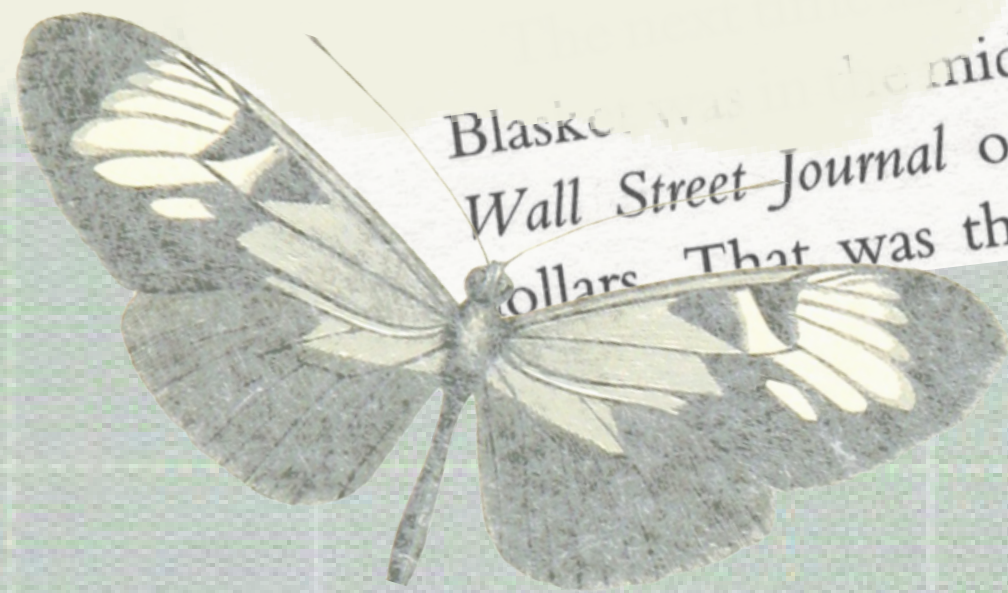





Historical Fiction



Blasko was in the mid-eighties
Wall Street Journal office
dollars. That was the s





Presented by
Bella Ross



What is Historical Fiction?

"[Readers] read to learn about a particular setting in a manner more enriching and entertaining to them than a biography or narrative history; to spend hours immersed in an era they find compelling; or to simply, and wonderfully, do a bit of armchair time traveling" (Wyatt & Saricks, 2019, p.169).



A Brief History

- There has always been some form of historical storytelling
- Sir Walter Scott's *Waverley* (1814)
- Popularity booms in 1880's and 1890's, during the Great Depression, and in the 1960's, 1970's, and 1990's



Current Trends

- Loosening of parameters
- More and more historical fiction centered in World War II
- More female narrators
- More diverse authors and stories

Characteristics

Frame/Setting

- Focus on worldbuilding
 - Must be accurate
- Variable settings throughout time
 - must be real and on earth

Tone

- Wide range of tone
- Meant to help the reader with immersion and to make the setting feel real



Characteristics

Story Line

- Contextualizes and explains events
- varies in looking at specific events to covering great expanses of time

Characterization

- "Characters underpin every historical event..."
- dimensional, realistic fiction
- rich and kept in pace with time



Characteristics

Language/Style

- Varies wildly
- Style: literary historical fiction
 - crystalline prose
 - deft construction

Pacing

- usually longer, not fast paced
- "unhurried"
- "building-in-intensity"
- pace must foster engagement and immersion



Key Authors

- Yangsze Choo, *The Ghost Bride*
- Yaa Gyasi, *Homegoing*
- Jean M. Auel, *The Clan of the Cave Bear*
- Geraldine Brooks, *March*
- Amor Towles, *A Gentleman in Moscow*

A collage featuring a dried plant branch with small white flowers and green leaves on the left. The background consists of several pieces of torn, aged paper. One prominent piece is a light yellow rectangle with the word 'Subgenres' written in a large, black, serif font. Another piece of paper below it contains faint, illegible text. A small, dark green, textured rectangular piece is at the top left.

