

Historical Fiction

SUBGENRES



TRADITIONAL

Mainstream story, usually about famous people with an emphasis on historical accuracy like Margaret George's "Memoirs of Cleopatra."



HISTORICAL FANTASY

Magic mixed with history, such as in Stephanie Dray's "Lily of the Nile" where the daughter of Cleopatra has some ancient powers.



HISTORICAL MYSTERY

Murders took place in the past, too, and they needed to be solved by historical detectives like the hilarious Decius Metellus from John Maddox Roberts' "SPQR" series.



HISTORICAL ROMANCE

A historical with a central love story and a happy ending, such as Jeannie Lin's "The Jade Temptress."



SAGAS

Follows a family or several generations during tumultuous times, such as Ken Follet's "Century" trilogy.

More Historical

SUB GENRES



HISTORICAL THRILLERS

Lots of danger and excitement, as in "Pompeii" by Robert Harris.



ALTERNATE HISTORY

Explores the outcome if some important historical event went differently. Harry Turtledove's "The Guns of the South."



LITERARY HISTORICAL

With an emphasis on beautiful prose and artistic metaphor, like Margaret Atwood's "The Penelopiad."



TIMETRAVEL NOVELS

Using multiple timelines, such as in Diana Gabaldon's "Outlander."



HISTORICAL ADVENTURE

Usually a series featuring an adventurer like Bernard Cornwell's Richard Sharpe or Viking hero Uhtred.