

# 100 Great American Novels Plot Outlines

Reacting to The Atlantic's Great American Novels List The Great American Novels according to The Atlantic 25 Books That Could Be The Great American Novel The 100 Best Novels Written in English - Reaction 20 Best American Novels of All Time (by 20 greatest authors) What Is the Great American Novel? 100 Greatest Novels of All-Time: Part 1 (Surprising) Best Selling Books Ever The Great American Read | Six Picks My Top 10 Books of All Time TOP 10 Books of ALL TIME (According to a Dude Who Reads) tier-ranking CLASSIC novels Best Books of the Last Decade (according to Goodreads!) || Reviews \u0026 Recommendations top 24 books to read in 2024 \u25a1 Best books of 2024 (so far!) || Reviews \u0026 Recommendations The 40 Best Books of the Century 10 ESSENTIAL Easy Reads of Western Literature The 100 Best Books of All Time: 60-51! How I Read 100 Books In A Year (as a slow reader) My 100 Favorite Books of All Time! The 100 Best Books of All Time The 100 Greatest Books of All Time: 90-81! the 100 essential novels -- how many have i read? TOP 100 NOVELS OF ALL TIME! THE ULTIMATE RANKING VIDEO!! The 50 Greatest Books of All Time - Reaction The Greatest Books of All Time RANKED 15 Classic Books Everyone Should Read In Their Lifetime Part I The Great American Read: Jennifer Hambrick's Favorite Novel The 100 Best Graphic Novels of All Time, Ranked

Passing Time in the Loo  
Great Writers of the English Language  
100 Years of the Best American Short Stories  
The Outsiders  
Or the Evening Redness in the West  
Blood Meridian  
Atlas Shrugged  
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer Illustrated  
All the King's Men  
Stoner  
A novel  
A Novel  
The Catcher in the Rye  
The Great Mistake  
The Best American Short Stories of the Century  
Lady Catherine, the Earl, and the Real Downton Abbey  
Sin in the Second City  
Tasa's Song  
6x9" Happy 51st Purrthday Birthday Cat Pun Lined Notebook/Journal Gift Idea for Cat Owner, Cat Butler And Cat Lover That Are Turning 51  
Ragtime  
100 Great Short Stories  
Short Story Masterpieces  
An American Tragedy  
The Grapes of Wrath

100 Great American  
Novels Plot Outlines

OMB No.  
2501386341974 edited  
by

## EVELIN ROBERTSON

**Passing Time in the Loo** Independently Published

A gargantuan, mind-altering comedy about the Pursuit of Happiness in America Set in an addicts' halfway house and a tennis academy, and featuring the most endearingly screwed-up family to come along in recent fiction, *Infinite Jest* explores essential questions about what entertainment is and why it has come to so dominate our lives; about how our desire for entertainment affects our need to connect with other people; and about what the pleasures we choose say about who we are. Equal parts philosophical quest and screwball comedy, *Infinite Jest* bends every rule of fiction without sacrificing for a moment its own

entertainment value. It is an exuberant, uniquely American exploration of the passions that make us human - and one of those rare books that renew the idea of what a novel can do. "The next step in fiction...Edgy, accurate, and darkly witty...Think Beckett, think Pynchon, think Gaddis. Think." --Sven Birkerts, *The Atlantic*

### Great Writers of the English

**Language** The Great American Read: The Book of Books Explore America's 100 Best-Loved Novels

Clyde Griffith's parents are poor street-preachers, but Clyde doesn't "believe," and finds their work demeaning. At fifteen he gets a job and starts to ease out of their lives, eventually landing in some trouble that causes him to flee the town where they live. Two years later, Clyde meets his well-off uncle, who owns a large factory in upstate New York. Clyde talks

his way into a job at the factory, and soon finds himself supervising a roomful of women. All alone, generally shunned by his uncle's family, and starved for companionship, he breaks the factory's rules and begins a relationship with a young woman who works for him. But Clyde has visions of marrying a high-society woman, and fortune smiles on him in the form of the daughter of one of his uncle's neighbors. Soon Clyde finds himself in a love triangle of his own making, and one from which he seems incapable of extracting himself. A newspaperman before he became a novelist, Theodore Dreiser collected crime stories for years of young men in relationships with young women of poorer means, where the young men found a richer, prettier girl who would go with him, and often took extreme measures to escape from the first girl. An American