Subgenres

Pick a time

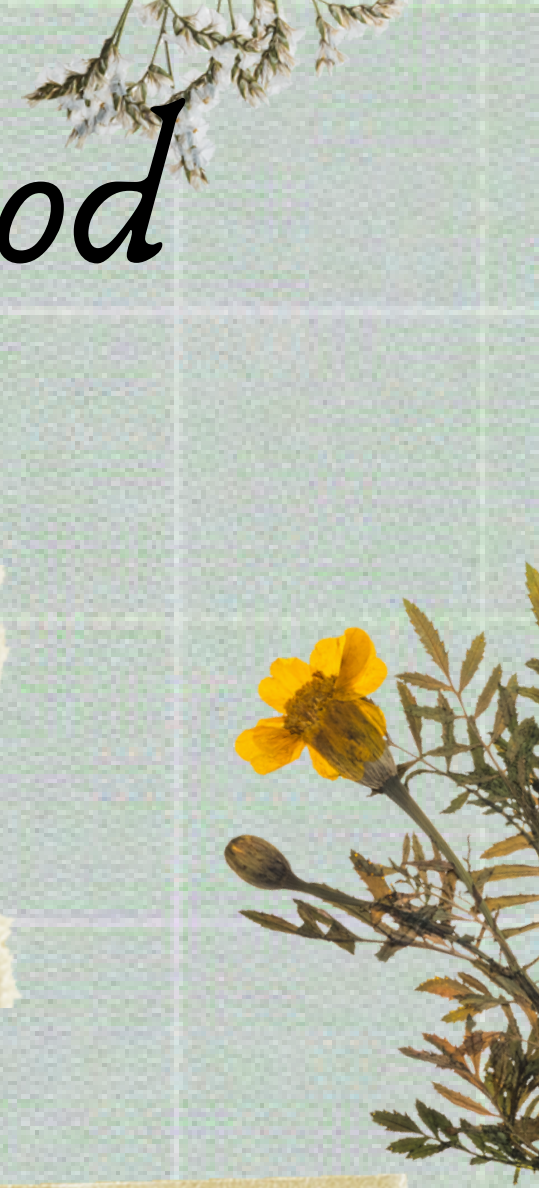
- *Prehistoric*
- *Post WWII*
- *Pre Industrial Era*

Pick a place

- *France*
- *Cambodia*
- *Japan*

Pick a subject

- *war*
- *pirates*
- *witch trials*



Historical fiction based on time period

(Very Eurocentric)

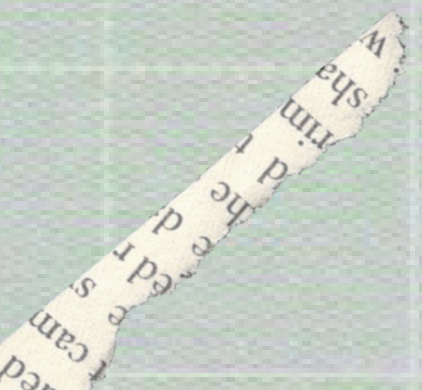
Prehistoric

Ancient civilizations/
before the common era

The Middle
Ages

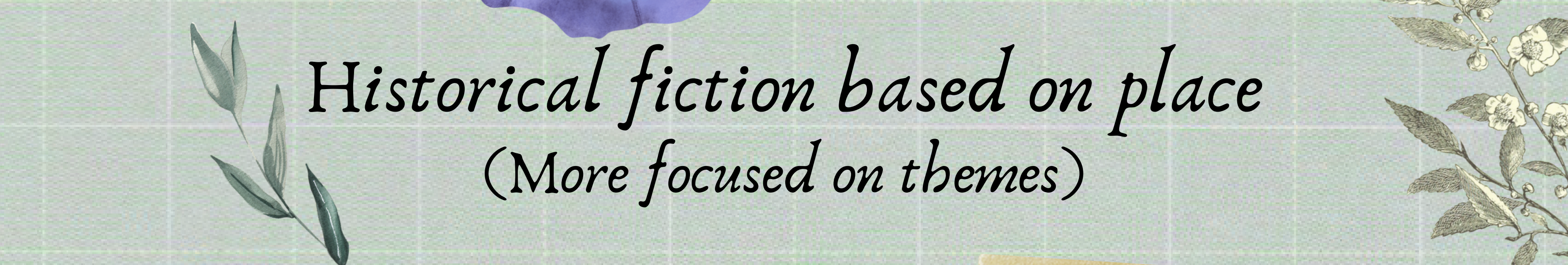
Age of
Enlightenment

The
Renaissance



Nineteenth
Century

Twentieth
Century



Historical fiction based on place

(More focused on themes)

