

## The Madonnas Of Leningrad Debra Dean

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*The Madonnas of Leningrad* Debra Dean 2008-03-01 Bit by bit, the ravages of age are eroding Marina's grip on everyday life. And while this elderly Russian woman cannot hold on to fresh memories, her distant past is preserved in vivid snapshots of her youth in war-torn Leningrad. In the autumn of 1941, Marina, then a guide at the Hermitage Museum, helped to take down the museum's masterpieces for safekeeping. To hold on to sanity as the Luftwaffe's bombs fell on the city, the young woman committed to memory these exquisite artworks of angels and serene madonnas. She used them to create a refuge to which she retreated to escape the world around her; a refuge that would stay buried deep within her, until she needed it once more...

Thanks to *My Mother Schoschana* Rabinovici 2000-03-01 Susie Weksler was only eight when Hitler's forces invaded her Lithuanian city of Vilnius. Over the next few years, she endured starvation, brutality, and forced labor in three concentration camps. With courage and ingenuity, Susie's mother helped her to survive--by disguising her as an adult to fool the camp guards, finding food to add to their scarce rations, and giving her the will to endure. This harrowing memoir portrays the best and worst of humanity in heartbreaking scenes you will never forget. Winner of the Mildred L. Batchelder Award An ALA Notable Book An NCSS-CBC Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies

*The Jewel Trader of Pegu* Jeffrey Hantover 2009-10-13 In the autumn of 1598, Abraham, a melancholy young Jewish gem merchant, seeks his fortune far from the imprisoning ghetto walls of Venice. Traveling

halfway across the world, he lands in the lush and exotic Burmese kingdom of Pegu—an alien place, yet one where the jewel trader is not shunned for his faith. There is a price for his newfound freedom, however. Local custom demands that Abraham perform a duty he finds troubling and barbaric . . . and thus Mya, barely more than a girl, arrives to share his bed. Gently banishing his despair, awakening something profound within him, Mya ultimately accepts Abraham's protection and, unexpectedly, his love. But great social and political upheaval threatens to violently transform the Peguan empire—with devastating consequences for Abraham and Mya and their dreams for the future.

The Madonnas of Leningrad Debra Dean 2006-03-14 In a novel that moves back and forth between the Soviet Union during World War II and modern-day America, Marina, an elderly Russian woman, recalls vivid images of her youth during the height of the siege of Leningrad when, as a tour guide at the Hermitage, she and other staff members removed the museum's priceless artworks for safekeeping. A first novel. 50,000 first printing.

Amenable Women MAVIS. CHEEK 2019-07-28 Flora Chapman is in her fifties when her husband dies in an abizarre ballooning accident. Seizing upon her new found freedom, she decides to finish the history of their village that Edward had begun. A reference to Anne of Cleves, Henry VIII's fourth wife who he rejected for being ugly, captures her imagination as she begins to delve deeper into the life of this neglected figure. Meanwhile, in the Louvre, Holbein's portrait of Anne of Cleves senses the tug of a connection and she begins to tell the story of the injustices she suffered and just how she survived her marriage. A fascinating tale of Sisterhood and Survival.

At Leningrad's Gates William Lubbeck 2006-11-30 "A first-rate memoir" from a German soldier who rose from conscript private to captain of a heavy weapons company on the Eastern Front of World War II (City Book Review). William Lubbeck, age nineteen, was drafted into the Wehrmacht in August 1939. As a member of the 58th Infantry Division, he received his baptism of fire during the 1940 invasion of France. The following spring, his division served on the left flank of Army Group North in Operation Barbarossa. After grueling marches amid countless Russian bodies, burnt-out vehicles, and a great number of cheering Baltic civilians, Lubbeck's unit entered the outskirts of Leningrad, making the deepest penetration of any German formation. In September 1943, Lubbeck earned the Iron Cross First Class and was assigned to officers' training school in Dresden. By the time he returned to Russia, Army Group North was in full-scale retreat. In the last chaotic scramble from East Prussia, Lubbeck was able to evacuate on a newly minted German destroyer. He recounts how the ship arrived in the British zone off Denmark with all guns blazing against pursuing Russians. The following morning, May 8, 1945, he learned that the war

