

## Travel with Reading (read a book set in a place you've never been)

[The Beach](#) by Alex Garland : (Thailand)

A rootless young Westerner believes he has stumbled upon paradise on a remote island off Thailand, a place known as "The Beach," until he discovers the deadly underside of the island's culture.

[The Far Field](#) by Madhuri Vijay: (India)

After the death of her mother, Shalini, a privileged young woman from Bangalore, arrives in Kashmir to confront a man from her mother's past but instead is brought face to face with the city's violent politics forcing her to make a series of difficult choices.

[The 40 Rules of Love: A Novel of Rumi](#) by Elif Shafak : (Thirteenth century Turkey and Iraq)

Ella Rubenstein is forty years old and unhappily married when she takes a job as a reader for a literary agent. Her first assignment is to read and report on Sweet Blasphemy, a novel written by a man named Aziz Zahara. Ella is mesmerized by his tale of Shams' search for Rumi and the dervish's role in transforming the successful but unhappy cleric into a committed mystic, passionate poet, and advocate of love.

[Grown Ups](#) by Marian Keyes: (Ireland)

They're a glamorous family, the Caseys. Johnny Casey, his two brothers Ed and Liam, their beautiful, talented wives and all their kids spend a lot of time together. And they're a happy family. Johnny's wife, Jessie - who has the most money - insists on it. Under the surface, though, conditions are murkier. While some people clash, other people like each other far too much. Everything stays under control until Ed's wife Cara has a concussion and can't keep her thoughts to herself. At Johnny's birthday party, with the entire family present, Cara starts spilling out all their secrets. In the subsequent unravelling, every one of the adults finds themselves wondering if it's time to finally grow up.

[The Little French Bistro](#) by Nina George: (Brittany, Western France)

Overcome by regrets after decades in a loveless and unhappy marriage, Marianne attempts suicide and is abandoned by her husband before finding herself in picturesque Brittany, where she finds loving new friends who encourage her to develop her talents for her own pleasure.

[The Mistress of Spices](#) by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni: (A street corner in California, and the magical spice markets of the East)

Tilo, an Indian clairvoyant, becomes queen of the pirates who kidnapped her for her powers, and she gains immortality and the skills of a mistress of spices, which she uses to help mortals before falling in love with Raven.

[Next Year in Havana](#) by Chanel Cleeton

A freelance writer returns to her grandmother's homeland to fulfill her last wish to have her ashes scattered in Havana and discovers her family history amidst Cuba's tropical beauty and dangerous political environment.

[The Pearl That Broke Its Shell](#) by Nadia Hashimi: (Afghanistan)

In Kabul, 2007, with a drug-addicted father and no brothers, Rahima and her sisters can only sporadically attend school and rarely leave the house, and their only hope lies in the ancient custom of bacha posh, which allows young Rahima to dress and be treated as a boy until she is of marriageable age.

[Refugee](#) by Alan Gratz : (Syria, Germany, Cuba)

Separated by decades, Josef, a Jew living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a girl trying to escape unrest in 1994 Cuba; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence, embark on journeys in search of refuge.

[The Soldier's Wife](#) by Margaret Leroy: (Island of Guernsey)

As World War II draws closer and closer to Guernsey, Vivienne de la Mare knows that sacrifices will be made. Not just for herself, but for her two young daughters and for her mother-in-law, for whom she cares while her husband is away fighting. However, she least expects that she will fall in love with one of the enigmatic German soldiers taking up residence next to her home.

Sources:

Novelist Plus

<https://www.scls.lib.wi.us/cgi-bin/libauth.cgi?connectto=NOVPLUS>

Top Ten Books That Take Place in Another Country

<https://readingladies.com/2018/03/27/top-ten-tuesday-books-that-take-place-in-another-country/>

Twenty -three Novels to Transport You to Foreign Lands

<https://meander.co.nz/twenty-three-novels-to-transport-you-to-foreign-lands/>