Africa

**Asia and the Middle
East**



Europe

North America

**South and Central
America, Mexico,
and the Caribbean**

Australia





Historical fiction based on subject

American
Civil War

American
Revolutionary War

History
of Medicine

History of Science

The
Vietnam War


Witchcraft

World War II

The
Great Depression

Pirate/
Nautical Times

Regional Historical
Fiction



*Time Travel/
Time Slips*

rise and grind




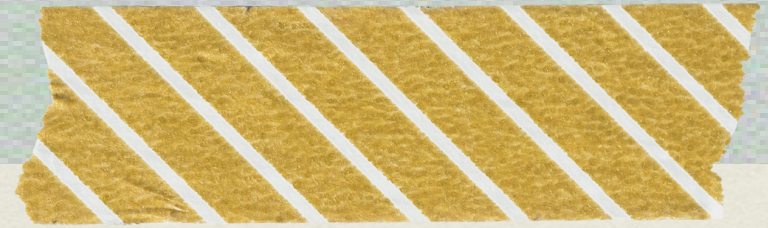
Blends

*Biographical
historical fiction*

rise and grind

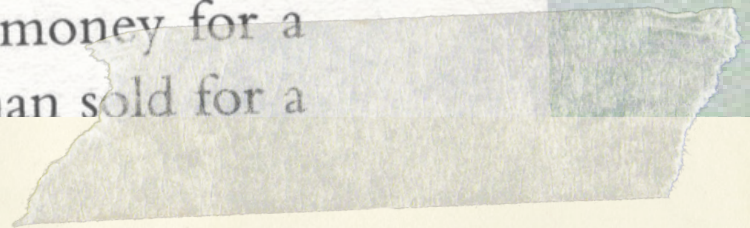


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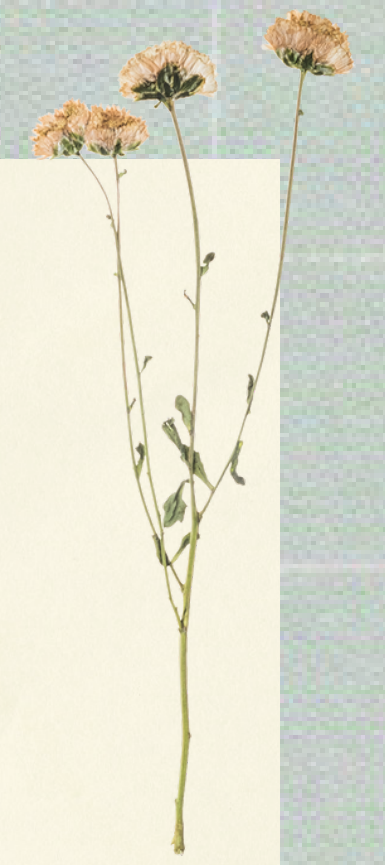
- 
- 
- Society of American Historians Prize for Historical Fiction
 - Langum Prize
 - Michael Shaara Award
 - The Reading List (one of the eight categories)
 - Walter Scott Prize

Wall Street Journal offered
dollars. That was the star

was bought by a rich and
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and? One man sold for a



Awards

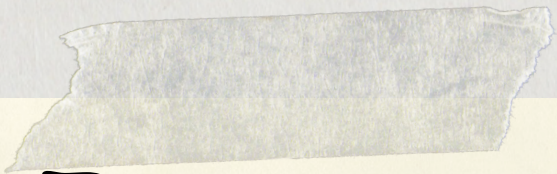


Resources

- The Readers' Advisory Guide to Historical Fiction by Jennifer S. Baker
- Historical Fiction I and II: A Guide to the Genre by Sarah L. Johnson


Read on Historical Fiction: Reading List for Every Taste by Brad Hooper





Resources

HistoricalNovel.info:
in-depth bibliography
of historical novels
created by Margaret
Donsbach.



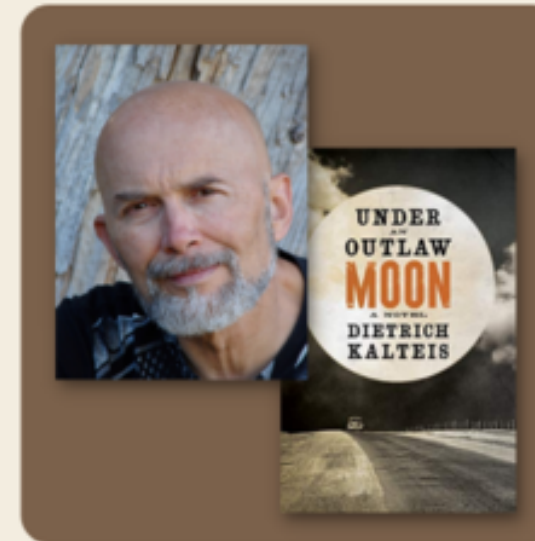
The Historical Novel
Society: Features book
reviews, interviews,
articles, upcoming
books, and links to
author's websites.



Events

club book®

the book club rewritten



Dietrich Kalteis
Under an Outlaw Moon



Paula Martinac
Dear Miss Cushman



Sarah Loudin Thomas
The Finder of Forgotten Things

What's New in Historical Fiction

A VIRTUAL EVENT HOSTED BY HISTORY THROUGH FICTION

Wed, Nov 17, 8pm/5pm ET/PT
crowdcast.io/e/whats-new-in-historical-fiction-1/register



Booktalk!