was over. After his release from British captivity, Lubbeck married his sweetheart, Anneliese, and in 1949, immigrated to the United States where he raised a successful family. With the assistance of David B. Hurt, he has drawn on his wartime notes and letters, Soldatbuch, regimental history, and personal memories to recount his four years of frontline experience. Containing rare firsthand accounts of both triumph and disaster, *At Leningrad's Gates* provides a fascinating glimpse into the reality of combat on the Eastern Front.

*What the Left Hand is Saying (Fast Fiction)* Debra Dean 2011-04-11 Originally published in 'Confessions of a Falling Woman', in *What the Left Hand is saying*, Debra Dean explores turning points in lives on the brink of change in a caustic tale of a group of house-mates who are brought together - and ultimately betrayed - by a visitor who enchants them with a Pied Piper-like charm.

*Empire of the Sun* J. G. Ballard 2013-03-19 The classic, award-winning novel, made famous by Steven Spielberg's film, tells of a young boy's struggle to survive World War II in China. Jim is separated from his parents in a world at war. To survive, he must find a strength greater than all the events that surround him. Shanghai, 1941 -- a city aflame from the fateful torch of Pearl Harbor. In streets full of chaos and corpses, a young British boy searches in vain for his parents. Imprisoned in a Japanese concentration camp, he is witness to the fierce white flash of Nagasaki, as the bomb bellows the end of the war...and the dawn of a blighted world. Ballard's enduring novel of war and deprivation, internment camps and death marches, and starvation and survival is an honest coming-of-age tale set in a world thrown utterly out of joint.

*The Lotus Eaters* Tatjana Soli 2011 At the fall of Saigon in 1975, two lovers make their way through the streets, desperately trying to catch one of the last planes out. Helen Adams, a photojournalist, must leave a war she is addicted to and Linh her lover must grapple with conflicting loyalties. Betrayal and self-sacrifice follows, echoing their relationship over war-torn years.

*The Gypsies* Jan Yoors 1987-09-01 At the age of twelve, Jan Yoors ran away from his cultural Belgian family to join a wandering band, a kumpania, of Gypsies. For ten years, he lived as one of them, traveled with them from country to country, shared both their pleasures and their hardships and came to know them as no one, no outsider, ever has. Here, in this firsthand and highly personal account of an extraordinary people, Yoors tells the real story of the Gypsies fascinating customs and their never-ending struggle to survive as free nomads in a hostile world. He vividly describes the texture of their daily life: the Gypsies as lovers, spouses, parents, healers, and mourners; their loyalties and enmities; their moral and ethical beliefs and practices; their language and culture; and the history and traditions behind their fierce pride. The exultant celebrations, the

daring frontier crossings, the yearly horse fairs, the convoluted business deals in which Gypsy shrewdness combined with all the apparatus of modern technology are all brought to life in this memorable portrait of the most romanticized, yet most maligned and least-known people on earth. An insiders story, *The Gypsies* lifts the veil of secrecy that for so long has enshrouded this race of strangers in our midst.

*The War Within* Alexis Peri 2017-01-02 Winner of the Pushkin House Russian Book Prize Winner of the AATSEEL Book Prize Winner of the University of Southern California Book Prize Honorable Mention, Reginald Zelnik Book Prize "Stand aside, Homer. I doubt whether even the author of the Iliad could have matched Alexis Peri's account of the 872-day siege which Leningrad endured." -Jonathan Mirsky, *The Spectator* "Fascinating and perceptive." -Antony Beevor, *New York Review of Books* "Powerful and illuminating...A fascinating, insightful, and nuanced work." -Anna Reid, *Times Literary Supplement* "A sensitive, at times almost poetic examination." -Robert Legvold, *Foreign Affairs* In September 1941, two and a half months after the Nazis invaded the Soviet Union, the German Wehrmacht encircled Leningrad. Cut off from the rest of Russia, the city remained blockaded for 872 days, at a cost of almost a million civilian lives. It was one of the longest and deadliest sieges in modern history. *The War Within* chronicles the Leningrad blockade from the perspective of those who endured it. Drawing on unpublished diaries written by men and women from all walks of life, Alexis Peri tells the tragic story of how young and old struggled to make sense of a world collapsing around them. When the blockade was lifted in 1944, Kremlin officials censored publications describing the ordeal and arrested many of Leningrad's wartime leaders. Some were executed. Diaries—now dangerous to their authors—were concealed in homes, shelved in archives, and forgotten. *The War Within* recovers these lost accounts, shedding light on one of World War II's darkest episodes while paying tribute the resilience of the human spirit.

