

Ball, Margaret

Duchess of Aquitaine:

A Novel of Eleanor (2006) **K**

Inheriting France's richest province at the age of fifteen, duke's daughter Eleanor becomes vulnerable to fortune hunters and successfully plots to marry King Louis before considering a more powerful alliance with Henry II of England.

Cross, Donna Woolfolk

Pope Joan (1996) **K**

Based on the life of the controversial historical figure Pope Joan, a woman whose hunger for knowledge and independent nature led her to pass as a man and ultimately to attain the high seat in Rome.

Due, Tananarive

The Black Rose: The Magnificent Story of Madam C. J. Walker, America's First

Black Female Millionaire (2001) **K/W**

A fictional biography chronicles the story of Madame C.J. Walker, who rose from the poverty of her former slave parents to found a marketing empire that made her America's first black female millionaire.

Essex, Karen

Kleopatra (2001) **K**

In the first of two volumes, a fictional account of the life of ancient Egypt's most famous queen follows Kleopatra from childhood, through her youthful exile in Rome with her father, to her remarkable rise to the throne of Egypt.

Pharaoh (2002) **K**

In the second volume in the Kleopatra series, the queen journeys to Rome where her infant son can be officially recognized as Caesar's rightful heir, Kleopatra forms an intimate bond with Caesar's second-in-command, Antony, who wages war against Caesar's murderous nephew, Octavian.

Fuentes, Carlos - translated from the Spanish by Alfred MacAdam

The Years With Laura Diaz (2000) **K**

The life and fate of Laura Diaz becomes entwined in the history, culture, and politics of Mexico, in a novel that chronicles her life from the settlement of her German

grandparents in Mexico in the late 1800s to her experience of the Mexican Revolution and its aftermath.

Gullard, Sandra – ***Josephine Bonaparte Trilogy:***

The Many Lives & Secret Sorrows of

Josephine B. (1999) **K**

In a series of fictional diary entries, Josephine describes her life from its early days in a rural village to her fateful introduction to Napoleon Bonaparte.

Tales of Passion, Tales of Woe (1999) **K**

Continues the story of Josephine's marriage to Napoleon Bonaparte, as she witnesses the political intrigues, betrayals, triumphs, and ruin of those around her.

The Last Great Dance on Earth (2000) **K**

Describes the rise and fall of Napoleon's great empire, his personal life, and his exile to Elba through the eyes of Josephine Bonaparte.

Hambly, Barbara

The Emancipator's Wife: A Novel of

Mary Todd Lincoln (2005) **K**

In 1865, in the wake of her husband's assassination, Mary Todd Lincoln struggles to cope amid the animosity and confusion that surrounds her, in a historical novel that captures the saga of one of the most misunderstood women in American history.

Haulsey, Kuwana

Angel of Harlem: A Novel Based on the

Life of Dr. May Chinn (2004) **K**

Novelized account of the life of Dr. May Chinn, the first black female doctor in New York City, who broke the barriers to the medical profession in the 1920s. The novel also portrays the dazzling cultural, social, and political life of the Harlem Renaissance.

Min, Anchee

Empress Orchid (2004) **K**

A fictional portrait of the infamous last empress of China follows the life of Orchid, a beautiful teenager from an aristocratic but impoverished family, who is chosen to become a low-ranking concubine of the emperor and who uses her seductive talents and intelligence to rise to a position of power in the Chinese court.

Naslund, Sena Jeter

Abundance: A Novel of Marie Antoinette (2006) **K**

In this intimate, first person narrative, Marie Antoinette, the wife of King Louis XVI, is shown in all of her frailties, flaws, and triumphs, including her despair during her first years of marriage to Louis, her lack of awareness of the doomed splendor and extravagance around her, and her last days of terror awaiting her fate in a prison cell.

See also: *The Hidden Diary of Marie Antoinette* (2005) by Carolly Erickson **K**

Shan, Sa - translated by Adriana Hunter

Empress: A Novel (2006) **K**

Empress Wu, China's only female emperor, rises from a humble clan and position of concubine to brave the intrigues, betrayal, and violence of the court to become the first Empress of China during the great Tang dynasty in seventh-century China.

Smiley, Jane

The All-True Travel and Adventures

of Lidie Newton (1998) **K/W**

In Quincy, Illinois, Lidie, 20, marries abolitionist Thomas Newton and goes with him to Kansas, but when Thomas is murdered, she disguises herself to get revenge.

Sundaesan, Indu

The Twentieth Wife (2002) **K**

A novel set against the exotic backdrop of the Mughal dynasty of sixteenth-century India chronicles the life and times of Mehrunnisa, an intelligent, ambitious, and beautiful young woman who became one of India's legendary heroines.

The Feast of Roses (2003) **K**

The sequel to *The Twentieth Wife* tells the story of the next 17 years of Mehrunnisa's life as Empress Nur Jahan. She rules in Jahangir's name for the next seventeen years, and in doing so, shapes the destiny of the empire.

Thom, James Alexander and Dark Rain Thom

Warrior Woman (2003)

K

Reluctantly entering the battle when Virginia settlers attack her tribe's homeland, Shawnee Women's Peace Chief Nonhelema works to negotiate an armistice, only to find herself betrayed by her white adversaries.

The Red Heart (1997)

K

Abducted during the Revolutionary War by the Lenape, five-year-old Frances Slocum is transformed into Maconakwa, the Little Bear Woman of the Miami Indians, and grows up among her adoptive tribe, in a historical novel based on the real-life experiences of Frances Slocum.

Vreeland, Susan

The Forest Lover (2004)

K/W

Presents a fictional portrait of pioneering artist Emily Carr, whose independence, boldly original artwork, and unconventional approach to life overcame Victorian restrictions to blaze a new path for twentieth-century women artists.

The Passion of Artemisia (2002)

K/W

A novel set against the backdrops of Rome, Florence, and Genoa recreates the life of Artemisia Gentileschi, whose search for love, forgiveness, and wholeness through her art led to her fame as a painter.

Windle, Janice Woods

True Women (1993)

K/W

This tale of four amazing women is drawn from family stories, diaries, letters, historical accounts, and interviews. It not only reveals glimpses of Texas history from the early 1800s on, but also describes the women who aided in the territory's quest for independence.

Hill Country: A Novel (1998)

K/W

The sequel to *True Women* is a fictionalization of the author's grandmother's exceptional life. Laura Hoge Woods, who lived from 1870 to 1966, survived an Indian attack, experienced the diminishment of the Texas frontier, witnessed the advent of the automobile, and celebrated women finally winning the right to vote.

K = Kennedy Library

W = Westergard Library

Resources

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