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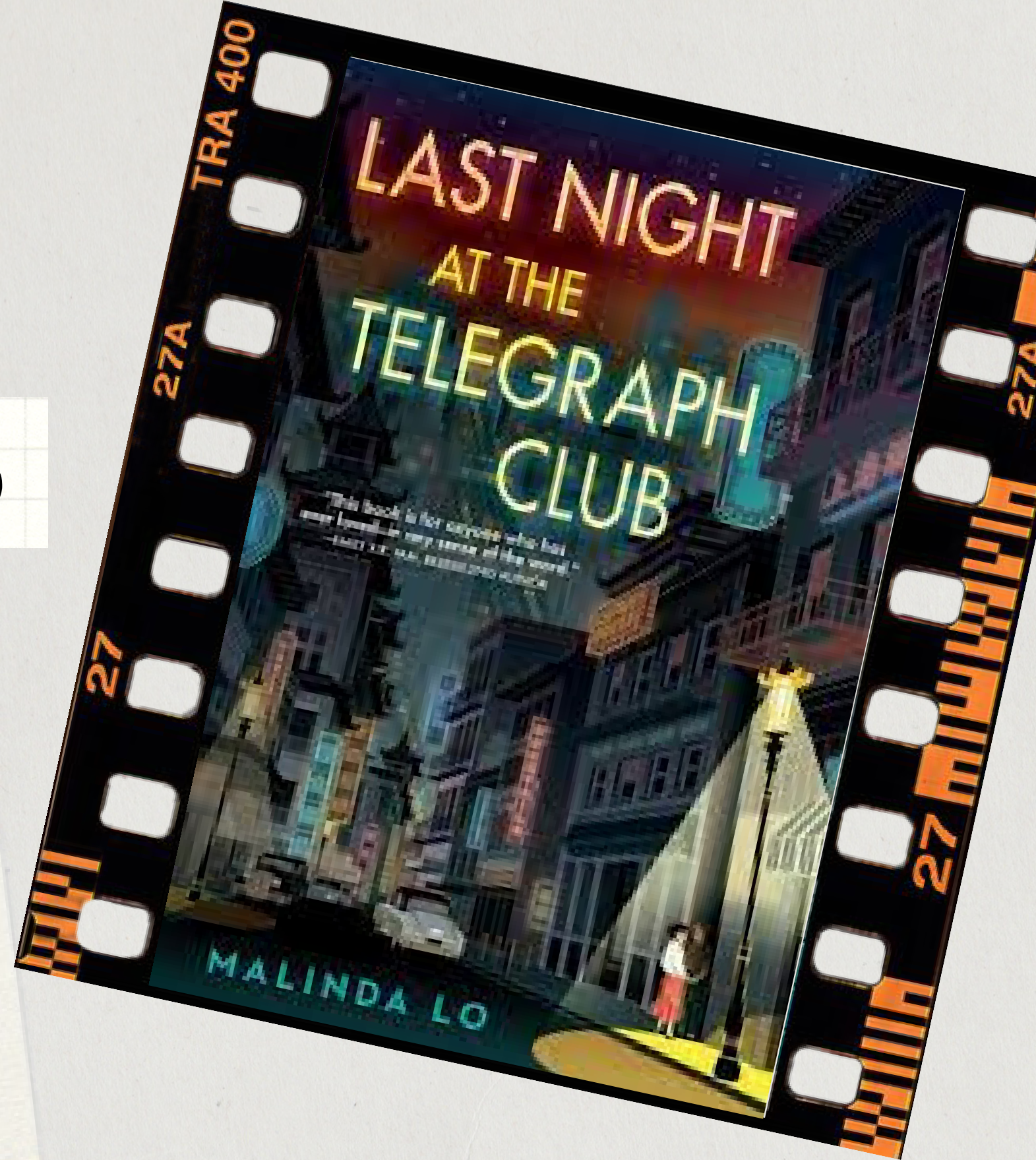