*A Disobedient Girl* Ru Freeman 2009-07-21 Longing for sophistication in spite of her limited prospects as a servant, Sri Lankan-born Latha strives for the dignity and freedoms enjoyed by the privileged daughter of her employers, while Biso, a devoted mother, flees her abusive husband in search of a better life in the mountains. A first novel.

*The Rescue Man* Anthony Quinn 2012-02-29 Liverpool, 1939. Lonely historian Tom Baines is at work on a study of the city's architectural past but the ominous news from Europe, together with his burgeoning friendship with Richard, a young photographer, and his beautiful wife, Bella, are proving a distraction. When the bombings begin, Tom joins up as 'rescue man', retrieving the wounded and dying from the ruins of buildings, but the love affair he embarks on soon leads him into a

very different kind of danger.

*Writing the Siege of Leningrad* Cynthia Simmons 2003-03-15 Silver Winner, ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year, History From September 1941 until January 1944, Leningrad suffered under one of the worst sieges in the history of warfare. At least one million civilians died, many during the terribly cold first winter. Bearing the brunt of this hardship—and keeping the city alive through their daily toil and sacrifice—were the women of Leningrad. Yet their perspective on life during the siege has been little examined. Cynthia Simmons and Nina Perlina have searched archival holdings for letters and diaries written during the siege, conducted interviews with survivors, and collected poetry, fiction, and retrospective memoirs written by the *blokadnitsy* (women survivors) to present a truer picture of the city under siege. In simple, direct, even heartbreaking language, these documents tell of lost husbands, mothers, children; meager rations often supplemented with sawdust and other inedible additives; crime, cruelty, and even cannibalism. They also relate unexpected acts of kindness and generosity; attempts to maintain cultural life through musical and dramatic performances; and provide insight into a group of ordinary women reaching beyond differences in socioeconomic class, ethnicity, and profession in order to survive in extraordinary times.

*Hour of the Bees* Lindsay Eagar 2016-03-08 What does it mean to be fully alive? Magic blends with reality in a stunning coming-of-age novel about a girl, a grandfather, wanderlust, and reclaiming your roots. Things are only impossible if you stop to think about them. . . . While her friends are spending their summers having pool parties and sleepovers, twelve-year-old Carolina – Carol – is spending hers in the middle of the New Mexico desert, helping her parents move the grandfather she's never met into a home for people with dementia. At first, Carol avoids prickly Grandpa Serge. But as the summer wears on and the heat bears down, Carol finds herself drawn to him, fascinated by the crazy stories he tells her about a healing tree, a green-glass lake, and the bees that will bring back the rain and end a hundred years of drought. As the thin line between magic and reality starts to blur, Carol must decide for herself what is possible – and what it means to be true to her roots. Readers who dream that there's something more out there will be enchanted by this captivating novel of family, renewal, and discovering the wonder of the world.

*Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* Annie Dillard 2011-01-01 *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* has continued to change people's lives for over thirty years. A passionate and poetic reflection on the mystery of creation with its beauty on the one hand and cruelty on the other, it has become a modern American literary classic in the tradition of Thoreau. Living in solitude in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Roanoke, Virginia, and observing the changing seasons, the flora and fauna, the author reflects on the nature of creation and of the God who set it in

motion. Whether the images are cruel or lovely, the language is memorably beautiful and poetic, and insistently celebratory. Just pay attention, Dillard urges throughout, and you will find yourself 'sailing headlong and breathless under the gale force of the spirit'.

