

***The gentleman's garden***

**Jinks, Catherine**

In 1814, Dorothea Brande leaves the quiet harmony of her Devonshire home and accompanies her officer husband, Charles, to the colony of New South Wales. Here she endeavours to escape the harshness of the landscape - and the appalling brutality of common existence - by cultivating an English garden with the help of her convict manservant, Daniel.

Historical JIN

***Cry of the curlew***

**Watt, Peter**

The story of two feuding families - the Mackintoshes, wealthy Scottish landowners, and the Duffys, poor Irish labourers, and their attempts to tame the wilds of Northern Australia.

Historical WAT

***Storm bay***

**Shaw, Patricia**

Portsmouth, 1832 - once the pride of the British East India fleet, the Veritas has fallen on hard times. She is now a transport ship, her cargo prisoners of the Crown, her destination the penal settlement of Van Diemen's Land, now known as Tasmania, the southernmost State of Australia. Pastor Bob Cookson tries to offer solace to the convicts on board, but is shocked to discover that most of them have committed only trivial offences.

Historical SHA

***Remember me***

**Pearse, Lesley**

In 1786 a fisherman's daughter from Cornwall called Mary Broad was sentenced to be hung for theft. But her sentence was commuted, and she was transported to Australia, one of the first convicts to arrive there. How Mary escaped the harsh existence of the colony and found true love, and how she was captured and taken back to London in chains, only to be released after a trial where she was defended by no less than James Boswell, is one of the most gripping and moving stories of human endeavour (based on an amazing true story) you will ever read.

Historical PEA

***The thorn birds***

**McCullough, Colleen**

In the rugged Australian Outback, three extraordinary generations of Cleary's live through joy and sadness, bitter defeat and magnificent triumph - driven by their dreams, sustained by remarkable strength of character...and torn by dark passions, violence and a scandalous family legacy of forbidden love.

General MCC

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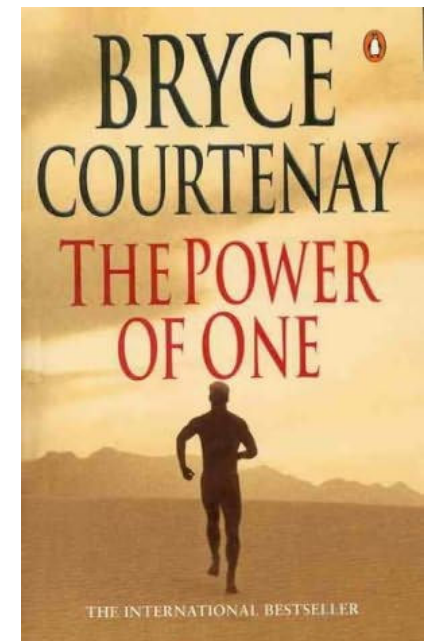
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# Bryce Courtenay Readalikes



## **African Setting**

### ***A dry white season***

**Brink, Andre**

Ben Du Toit, a white schoolteacher in suburban Johannesburg, has lived his life secure in the belief that the government of South Africa is fair and benevolent. When a black friend is arrested and then "commits suicide" in police custody, Du Toit wants to believe that the death was somehow an accident. Du Toit's quest for the truth earns him a newfound commitment to justice in a radically unjust society.

STACK / General BRI

### ***Youth***

**Coetzee, JM**

Hoping to escape his South African home, dysfunctional family, and what he believes to be an impending revolution, a young man becomes disappointed with his monotonous new life in London and begins a dark pilgrimage.

General COE

### ***The last king of Scotland***

**Foden, Giles**

A Scottish doctor's desire for adventure places him in 1970s Uganda, working for the Ministry of Health and then as personal physician to the dictator Idi Amin.

STACK / General FOD

### ***The House Gun***

**Gordimer, Nadine**

Follows the descent of Harald and Claudia Lingard as they learn about the realities of violence and criminal justice in post-apartheid South Africa.

STACK / General GOR

## **Ladysmith**

**Foden, Giles**

Foden dramatises the four-month siege during the Boer War of the South African town of Ladysmith in 1899. The dire experiences of the inhabitants are described from a variety of perspectives, including Bella Kiernan, the daughter of an Irish hotelier; war correspondent Henry Nevinson; and English soldier Tom Barnes.

STACK / Historical FOD

### ***The poisonwood bible***

**Kingsolver, Barbara**

The family of a fierce evangelical Baptist missionary--Nathan Price, his wife, and his four daughters--begins to unravel after they embark on a 1959 mission to the Belgian Congo, where they find their lives transformed over the course of three decades.

General KIN

### ***Birds of prey***

**Smith, Wilbur**

This is an exciting tale of a swashbuckler and his son lying in wait on the coast of South Africa in 1667. They encounter adventure, war, and romance while anticipating a ship owned by a Dutch trading company.

Suspense SMI

### ***Footprints of lion***

**Harper, Beverley**

As southern Africa is torn apart by a so-called white man's war, Dallas Granger-Acheson and his beloved wife, Lorna, are caught up in a conflict between fiercely proud descendants of Dutch settlers and the might of Britain's colonial empire.

Historical HAR

## **Covenant**

**Michener, James**

The tortuous history of South Africa is chronicled from the first arrival of European immigrants in the 15th century. The Dutch and English settlement and conflict with the native people are dramatised in scenes that include the epic Great Trek and the Boer War, as well as the creation of the modern nation of South Africa and its rigid system of apartheid.

STACK / Historical MIC

## **Australian Setting**

### ***The secret river***

**Grenville, Kate**

A dramatic and evocative historical novel set between the slums of Nineteenth-century London and the convict colonies of Australia. Following a childhood marked by poverty and petty crime in the slums of London, William Thornhill is sentenced in 1806 to be transported to New South Wales for the term of his natural life. With his wife and children, he arrives in a harsh land to a life that feels like a death sentence.

Historical GRE

### ***The five winds***

**Shaw, Patricia**

When the crew of the China Belle mutinies off the coast of Australia, passenger Mal Willoughby's wife is killed. As he struggles to come to terms with his grief, Mal vows to hunt down the crew and avenge his wife's death. But will he ever be able to break free from the past?

Historical SHA