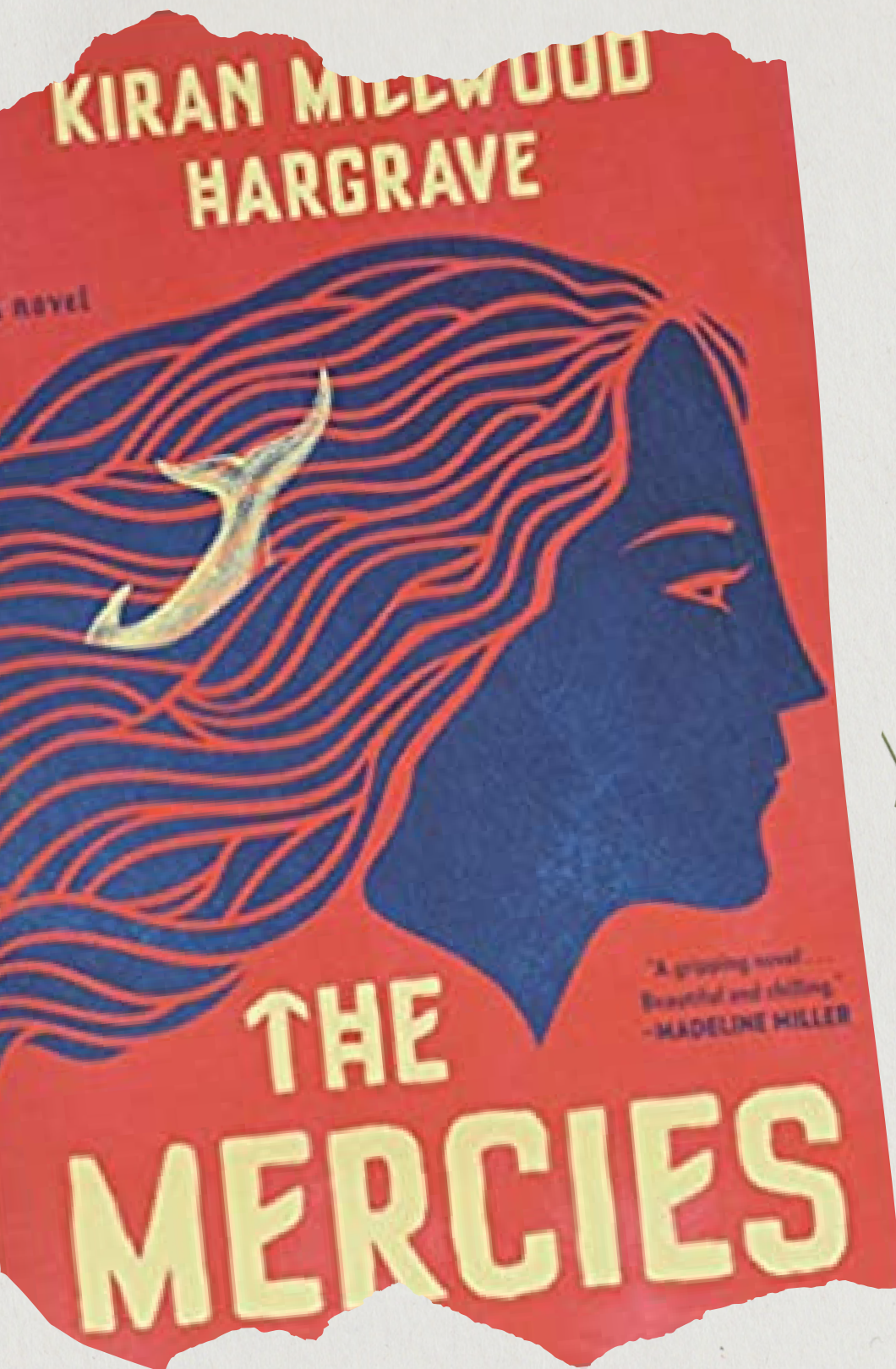
Last Night at the Telegraph Club

By Malinda Lo



Slow build that intertwines intense
world-building and historical fact to
lead the reader through the coming-
of-age of the protagonist.



