



100 Notable Books of 2023

Each year, we pore over thousands of new books, seeking out the best novels, memoirs, biographies, poetry collections, stories and more. Here are the standouts, selected by the staff of The New York Times Book Review.



Fiction

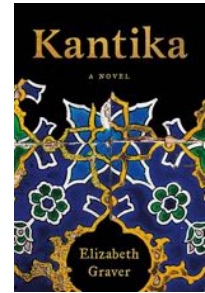
HISTORICAL FICTION

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KANTIKA by Elizabeth Graver

Inspired by the life of Graver's maternal grandmother, this exquisitely imagined family saga spans cultures and continents as it traces the migrations of a Sephardic Jewish girl from turn-of-the-20th-century Constantinople to Barcelona, Havana and, finally, Queens, N.Y.

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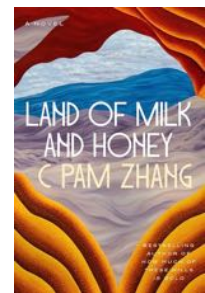


CLIMATE FICTION

LAND OF MILK AND HONEY by C Pam Zhang

Zhang's lush, keenly intelligent novel follows a chef who's hired to cook for an "elite research community" in the Italian Alps, in a not-so-distant future where industrial-agricultural experiments in America's heartland have blanketed the globe in a crop-smothering smog.

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HORROR HISTORICAL FICTION

LONE WOMEN by Victor LaValle

The year is 1915, and the narrator of LaValle's horror-tinged western has arrived in Montana to cultivate an unforgiving homestead. She's looking for a fresh start as a single Black woman in a sparsely populated state, but the locked trunk she has in stow holds a terrifying secret.

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GRAPHIC NOVEL

MONICA by Daniel Clowes

In Clowes's luminous new work, the titular character, abandoned by her mother as a child, endures a life of calamities before resolving to learn about her origins and track down her parents.

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COMING-OF-AGE MYSTERY