

CELEBRATING

ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

AUTHOR SUGGESTIONS

Hwang Bo-reum

Hwang Bo-reum is a South Korean writer, whose debut novel, [Welcome to the Hyunam-Dong Bookshop](#) became an overnight hit and was translated to several languages. The charming slice-of-life novel which brings to life the escapist fantasy of ditching the corporate grind in pursuit of passion, daring to ask the question that all book lovers dream about: what if I quit my job and opened a bookstore?

Vanessa Chan

Vanessa Chan is the Malaysian author of the internationally bestselling novel [The Storm we Made](#), a Good Morning America Book Club Pick and New York Times Editors' Choice, and named best book of the year by NPR, Amazon, Elle, Goodreads, and more. Her debut novel is a deeply moving and raw account about the horrors of war.

Eve J. Chung

Eve J. Chung is a Taiwanese American lawyer and historical novelist. Deeply inspired by social justice movements and the ongoing struggle for equality and fundamental freedoms, her work reflects these themes with depth and sensitivity. Her commitment to these issues shines through in her debut novel, [Daughters of Shandong](#), which was released in 2024.

Shilpi Somaya Gowda

Shilpi Somaya Gowda is an acclaimed Canadian-Indian author known for her insightful novels exploring themes of family, culture, and identity. Born and raised in Toronto to Indian immigrant parents, she draws on her rich cultural heritage to craft compelling narratives.

- Start with: [Secret Daughter](#)

Kang Han

Nobel Prize-winning South Korean author Han Kang's novels have a reflective, poetic, and spare style that gives a haunting tone to stories of love and loss. Her work often contains disturbing or surreal imagery and revolves around characters who experience grief, obsession, love, eating disorders, personal transformations, sleep disturbances, and blindness. Kang is also the first Korean author to win the Man Booker International Prize.

- Start with: [The Vegetarian](#)

Alka Joshi

Born in India and raised in the U.S. since she was nine, Alka Joshi is known for the Jaipur Trilogy. In 2024, Joshi was selected for the Forbes 50 over 50 List, celebrating women who are shattering age and gender norms across all sectors of the American economy and culture.

- Start with: [The Henna Artist](#)

Toshikazu Kawaguchi

Toshikazu Kawaguchi is the author of 5 books, all of which are part of the *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* series. They chronicle the stories of patrons at the Tokyo café Funiculi Funicula, where a unique coffee ritual allows them to travel back in time to reconcile their past relationships and regrets.

- Start with: [Before the Coffee Gets Cold](#)

Angie Kim

Readers who appreciate thought-provoking, suspenseful, and reflective mysteries will enjoy Korean author Angie Kim's compelling and intricately plotted literary novels. Kim's richly detailed stories portray the realistic challenges and legal intricacies involving families with special needs children and feature complex characters who are often first and second-generation Asian immigrants living in the United States.

- Start with: [Miracle Creek](#)

R. F. Kuang

Chinese-American R. F. (Rebecca F.) Kuang writes richly detailed, world-building historical fantasy that portrays an alternate world Chinese history and Western colonialism. The result is action-packed novels, full of revolution and drama but dense with thought-provoking characters and themes. Her more recent novel, *Yellowface* was a departure and hugely successful.

- Start with: [Yellowface](#)

Kevin Kwan

Singapore based Kevin Kwan writes fun and witty novels that are filled with gossip, drama and plenty of glitz. His engaging stories follow the adventures and exploits of ludicrously wealthy Asian characters both in Asia and the west. While some of his characters are catty and shallow, many others are likeable, charming and easy to root for. Most recent novel is [Lies and Weddings](#).

- Start with: [Crazy Rich Asians](#)

Jhumpa Lahiri

Jhumpa Lahiri is an acclaimed Indian-American author, celebrated for her insightful exploration of the complexities of cultural transitions. She often reflects on her own experiences as a first-generation immigrant with themes of belonging, alienation, and the intersection of varied cultures.

- Start with: [The Namesake](#)

Min Jin Lee

Korean American novelist Min Jin Lee is known for her moving novels that chronicle the immigrant experience across generations. Focusing on the Korean diaspora, her books primarily deal with issues relating to race, class, and grappling with one's cultural identity. Challenging family dynamics and fraught intergenerational relationships are also major themes in Lee's tender, compelling stories.