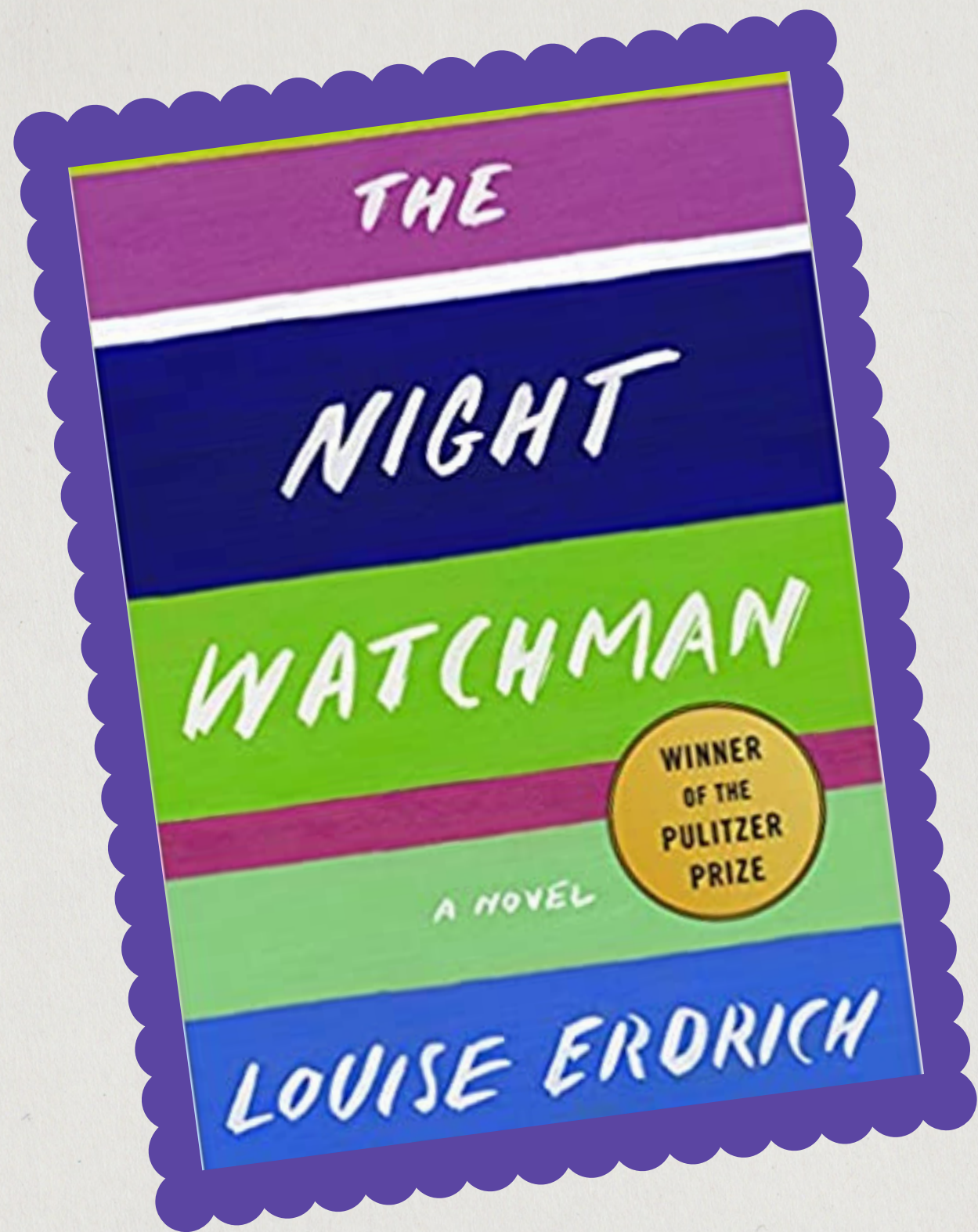
A yellow flower with a green stem and leaves is positioned to the left of the title. A piece of crumpled green paper is placed above the title.

The Mercies

By Kiran Millwood Hargrave

"Hargrave's tale offers a feminist take on a horrific moment in history with its focus on the subjugation of women, superstition in isolated locations, and brutality in the name of religion" (PW).