Tragedy, based on one of the most infamous of those real-life stories, is a study in lazy ambition, the very real class system in America, and how easy it is to drift into evil. It is populated with poor people who desire nothing more than to be rich, rich people whose only concern is to keep up with their neighbors and not be associated with the “wrong element,” and elements of both who care far more about appearances than reality. It offers further evidence that the world may be very different from 100 years ago, but the people in it are very much the same. This book is part of the Standard Ebooks project, which produces free public domain ebooks.

### **100 Years of the Best American Short Stories** Macmillan

Willie Stark's obsession with political power leads to the ultimate corruption of his gubernatorial administration.

*The Outsiders* Penguin

“Read, read, read. Read

everything—trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read! You'll absorb it. Then write. If it is good, you'll find out. If it's not, throw it out the window.”

—William Faulkner Absalom, Absalom! is Faulkner's epic tale of Thomas Sutpen, an enigmatic stranger who comes to Jefferson, Mississippi, in the early 1830s to wrest his mansion out of the muddy bottoms of the north Mississippi wilderness. He was a man, Faulkner said, “who wanted sons and the sons destroyed him.”

*Or the Evening Redness in the West*

Penguin

With a new 1999 story added to the paperback volume, this collection of the best stories of the century includes some of the greatest names in literature as well as a few spectacular one-hit wonders. Reprint.

*Blood Meridian* Metro Publishing, Limited Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best novels of all time Published in 1975, Ragtime changed our very concept of what a novel could be. An extraordinary tapestry, Ragtime captures the spirit of America in the era between the turn of the century and the First World War. The story opens in 1906 in New Rochelle, New York, at the home of an affluent American family. One lazy Sunday afternoon, the famous escape artist Harry Houdini swerves his car into a telephone pole outside their house. And almost magically, the line between fantasy and historical fact, between real and imaginary characters, disappears. Henry Ford, Emma Goldman, J. P. Morgan, Evelyn Nesbit,

Sigmund Freud, and Emiliano Zapata slip in and out of the tale, crossing paths with Doctorow's imagined family and other fictional characters, including an immigrant peddler and a ragtime musician from Harlem whose insistence on a point of justice drives him to revolutionary violence.

### **ATLAS SHRUGGED**

Simon and Schuster

Stegner's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of personal, historical, and geographic discovery Confined to a wheelchair, retired historian Lyman Ward sets out to write his grandparents' remarkable story, chronicling their days spent carving civilization into the surface of America's western frontier. But his research reveals even more about his own life than he's willing to admit. What emerges is an enthralling portrait of four generations in the life of an American family. “Cause for celebration . . . A superb novel with an amplitude of scale and richness of detail altogether uncommon in contemporary fiction.” —The Atlantic Monthly “Brilliant . . . Two stories, past and present, merge to produce what important fiction must: a sense of the enchantment of life.” —Los Angeles Times This Penguin Classics edition features an introduction by Jackson J. Benson. For more than sixty-five years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,500 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer Illustrated* New York Review of Books Karen Abbott, the New York Times bestselling author of *Sin in the Second City* and “pioneer of sizzle history” (USA Today), tells the spellbinding true story of four women who risked everything to become spies during the Civil War. Karen Abbott illuminates one of the most fascinating yet little known aspects of the Civil War: the stories of four courageous women—a socialite, a farmgirl, an abolitionist, and a widow—who were spies. After shooting a Union soldier in her front hall with a pocket pistol, Belle Boyd became a courier and spy for the Confederate army, using her charms to seduce men on both sides. Emma Edmonds cut off her hair and assumed the identity of a man to enlist as a Union