- Start with: [Pachinko](#)

Celeste Ng

Celeste Ng is a Chinese-American author whose writing draws on the diverse influences of her life: her immigrant parents, her Midwestern upbringing, her experiences in higher education, and her lifelong love of literature. Ng is particularly deft in addressing issues of race, multiculturalism, and Asian/Asian American identity; weaving them seamlessly into the broader scope of her work.

- Start with: [Little Fires Everywhere](#)

Viet Thanh Nguyen

Author and historian Viet Thanh Nguyen's parents fled Vietnam for the U.S. in 1975 when he was just four years old. His impressive debut novel, *The Sympathizer* (2015), garnered critical and popular acclaim, including a 2015 Carnegie Award. Its protagonist, a Vietnamese double agent, struggles with the consequences of his actions in a dark meditation on war, betrayal, and identity.

- Start with: [The Sympathizer](#)

Ruth L. Ozeki

Canadian-American author Ruth L. Ozeki is of Japanese descent and writes thought-provoking literary fiction that often features female Japanese or Japanese-American protagonists. Her character-driven work frequently discusses loneliness, family, food, and coincidences.

- Start with: [*A Tale for the Time Being*](#)

Vaddey Ratner

Vaddey Ratner is a [Cambodian–American](#) author and novelist who is a war refugee and a survivor of the [Khmer Rouge](#) genocide. She recounts the suffering and loss of the Cambodian people at the hand of the Khmer Rouge regime between 1975 and 1979 in her first novel [*In the Shadow of the Banyan*](#). The book was a finalist for the 2013 [Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award](#) and the 2013 Book of the Year [Indies Choice Book Award](#).

Shobha Rao

Shobha Rao moved to the United States from India at the age of seven. She is the winner of the Katherine Anne Porter Prize in Fiction, and her story “Kavitha and Mustafa” was chosen by T.C. Boyle for inclusion in Best American Short Stories 2015. She is the author of the short story collection and the novel, [*Girls Burn Brighter*](#).

Sunjeev Sahota

Sunjeev Sahota is a [British novelist](#) of Indian descent. His first novel was published in January 2011 and his second novel was shortlisted for the [2015 Man Booker Prize](#) and was awarded a [European Union Prize for Literature](#) in 2017.

- Start with: [*The Year of the Runaways*](#)

Lisa See

In her historical fiction, mysteries, and nonfiction, Lisa See explores China and the Chinese American experience. Of Chinese descent, her many novels feature imaginative storylines, rich details of everyday life, accurate settings, and engrossing pace. However, her depictions of strong women who dare to question their place in society and strive for more is at the heart of her storytelling.

- Start with: [*Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*](#)

Amy Tan

Chinese-American author Amy Tan is known for her lyrically written (using flowing, melodic language) tales of emotional conflict between Chinese American mothers and daughters separated by generational and cultural differences.

- Start with: [*The Joy Luck Club*](#)

Madeleine Thien

Canadian writer Madeleine Thien is primarily known for her literary fiction about Asian families -- Chinese, Malaysian, Cambodian -- struggling with social upheaval, cultural assimilation, and secrets from the past. Her reflective characters are often haunted by intergenerational conflict while coping with larger, often deadly, political changes.

- Start with: [*Do Not Say We Have Nothing*](#)

Kim Thúy

Kim Thúy was born in Vietnam but at the age of 10 she left Vietnam along with a wave of refugees commonly referred to in the media as “the boat people” and settled with her family in Quebec, Canada. A graduate in translation and law, she has worked as a seamstress, interpreter, lawyer and chef-restaurant owner. She lives in Montreal and devotes her life to writing.

- Start with: [*Ru*](#)

Thrity Umrigar

Indian-American and very prolific author Thrity N. Umrigar writes moving and psychologically intimate stories about friendships, romantic relationships, and family dynamics in contemporary India. Through lyrical, evocative prose Umrigar captures both the vibrant beauty and social inequity of Indian culture while remaining sensitive to the complexities of human relationships.

- Start with: [*The Space Between Us*](#)