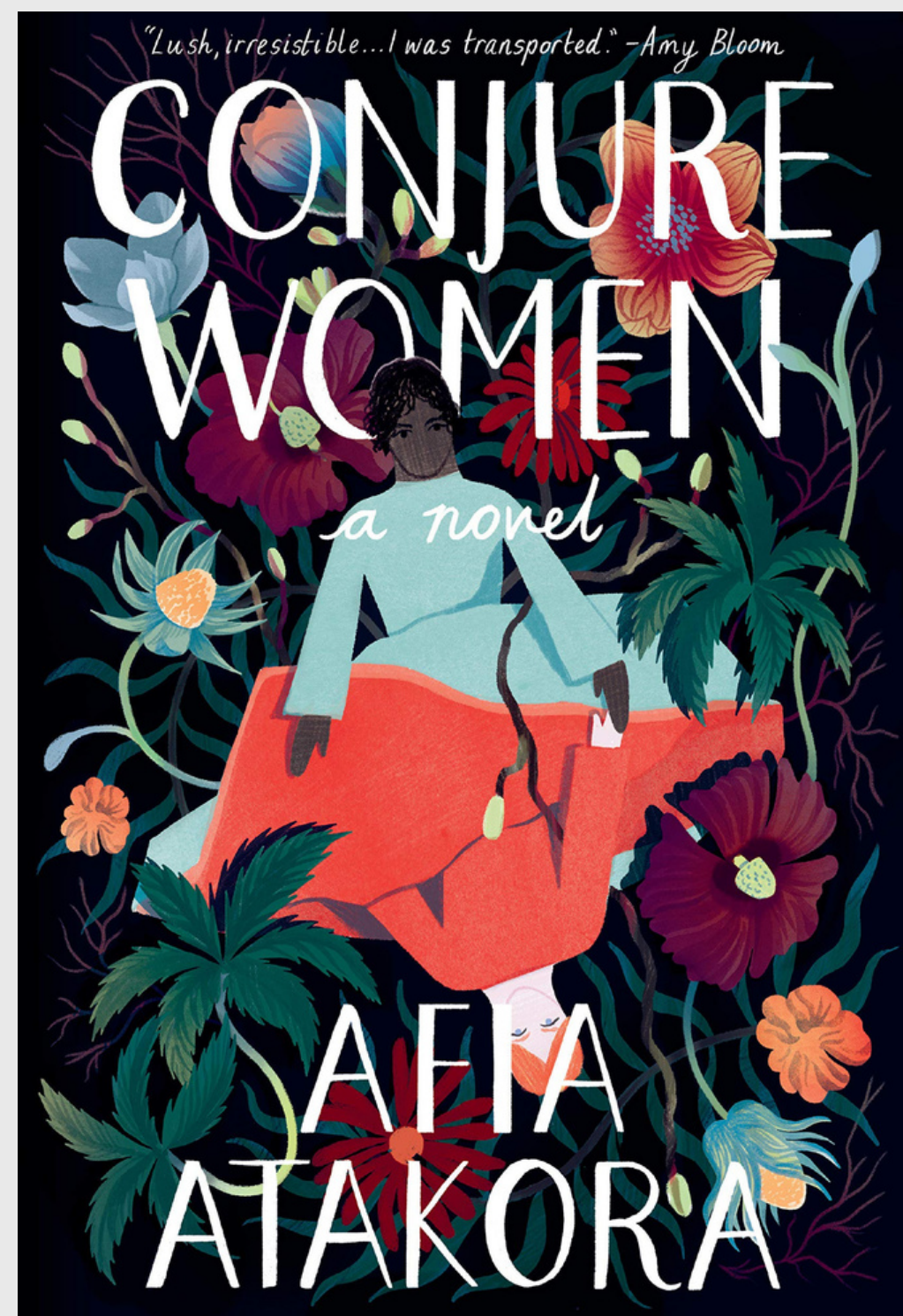




The Night Watchman

By Louise Erdrich

The heart of the story revolves around the people living at Turtle Mountain more so than an intense political drama. The story slowly unfolds and keeps its characters at the heart of the tale.