*The Siege* Helen Dunmore 2002 Set against the turbulent backdrop of Leningrad in 1941, an intricately woven tapestry of love and war follows the Levin family--twenty-two-year-old Anna, her young brother Kolya, and their father, Mikhail--as they struggle to survive during the German siege. Reprint.

*Lost Souls of Leningrad* Suzanne Parry 2022-11-08 June 1941. Hitler's armies race toward vulnerable Leningrad. In a matter of weeks, the Nazis surround the city, cut off the food supply, and launch a vicious bombardment. Widowed violinist Sofya Karavayeva and her teenage granddaughter, Yelena, are cornered in the crumbling city. On Leningrad's outskirts, Admiral Vasili Antonov defends his homeland and fights for a future with Sofya. Meanwhile, Yelena's soldier fiancé transports food across the Ice Road--part of the desperate effort to save Leningrad. With their help, the two women inch toward survival, but the war still exacts a steep personal price, even as Sofya's reckoning with a family secret threatens to finish what Hitler started. Equal parts war epic, family saga, and love story, *Lost Souls of Leningrad* brings to vivid life this little-known chapter of World War II in a tale of two remarkable women--grandmother and granddaughter--separated by years and experience but of one heart in their devotion to each other and the men they love. Neither the oppression of Stalin nor the brutality of Hitler can destroy their courage, compassion, or will in this testament to resilience.

*Child 44* Tom Rob Smith 2009-04-01 OVER 2 MILLION COPIES SOLD MOSCOW, 1953. Under Stalin's terrifying regime, families live in fear. When the all-powerful State claims there is no such thing as crime, who dares disagree? AN INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER IN OVER 30 LANGUAGES An ambitious secret police officer, Leo Demidov believes he's helping to build the perfect society. But when he uncovers evidence of a killer at large - a threat the state won't admit exists - Demidov must risk everything, including the lives of those he loves, in order to expose the truth. A THRILLER UNLIKE ANY YOU HAVE EVER READ But what if the danger isn't from the killer he is trying to catch, but from the country he is fighting to protect? Nominated for seventeen international awards and inspired by a real-life investigation, *CHILD 44* is a relentless story of love, hope and bravery in a totalitarian world. From the screenwriter of the acclaimed television series, *THE ASSASSINATION OF GIANNI VERSACE: AMERICAN CRIME STORY*.

*The Gods of Heavenly Punishment: A Novel* Jennifer Cody Epstein 2014-01-13 "Showcases war's bitter ironies . . . as well as its romantic serendipities."--Vogue In this evocative and thrilling epic novel, fifteen-year-old Yoshi Kobayashi, child of Japan's New Empire,

daughter of an ardent expansionist and a mother with a haunting past, is on her way home on a March night when American bombers shower her city with napalm—an attack that leaves one hundred thousand dead within hours and half the city in ashen ruins. In the days that follow, Yoshi's old life will blur beyond recognition, leading her to a new world marked by destruction and shaped by those considered the enemy: Cam, a downed bomber pilot taken prisoner by the Imperial Japanese Army; Anton, a gifted architect who helped modernize Tokyo's prewar skyline but is now charged with destroying it; and Billy, an Occupation soldier who arrives in the blackened city with a dark secret of his own. Directly or indirectly, each will shape Yoshi's journey as she seeks safety, love, and redemption.

City of Thieves David Benioff 2009–10–15 From the writer of the award-winning Game of Thrones series for HBO based on the books of George R. R. Martin. 'David Benioff is an exceptional storyteller . . . CITY OF THIEVES is tender, illuminating, and, be warned, often shocking.'

