my suggestions with a grain of salt.

Also – not every book is created equal. *Anna Karenina* is a majestic work of fiction (one of my all time favourites), and very readable, but not exactly a beach book. However, there are books on this list that are quick and easy reads (the novels of Mary Wesley, for example). If in doubt – do some research online so you know what you’re getting!

**Fiction**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agee, James</td>
<td><em>A Death in the Family</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ali, Monica</td>
<td><em>Brick Lane</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austen, Jane</td>
<td>Every book she wrote!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barker, Pat</td>
<td><em>The Regeneration</em> <em>Trilogy</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellow, Saul</td>
<td><em>Seize The Day</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bennett, Alan</td>
<td><em>The Clothes They Stood Up In</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brontë, Ann</td>
<td><em>The Tenant of Wildfell Hall</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brontë, Charlotte</td>
<td><em>Jane Eyre</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brontë, Emily</td>
<td><em>Wuthering Heights</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvino, Italo</td>
<td><em>If On A Winter’s Night A Traveler</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheever, John</td>
<td>Short Stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chekhov, Anton</td>
<td>Short Stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collins, Suzanne</td>
<td><em>The Hunger Games</em> <em>Trilogy</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dickens, Charles</td>
<td><em>Great Expectations</em> <em>David Copperfield</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Nicholas Nickleby</em> <em>Hard Times</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>A Tale Of Two Cities</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didion, Joan</td>
<td><em>Play It As It Lays</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dos Passos, John</td>
<td><em>Manhattan Transfer</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egan, Jennifer</td>
<td><em>A Visit From The Goon Squad</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authors</td>
<td>Novels/Short Stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliot, George</td>
<td>Adam Bede, The Mill on the Floss, Middlemarch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erdrich, Louise</td>
<td>The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faulkner, William</td>
<td>The Sound and the Fury, Light in August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fielding, Henry</td>
<td>A History of Tom Jones, A Foundling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flaubert, Gustave</td>
<td>Madame Bovary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford Maddox Ford</td>
<td>The Good Soldier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forster E.M.</td>
<td>A Room With a View, A Passage to India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fowles, John</td>
<td>The French Lieutenant's Woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golding, William</td>
<td>Lord of the Flies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goldman, William</td>
<td>The Princess Bride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greene, Graham</td>
<td>Brighton Rock, The End of the Affair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardy, Thomas</td>
<td>The Mayor of Casterbridge, Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Jude the Obscure, A Pair of Blue Eyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemingway, Ernest</td>
<td>The Sun Also Rises, Farewell to Arms, For Whom the Bell Tolls, In Our Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hugo, Victor</td>
<td>Les Miserables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irving, John</td>
<td>The World According to Garp, A Prayer for Owen Meany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James, Henry</td>
<td>Daisy Miller, The Europeans, Wings of the Dove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joyce, James</td>
<td>The Dubliners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laclos, Choderlos de</td>
<td>Les Liaisons Dangereuses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurie, Hugh</td>
<td>The Gun Seller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee, Harper</td>
<td>To Kill A Mockingbird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lermontov, Mikhail</td>
<td>A Hero of Our Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levi, Primo</td>
<td>Survival in Auschwitz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malamud, Bernard</td>
<td>The Assistant, The Fixer, Short Stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mann, Thomas</td>
<td>Buddenbrooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCann, Colum</td>
<td>Let the Great World Spin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Brien, Tim</td>
<td>The Things They Carried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Connor, Flannery</td>
<td>Short Stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orwell, George</td>
<td>Burmese Days, Animal Farm, 1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remarque, Erich Maria</td>
<td>All Quiet on the Western Front</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowling, J.K.</td>
<td>The Harry Potter books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rushdie, Salman</td>
<td>Midnight’s Children, East, West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharpe, Tom</td>
<td>Vintage Stuff, Porterhouse Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steinbeck, John</td>
<td>The Grapes of Wrath, Of Mice and Men</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thackeray, W.M  
Vanity Fair

Tolstoy, Leo  
Anna Karenina  
Short Stories

Trollope, Anthony  
Chronicles of Barsetshire (five Novels start with The Warden)