Conjure Women

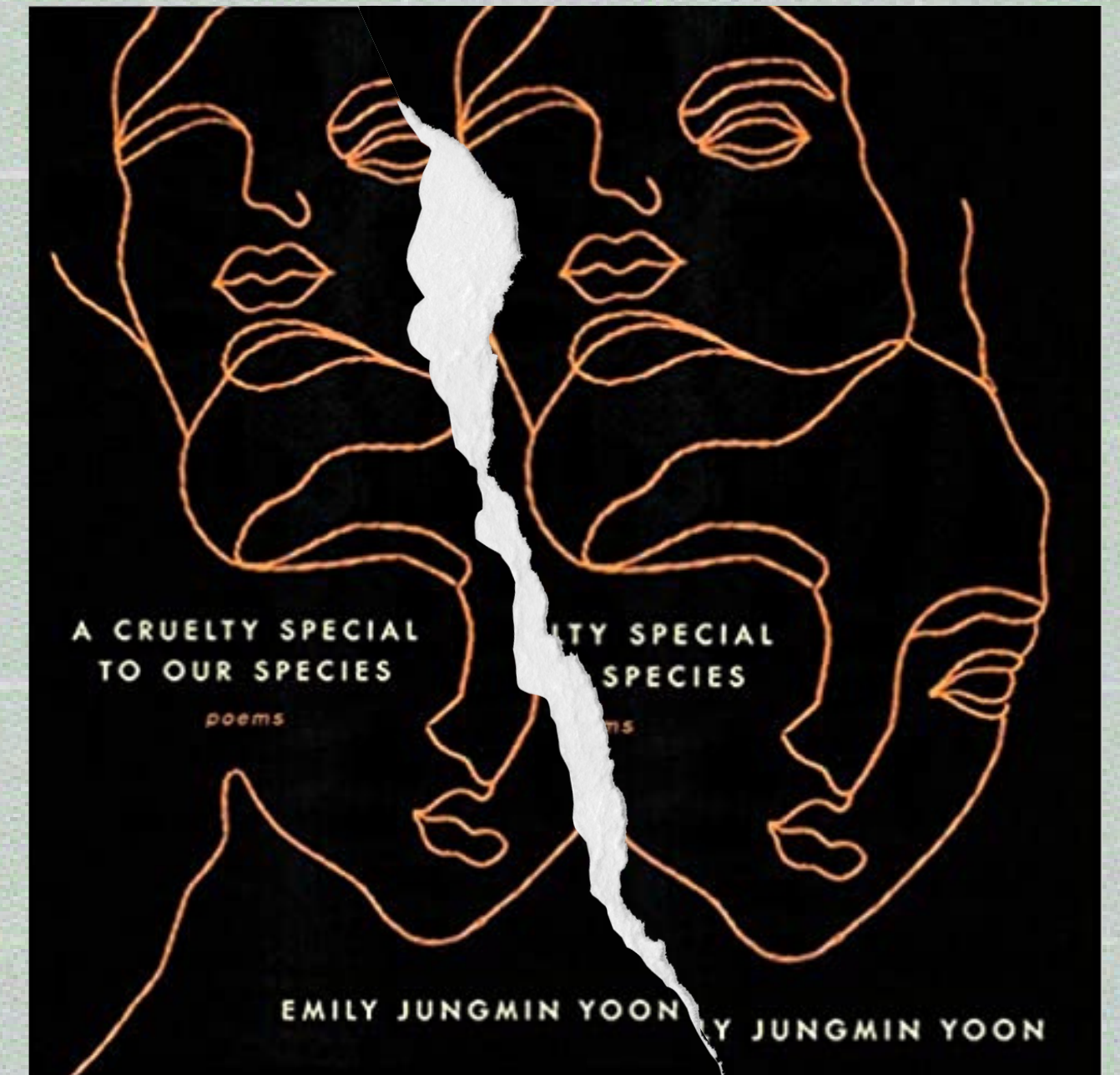
By Afia Atakora

Heavy world-building with
lyrical words that tell a story
where the characters are very
much at the heart of the story.

A Cruelty Special to Our Species

by Emily Jungmin Yoon

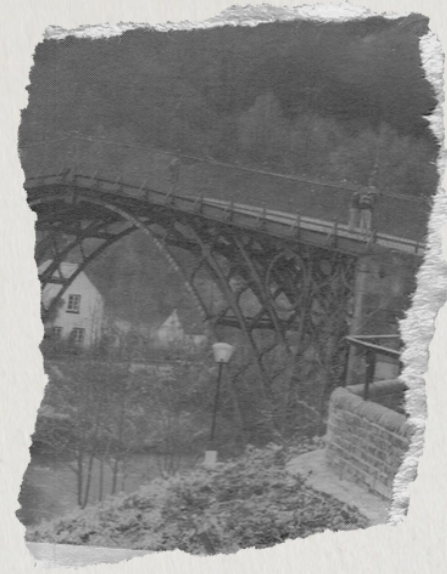
cw: rape, sexual slavery,
violence against women
and children



Historical Fiction
through poetry

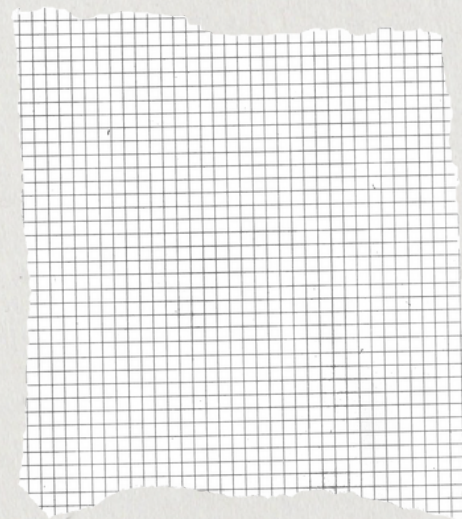
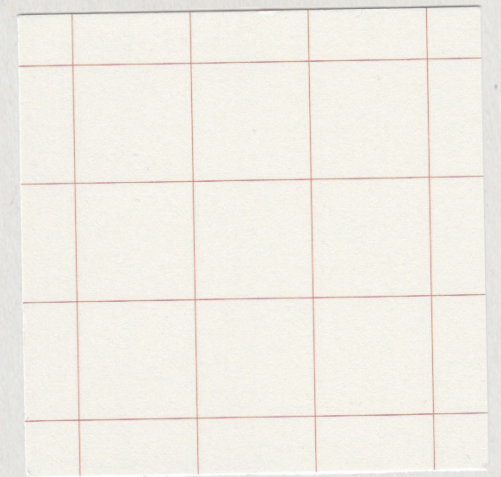
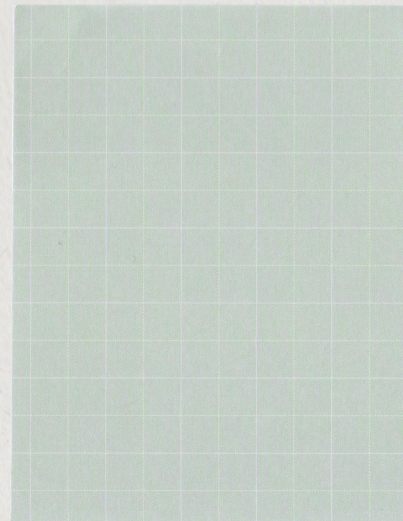
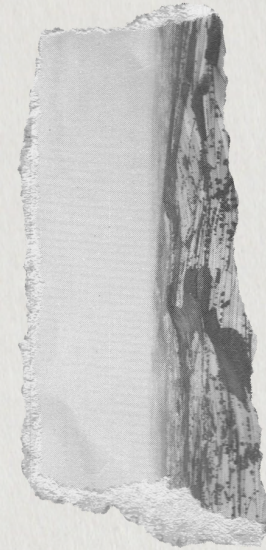
Questions?

"Readers turn to the past, in fiction and in fact, to understand the broad sweep of narrative that has formed the world as we know it" (Saricks, p. 172).



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