Khaled Hosseini Four months into the siege of Leningrad, the city is starving. Seventeen-year-old Lev fears for his life when he is arrested for looting the body of a dead German paratrooper, while his charismatic cellmate, Kolya, a handsome young soldier arrested for desertion, seems bizarrely unafraid. Dawn brings, instead of an execution squad, an impossible challenge. Lev and Kolya can find a dozen eggs for an NKVD colonel to use for his daughter's wedding cake, and live. Or fail, and die. In the depths of the coldest winter in history, through a city cut off from all supplies and suffering appalling deprivation, man and boy embark on an absurd hunt. Their search will take them through desolate, lawless Leningrad and the devastated countryside surrounding it, in the captivating journey of two men trying to survive against desperate odds.

The Ordeal of the Hermitage Sergeĭ Petrovich Varshavskii 1985

The Animals at Lockwood Manor Jane Healey 2020 A debut novel for fans of Sarah Perry and Kate Morton: when a young woman is tasked with safeguarding a natural history collection as it is spirited out of London during World War II, she discovers her new manor home is a place of secrets and terror instead of protection. In August 1939, thirty-year-old Hetty Cartwright arrives at Lockwood Manor to oversee a natural history museum collection, whose contents have been taken out of London for safekeeping. She is unprepared for the scale of protecting her charges from party guests, wild animals, the elements, the tyrannical Major Lockwood and Luftwaffe bombs. Most of all, she is unprepared for the beautiful and haunted Lucy Lockwood. For Lucy, who has spent much of her life cloistered at Lockwood suffering from bad nerves, the arrival of the museum brings with it new freedoms. But it also resurfaces memories of her late mother, and nightmares in which Lucy roams Lockwood hunting for something she has lost. When the animals appear to move of their own accord, and exhibits go missing,

they begin to wonder what exactly it is that they might need protection from. And as the disasters mount up, it is not only Hetty's future employment that is in danger, but her own sanity too. There's something, or someone, in the house. Someone stalking her through its darkened corridors . . .

*The Madonnas of Leningrad* Debra Dean 2009-10-13 "An extraordinary debut, a deeply lovely novel that evokes with uncommon deftness the terrible, heartbreaking beauty that is life in wartime. Like the glorious ghosts of the paintings in the Hermitage that lie at the heart of the story, Dean's exquisite prose shimmers with a haunting glow, illuminating us to the notion that art itself is perhaps our most necessary nourishment. A superbly graceful novel." – Chang-Rae Lee, New York Times Bestselling author of *Aloft* and *Native Speaker* Bit by bit, the ravages of age are eroding Marina's grip on the everyday. An elderly Russian woman now living in America, she cannot hold on to fresh memories—the details of her grown children's lives, the approaching wedding of her grandchild—yet her distant past is miraculously preserved in her mind's eye. Vivid images of her youth in war-torn Leningrad arise unbidden, carrying her back to the terrible fall of 1941, when she was a tour guide at the Hermitage Museum and the German army's approach signaled the beginning of what would be a long, torturous siege on the city. As the people braved starvation, bitter cold, and a relentless German onslaught, Marina joined other staff members in removing the museum's priceless masterpieces for safekeeping, leaving the frames hanging empty on the walls to symbolize the artworks' eventual return. As the Luftwaffe's bombs pounded the proud, stricken city, Marina built a personal Hermitage in her mind—a refuge that would stay buried deep within her, until she needed it once more. . . .

*Snow and Sand* Vicka Markov Surovtsov 2010-09-09 "Snow and Sand" tells the extraordinary true story of the fate of a Russian family fighting to keep their values against a destructive force that drives them into exile and the unexpected hospitality of an Egyptian king. Author Vicka Markov Surovtsov shares the entire story of her family in three parts, telling the story of her parents prior to leaving Russia, an account of her family's life in Egypt, and a description of her return visit to Russia as an adult. Shortly before the death of her father in 1961, Vicka Markov Surovtsov made a promise to him that she would visit Russia when the Communist regime ended. She had her doubts that the time would ever come, but after the 1991 overthrow of the Soviet Government she is finally able to keep her promise. Both her mother and father kept diaries of their lives, and much of the book is based upon them, along with her own memories. "Snow and Sand" fulfills her promise to her father and documents her own experiences in present-day Russia.