private, witnessing the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. The beautiful widow, Rose O'Neale Greenhow, engaged in affairs with powerful Northern politicians to gather intelligence for the Confederacy, and used her young daughter to send information to Southern generals. Elizabeth Van Lew, a wealthy Richmond abolitionist, hid behind her proper Southern manners as she orchestrated a far-reaching espionage ring, right under the noses of suspicious rebel detectives. Using a wealth of primary source material and interviews with the spies' descendants, Abbott seamlessly weaves the adventures of these four heroines throughout the tumultuous years of the war. With a cast of real-life characters including Walt Whitman, Nathaniel Hawthorne, General Stonewall Jackson, detective Allan Pinkerton, Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln, and Emperor Napoleon III, *Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy* draws you into the war as these daring women lived it. *Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy* contains 39 black & photos and 3 maps.

**All the King's Men** Courier Dover Publications

“The Adventures of Augie March is the great American Novel. Search no further.” —Martin Amis A Penguin Classic As soon as it first appeared in 1953, this novel by the great Saul Bellow was hailed as an American classic. Augie, the exuberant narrator-hero is a poor Chicago boy growing up during the Great Depression. A “born recruit,” Augie makes himself available for a series of occupations, then proudly rejects each one as unworthy. His own oddity is reflected in the companions he encounters—plungers, schemers, risk-takers, and “hole-and corner” operators like the would-be tycoon Einhorn or the would-be siren Thea, who travels with an eagle trained to hunt small creatures. This Penguin Classics edition, with an introduction by celebrated writer and critic Christopher Hitchens, makes a literary masterpiece available to a new generation of readers. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

### **STONER**

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Sethe, an escaped slave living in post-Civil War Ohio with her daughter and mother-in-law, is haunted persistently by the ghost of the dead baby girl whom she sacrificed, in a new edition of the Nobel Laureate's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. 25,000 first printing.

**A novel** Courier Dover Publications Features 19 gems in the American short-story tradition, including "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe, "Bartleby" by Herman Melville, "To Build a Fire" by Jack London, plus stories by Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Hawthorne, Twain, others.

**A Novel** A&C Black

Shocking and controversial when it was first published in 1939, Steinbeck's Pulitzer prize-winning epic remains his undisputed masterpiece. It tells of the Joad family who travel West in search of the promised land, and find only broken dreams.

*The Catcher in the Rye* Penguin Classics Step into the perfumed parlors of the Everleigh Club, the most famous brothel in American history—and the catalyst for a culture war that rocked the nation.

Operating in Chicago's notorious Levee district at the dawn of the last century, the Club's proprietors, two aristocratic sisters named Minna and Ada Everleigh, welcomed moguls and actors, senators and athletes, foreign dignitaries and literary icons, into their stately double mansion, where thirty stunning Everleigh "butterflies" awaited their arrival.

Courtesans named Doll, Suzy Poon Tang, and Brick Top devoured raw meat to the delight of Prince Henry of Prussia and recited poetry for Theodore Dreiser.

Whereas lesser madams pocketed most of a harlot's earnings and kept a "whipper" on staff to mete out discipline, the Everleighs made sure their girls dined on gourmet food, were examined by an honest physician, and even tutored in the literature of Balzac. Not everyone appreciated the sisters' attempts to elevate the industry. Rival Levee madams hatched numerous schemes to ruin the Everleighs, including an attempt to frame them for the death of department store heir Marshall Field, Jr. But the sisters' most daunting foes were the Progressive Era reformers, who sent the entire country into a frenzy with lurid tales of "white slavery"—the allegedly rampant practice of kidnapping young girls and forcing them into brothels. This furor shaped America's sexual culture and had repercussions all the way to the White House, including the formation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. With a cast of characters that includes Jack Johnson, John Barrymore, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., William Howard Taft, "Hinky Dink" Kenna, and Al