Warren, Robert Penn  
All The King’s Men

Waugh, Evelyn  
Brideshead Revisited  
A Handful Of Dust  
Vile Bodies  
Scoop

Wesley, Mary  
The Chamomile Lawn  
Jumping The Queue

West, Rebecca  
Return Of The Soldier

Wharton, Edith  
House Of Mirth  
The Reef

Wodehouse, P.G  
The Jeeves Novels

Woolfe, Virginia  
Mrs Dalloway  
To The Lighthouse

Zola, Émile  
Thérèse Racquin

**Mystery Novels and Detective Fiction**

In the case of a series of books, I have listed the author, my name for the series and the number of books (to date) in the series. I have also listed the first book in the series in parentheses. As has been stated, not all the books in a series are necessarily of the same quality – again, Google is your friend! However, these are series that I find mostly consistently good – I can forgive the odd clunker! I have also included some good stand-alone novels.

Christie, Agatha  
The Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple Novels  
And Then There Were None

Cleeves, Ann  
The Shetland Island Quartet  4 books  (Raven Black)

Dexter, Colin  
The Inspector Morse Novels  13 books  (Last Bus To Woodstock)

Forsyth, Frederick  
The Day Of The Jackal  
The Devil's Alternative

George, Elizabeth  
The Inspector Lynley Novels  17 books  (A Great Deliverance)

Grafton, Sue  
The Alphabet Series  22 books  (A Is For Alibi)

Hiaasen, Carl  
12 Novels with some recurring characters  (Tourist Season)

James, P.D  
The Adam Dalgleish Novels  14 books  (Cover Her Face)

Larsson, Stieg  
The Lisbeth Salander Novels  3 books  (The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo)

Lehane, Dennis  
The Kenzie-Gennaro Novels  5 books  (A Drink Before The War)

Leon, Donna  
The Guido Brunetti Novels  21 books  (Death At La Fenice)

Lovesey, Peter  
The Peter Diamond Series  11 books  (The Last Detective)

Penny, Louise  
The Chief Inspector Gamache Series  7 books  (Still Life)

Rankin, Ian  
The Inspector Rebus Novels  17 books  (Knots and Crosses)
Rendell, Ruth  
*A Judgment In Stone*  The Inspector Wexford Novels  23 books  (*From Doon With Death*)

Rimington, Stella  
The Liz Carlyle Novels  6 books  (*At Risk*)

Silva, Daniel  
The Gabriel Allon Series  11 books  (*The Kill Artist*)

Spencer-Fleming, Julia  
The Reverend Clare Fergusson Series  7 books  (*In The Bleak Midwinter*)

Walker, Martin  
The Bruno Courreges Series  3 books  (*Bruno: Chief Of Police*)

Winspear, Jacqueline  
The Maisie Dobbs Series  9 books  (*Maisie Dobbs*)

**Non-Fiction**

A few true stories that read like novels

Bascomb, Neal  
*The Perfect Mile*

Blum, Howard  
*Gangland*  *The Brigade*

Brittain, Vera  
*Testament Of Youth*

Cheng, Nien  
*Life And Death In Shanghai*

Gaskin, Margaret  
*Blitz*

Hanson, Neil  
*The Great Fire Of London*

Hillenbrand, Laura  
*Seabiscuit*  *Unbroken*

Junger, Sebastian  
*The Perfect Storm*

Karr, Mary  
*The Liars’ Club*

Kinder, Gary  
*Ship Of Gold In The Deep Blue Sea*

Krakauer, Jon  
*Into The Wild*  *Into Thin Air*

Kurson, Robert  
*Shadow Divers*

Lansing, Alfred  
*Endurance: Shackleton’s Incredible Journey*

Mortimer, Gavin  
*The Longest Night*

Olson, Lynne  
*Citizens Of London*

Sides, Hampton  
*Ghost Soldiers*

Simpson, Joe  
*Touching The Void*

Stanton, Doug  
*In Harm’s Way*
And Finally...

Cameron's Top Ten

1. *Great Expectations*  
   Charles Dickens
2. *The Great Gatsby*  
   F. Scott Fitzgerald
3. *To Kill A Mockingbird*  
   Harper Lee
4. *The Amazing Adventures Of Kavalier & Clay*  
   Michael Chabon
5. *The Corrections*  
   Jonathan Franzen
6. *Dubliners*  
   James Joyce
7. *The Things They Carried*  
   Tim O'Brien
8. *The Ghost Writer*  
   Philip Roth
9. *A Widow For One Year*  
   John Irving
10. *Perfume: The Story Of A Murderer*  
    Patrick Suskind