*Hidden Tapestry* Debra Dean 2018-04-15 *Hidden Tapestry* reveals the

unforgettable story of Flemish American artist Jan Yoors—childhood vagabond, wartime Resistance fighter, and polyamorous New York bohemian. At the peak of his fame in the 1970s, Yoors's photographs and vast tapestries inspired a dedicated following in his adopted Manhattan and earned him international acclaim. Though his intimate friends guessed the rough outline of his colorful life, *Hidden Tapestry* is first to detail his astonishing secrets. At twelve, Jan's life took an extraordinary and unexpected turn when, lured by stories of Gypsies, he wandered off with a group of Roma and continued to live on-and-off with them and with his own family for several years. As an adult in German-occupied France, Yoors joined the Resistance and persuaded his adoptive Roma family to fight alongside him. Defying repeated arrests and torture by the Gestapo, he worked first as a saboteur and later escorted Allied soldiers trapped behind German lines across the Pyrenees to freedom. After the war, he married childhood friend Annabert van Wettum and embarked on his career as an artist. When a friend of Annabert's, Marianne Citroen, modeled for Yoors, the two began an affair, which led the three to form a polyamorous family that would last for the rest of their lives. Moving to New York, the trio became part of the bohemian life of Greenwich Village in the 1950s. Told in arresting detail by Debra Dean, best-selling author of *The Madonnas of Leningrad*, Yoors's story is a luminous and inspiring account of resilience, resourcefulness, and love.

*A Brief History of Us (Fast Fiction)* Debra Dean 2011-01-28 A family's history tells a story, though not necessarily their own.

*The Miracles of Prato* Laurie Albanese 2009-10-06 "Like Fra Filippo's paintings, this love story, set in one of the most intriguing historical periods, is suffused with clear, warm color and fine attention to detail." —Debra Dean, author of *The Madonnas of Leningrad* A vibrant and enthralling historical novel about art and passion, *The Miracles of Prato* by Laurie Albanese and Laura Morowitz brings Italy in the era of the Medici to glorious life—as it tells the story of an illicit love affair between the renowned painter Fra Filippo Lippi and his muse, a beautiful convent novitiate. A magnificent blend of fact, historical color, emotion, and invention, *The Miracles of Prato* is a novel that will delight the many fans of Tracy Chivalier's *Girl with a Pearl Earring* and Susan Vreeland's *Girl in Hyacinth Blue*.

*Fragile Saints* Claire Ibarra 2021-02-20 A heartfelt debut, *Fragile Saints* follows the journey of a woman bruised by betrayal and divorce to her father's ancestral home in Peru. Like the silkworms on the family farm, Elsa emerges from her cocoon transformed and ready to brave a new life. Fans of Isabel Allende will savor this lushly textured romance. —Debra Dean, author of *The Madonnas of Leningrad* Claire Ibarra is a writer, poet, and photographer. She received her MFA in creative writing from Florida International University. Her

work can be found in many fine literary journals and anthologies. Claire's poetry chapbook *Vortex of Our Affections* was published by Finishing Line Press in 2017. She lives and teaches in Colorado.

*The Mirrored World* Debra Dean 2012-08-28 The critically acclaimed author of *The Madonnas of Leningrad* ("Elegant and poetic, the rare kind of book that you want to keep but you have to share" –Isabel Allende), Debra Dean returns with *The Mirrored World*, a breathtaking novel of love and madness set in 18th century Russia. Transporting readers to St. Petersburg during the reign of Catherine the Great, Dean brilliantly reconstructs and reimagines the life of St. Xenia, one of Russia's most revered and mysterious holy figures, in a richly told and thought-provoking work of historical fiction that recounts the unlikely transformation of a young girl, a child of privilege, into a saint beloved by the poor.

*My Name is Mary Sutter* Robin Oliveira 2012 Mary Sutter, a brilliant young midwife, dreams of proving herself as capable as any man. But medical schools refuse to teach women. So when her heart is broken, she heads to Washington DC to tend the Civil War wounded ...