Capone, *Sin in the Second City* is Karen Abbott's colorful, nuanced portrait of the iconic Everleigh sisters, their world-famous Club, and the perennial clash between our nation's hedonistic impulses and Puritanical roots. Culminating in a dramatic last stand between brothel keepers and crusading reformers, *Sin in the Second City* offers a vivid snapshot of America's journey from Victorian-era propriety to twentieth-century modernity. Visit [www.sininthesecondcity.com](http://www.sininthesecondcity.com) to learn more! "Delicious... Abbott describes the Levee's characters in such detail that it's easy to mistake this meticulously researched history for literary fiction." — New York Times Book Review "Described with scrupulous concern for historical accuracy...an immensely readable book." — Joseph Epstein, *The Wall Street Journal* "Assiduously researched... even this book's minutiae makes for good storytelling." — Janet Maslin, *The New York Times* "Karen Abbott has pioneered sizzle history in this satisfyingly lurid tale. Change the hemlines, add 100 years, and the book could be filed under current affairs." — USA Today "A rousingly racy yarn." — Chicago Tribune "A colorful history of old Chicago that reads like a novel... a compelling and eloquent story." — *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* "Gorgeously detailed" — *New York Daily News* "At last, a history book you can bring to the beach." — *The Philadelphia Inquirer* "Once upon a time, Chicago had a world class bordello called The Everleigh Club. Author Karen Abbott brings the opulent place and its raunchy era alive in a book that just might become this year's *The Devil In the White City*." — Chicago Tribune Sunday Magazine (cover story) "As Abbott's delicious and exhaustively researched book makes vividly clear, the Everleigh Club was the Taj Mahal of bordellos." — Chicago Sun Times "The book is rich with details about a fast-and-loose Chicago of the early 20th century... *Sin* explores this world with gusto, throwing light on a booming city and exposing its shadows." — *Time Out Chicago* "[Abbott's] research enables the kind of vivid description à la fellow journalist Erik Larson's *The Devil in the White City* that make what could be a dry historic account an intriguing read." — *Seattle Times* "Abbott tells her story with just the right mix of relish and restraint, providing a piquant guide to a world of sexuality" — *The Atlantic* "A rollicking tale from a more vibrant time: history to a ragtime beat." — *Kirkus Reviews* "With gleaming prose and authoritative knowledge Abbott elucidates one of the most colorful periods in American history,

and the result reads like the very best fiction. Sex, opulence, murder — What's not to love?" — Sara Gruen, author of *Water for Elephants* "A detailed and intimate portrait of the Ritz of brothels, the famed Everleigh Club of turn-of-the-century Chicago. Sisters Minna and Ada attracted the elites of the world to such glamorous chambers as the Room of 1,000 Mirrors, complete with a reflective floor. And isn't Minna's advice to her resident prostitutes worthy advice for us all: "Give, but give interestingly and with mystery." — Erik Larson, author of *The Devil in the White City* "Karen Abbott has combined bodice-ripping salaciousness with top-notch scholarship to produce a work more vivid than a Hollywood movie." — Melissa Fay Greene, author of *There is No Me Without You* "Sin in the Second City is a masterful history lesson, a harrowing biography, and - best of all - a superfun read. The Everleigh story closely follows the turns of American history like a little sister. I can't recommend this book loudly enough." — Darin Strauss, author of *Chang and Eng* "This is a story of debauchery and corruption, but it is also a story of sisterhood, and unerring devotion. Meticulously researched, and beautifully crafted, *Sin in the Second City* is an utterly captivating piece of history." — Julian Rubinstein, author of *Ballad of the Whiskey Robber*

*The Great Mistake* Greenwood Publishing Group

A blockbuster illustrated book that captures what Americans love to read, *The Great American Read: The Book of Books* is the gorgeously-produced companion book to PBS's ambitious summer 2018 series. What are America's best-loved novels? PBS will launch *The Great American Read* series with a 2-hour special in May 2018 revealing America's 100 best-loved novels, determined by a rigorous national survey. Subsequent episodes will air in September and October. Celebrities and everyday Americans will champion their favorite novel and in the finale in late October, America's #1 best-loved novel will be revealed. *The Great American Read: The Book of Books* will present all 100 novels with fascinating information about each book, author profiles, a snapshot of the novel's social relevance, film or television adaptations, other books and writings by the author, and little-known facts. Also included are themed articles about banned books, the most influential book illustrators, reading recommendations, the best first-lines in literature, and more. Beautifully designed with rare images of the original manuscripts, first-edition

covers, rejection letters, and other ephemera, *The Great American Read: The Book of Books* is a must-have book for all booklovers.