*The Diary of Lena Mukhina* Lena Mukhina 2015-02-12 In May 1941 Lena Mukhina was an ordinary teenage girl, living in Leningrad, worrying about her homework and whether Vova – the boy she liked – liked her. Like a good Soviet schoolgirl, she was also diligently learning German, the language of Russia's Nazi ally. And she was keeping a diary, in which she recorded her hopes and dreams. Then, on 22 June 1941, Hitler broke his pact with Stalin and declared war on the Soviet Union. All too soon, Leningrad was besieged and life became a living hell. Lena and her family fought to stay alive; their city was starving and its citizens were dying in their hundreds of thousands. From day to dreadful day, Lena records her experiences: the desperate hunt for food, the bitter cold of the Russian winter and the cruel deaths of those she loved. A truly remarkable account of this most terrible era in modern history, *The Diary of Lena Mukhina* is the vivid first-hand testimony of a courageous young woman struggling simply to survive.

*Under the Wide and Starry Sky* Nancy Horan 2014-01-21 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • TODAY SHOW BOOK CLUB PICK • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE WASHINGTON POST AND ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH From the New York Times bestselling author of *Loving Frank* comes a much-anticipated second novel, which tells the improbable love story of Scottish writer Robert Louis Stevenson and his tempestuous American wife, Fanny. At the age of thirty-five, Fanny Van de Grift Osbourne has left her philandering husband in San Francisco to set sail for Belgium—with her three children and nanny in tow—to study art. It is a chance for this adventurous woman to start over, to make a better life for all of them, and to pursue her own desires. Not long after her arrival, however, tragedy strikes, and Fanny and her children repair

to a quiet artists' colony in France where she can recuperate. Emerging from a deep sorrow, she meets a lively Scot, Robert Louis Stevenson, ten years her junior, who falls instantly in love with the earthy, independent, and opinionated "belle Americaine." Fanny does not immediately take to the slender young lawyer who longs to devote his life to writing—and who would eventually pen such classics as *Treasure Island* and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. In time, though, she succumbs to Stevenson's charms, and the two begin a fierce love affair—marked by intense joy and harrowing darkness—that spans the decades and the globe. The shared life of these two strong-willed individuals unfolds into an adventure as impassioned and unpredictable as any of Stevenson's own unforgettable tales. Praise for *Under the Wide and Starry Sky* "A richly imagined [novel] of love, laughter, pain and sacrifice . . . Under the Wide and Starry Sky is a dual portrait, with Louis and Fanny sharing the limelight in the best spirit of teamwork—a romantic partnership."—USA Today "Powerful . . . flawless . . . a perfect example of what a man and a woman will do for love, and what they can accomplish when it's meant to be."—Fort Worth Star-Telegram "Horan's prose is gorgeous enough to keep a reader transfixed, even if the story itself weren't so compelling. I kept re-reading passages just to savor the exquisite wordplay. . . . Few writers are as masterful as she is at blending carefully researched history with the novelist's art."—The Dallas Morning News "A classic artistic bildungsroman and a retort to the genre, a novel that shows how love and marriage can simultaneously offer inspiration and encumbrance."—The New York Times Book Review

Leningrad Anna Reid 2011-09-05 The siege of Leningrad is one of the great stories of extraordinary and heroic endurance in World War II

Confessions Of A Falling Woman Debra Dean A Collection Of Short Stories From The Acclaimed Author Of The Madonnas Of Leningrad This Collection Explores Turning Points In Lives On The Brink Of Change. Each Of The Characters She Brings To Vivid Life In These Pages Is Either Facing Up To, Or Coming To Terms With, A Significant Moment In Their Lives From The Prodigal Daughter Returning Home For An Intervention With Her Domineering Alcoholic Mother, To A Woman Unexpectedly Rediscovering Love With Her Ex-Husband. In Writing That Is By Turns Sharply Observed And Delicately Nuanced, Dean Brings Into Focus Shifting Spectrum Of Human Emotions. Yet There Is Nothing Sensational About These Stories Rather They Centre On The Quiet Moments When Reflection Gives Way To Moments Of Truth. Praise For The Madonnas Of Leningrad: An Unforgettable Story Of Love, Survival And The Power Of Imagination In The Most Tragic Circumstances. Elegant And Poetic, The Rare Kind Of Book That You Want To Keep But You Have To Share. Isabel Allende

The Bodhisattva (Fast Fiction) Debra Dean 2011-01-28 Abby bumps into the man who used to be her psychologist.