*The Best American Short Stories of the Century Crown*

An exultant novel of New York City at the turn of the twentieth century, about one man's rise to fame and fortune, and his mysterious murder—"engrossing" (*Wall Street Journal*), "immersive" (*The New Yorker*), and "seriously entertaining" (*The Sunday Times, London*). Andrew Haswell Green is dead, shot at the venerable age of eighty-three, when he thought life could hold no more surprises. The killing—on Park Avenue in broad daylight, on Friday the thirteenth—shook the city. Born to a struggling farmer, Green was a self-made man without whom there would be no Central Park, no Metropolitan Museum of Art, no Museum of Natural History, no New York Public Library. But Green had a secret, a life locked within him that now, in the hour of his death, may finally break free. A work of tremendous depth and piercing emotion, *The Great Mistake* is the story of a city transformed, a murder that made a private man infamous, and a portrait of a singular individual who found the world closed off to him—yet enlarged it.

**Lady Catherine, the Earl, and the Real Downton Abbey** Everyman's Library  
Gil Gamesh, the only pitcher who ever literally tried to kill the umpire. The ex-con first baseman, John Baal, "The Babe Ruth of the Big House," who never hit a home run sober. If you've never heard of them-

or of the Ruppert Mundys, the only homeless big-league ball team in American history—it's because of the Communist plot, and the capitalist scandal, that expunged the entire Patriot League from baseball memory. In this ribald, richly imagined, and wickedly satiric novel, Roth turns baseball's status as national pastime and myth into an occasion for unfettered picaresque farce, replete with heroism and perfidy, ebullient wordplay and a cast of characters that includes the House Un-American Activities Committee.

**SIN IN THE SECOND CITY**

Harper Collins

*Lady Catherine, the Earl, and the Real Downton Abbey* tells the story behind Highclere Castle, the setting for Julian Fellowes's Emmy Award-winning PBS show *Downton Abbey*, and the life of one of its most famous inhabitants, Catherine Wendell. In this transporting companion piece to the *New York Times* bestseller *Lady Almina and the Real Downton Abbey*, Catherine, a beautiful and spirited American woman who married Lady Almina's son, the man who would become the 6th Earl of Carnarvon, presides over the grand estate during a tumultuous time for the British aristocracy. Following the First World War, many of the great houses of England faded as their owners' fortunes declined in the new political and social world of the 1920s and 1930s. As war loomed, Highclere's survival as the family home of the Carnarvons was again in the balance—as was peace between the nations of Europe. Using copious

materials—including diaries and scrapbooks—from the castle's archives, the current Countess of Carnarvon brings alive a very modern story in a beautiful and fabled setting, paying particular attention to the staff who provide Highclere Castle with continuity between generations.

*Tasa's Song* Anchor

Celebrate being another year older and your love for the cutest animal on earth with this 6 x 9 inches, 110 paged lined notebook/journal. This travel-friendly book is perfect for any and all writing, drawing and doodling needs. Make this the gift to give to friends and family for their birthday.

**6x9" Happy 51st Purrrthday Birthday Cat Pun Lined Notebook/Journal Gift Idea for Cat Owner, Cat Butler And Cat Lover That Are Turning 51** Knopf

Carol Milford is an exuberant, liberal-hearted woman who marries a man from a small town. After they marry they settle in his home-town, Gopher Prairie, which Carol finds narrow and ugly. She throws herself into reforming the town, but is met only with derision by her own class. She decides to leave, but finds that the world outside is just as flawed as Gopher Prairie. She remains uncowed, however, declaring "I do not admit that dish-washing is enough to satisfy all women!"

*Ragtime* The Floating Press

Presents a synopsis, author sketch, and critical commentary for each of one hundred novels which were published during the 20th century and which today remain largely unknown.

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