*Confessions of a Falling Woman* Debra Dean 2009-10-13 Ten masterworks of short fiction—by turns tender, comic, powerful, and devastating—from the highly praised author of *The Madonnas of Leningrad* A surprised Southern matriarch is confronted by her family at an intervention. . . . A life-altering break-in triggers insomniac introspection in a desperate actor. . . . Streetwise New York City neighbors let down their guard for a naïve puppeteer and must suffer the consequences. . . . In this stunning collection of short stories—five of which are being published for the very first time—bestselling, award-winning author Debra Dean displays the depth and magnitude of her extraordinary literary talent. Replete with the seamless storytelling and captivating lyrical voice that made her debut novel, *The Madonnas of Leningrad*, a national bestseller, Dean's *Confessions of a Falling Woman* is a haunting, satisfying, and unforgettable reading experience. Praise for Debra Dean's critically acclaimed bestseller *The Madonnas of Leningrad* “[A] heartfelt debut. . . Admirably humane.” —New York Times Book Review “An unforgettable story of love, survival, and the power of imagination in the most tragic circumstances. Elegant and poetic, the rare kind of book that you want to keep but you have to share.”—Isabel Allende “[Dean's] descriptive passages and dialogue are painteresque and exquisitely drawn.” —USA Today “This sumptuously elegant and emotionally moving first novel . . . will linger with you long after you've finished it. . . . Exhilarating fiction . . . luminous and lovely throughout.”—Providence Journal “Rare is the novel that creates that blissful forgot-you-were-reading experience. This sort of transcendence is rarer still when the novel in question is an author's debut, but that is precisely what Debra Dean has achieved.”—Seattle Post-Intelligencer “Dean writes with passion and compelling drama.”—People

*No More Holes in My Shoes* Anna P. Amodeo 2012-09-25 Anne Pascale Amodeo had every reason to succumb to the despair caused by the emotional suffering of her circumstances. Born in a small town in upstate New York, Anne was the youngest child of first-generation Italian immigrants. Life was simple and good in the beginning. The young Pascale family lived a peaceful, hard-working life on their fruit farm in the beautiful New York countryside. Even so, tragedy wasn't as far away as it seemed. Anne was very lucky to survive the fire that claimed her family's home shortly after her birth, but this was only the first of a series of the many heartbreaks to come. Through her unwavering faith in God, Anne found the strength to love. In her love for those around her her family and friends Anne was able to avoid despair and take control of her life, never losing sight of the happiness she knew God wanted for her. Now she shares the story of a challenging life saved by love and the sacred grace of God.

*The Tiger Catcher (End of Forever)* Paullina Simons 2019-05-30 The

first novel in a beautiful, heartbreaking new saga from Paullina Simons, the international bestselling author of Tully and The Bronze Horseman.

Rules of the Wild Francesca Marciano 2010-04-27 In the vast space of East Africa lives a close-knit tribe of expatriates. They all meet at dinner parties; they share the same doctors and eat at the same restaurants; they sleep with each other and take the same drugs. Set in contemporary Nairobi, Rules of the Wild is at once a sharp-eyed dissection of white society in modern Kenya and the moving story of a young woman, Esme, struggling to make sense of her place in Africa, and her feelings for the two men she loves - Adam, a second generation Kenyan who is the first to show her the beauty of her adopted land, and Hunter, a British journalist sickened by its horrors. Romantic, often very funny and always compulsively readable, Rules of the Wild will be recognised as a classic novel about the white man in Africa, a book to set beside Out of Africa and White Mischief