

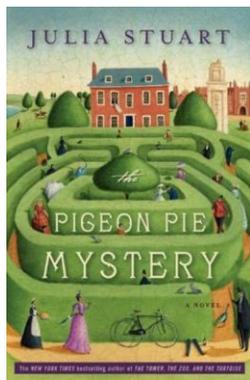
# Recent Readable Recommendations

Fay Minor – Gere BooksTalk – October 14, 2013

## [The Pigeon Pie Mystery](#) (Aug 2012)

Author: [Stuart, Julia](#)

When Indian Princess Alexandrina – nickname “Mink” – is left penniless by the sudden death of her father, Queen Victoria grants her a grace-and-favor home in Hampton Court Palace. Though it’s rumored to be haunted, Mink and her lady’s maid, Pooki, have no choice but to take the Queen up on her offer and join the palace’s eccentric collection of guests. But when a reviled General-Major dies after eating a pie Pooki made, it makes her the number one suspect in a murder investigation.

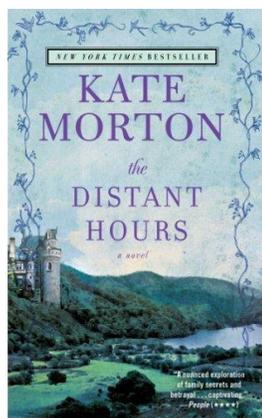


*Genre: Historical mystery stories; Mystery stories*  
*Storyline: Character-driven; Intricately plotted*  
*Tone: Amusing; Whimsical*  
*Writing Style: Engaging; Witty*

## [The Distant Hours](#) (Nov 2010)

Author: [Morton, Kate](#), 1976-

A long-lost letter arriving at its destination fifty years after it was sent lures Edie Burchill to crumbling Milderhurst Castle, home of the three elderly Blythe sisters, where Edie's mother was sent to stay as a teenager during World War II. Inside the decaying castle, Edie searches for her mother’s past but soon learns there are other secrets hidden in its walls. The truth of what happened in “the distant hours” has been waiting a long time for someone to find it. In this enthralling romantic thriller, Morton pays homage to the classics of gothic



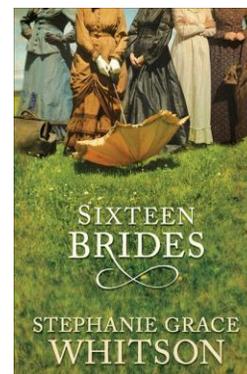
fiction, spinning a rich and intricate web of mystery, suspense, and lost love.

*Genre: Gothic fiction; Parallel narratives; Psychological suspense stories; Suspense stories*  
*Storyline: Character-driven; Intricately plotted*  
*Pace: Leisurely paced*  
*Tone: Disturbing; Suspenseful*  
*Writing Style: Compelling*

## [Sixteen Brides](#) (Apr 2010)

Author: [Whitson, Stephanie Grace](#)

Sixteen Civil War widows settle in Nebraska after they are wooed by a land speculator, only to discover that they were lured there in hopes that they would accept marriage proposals shortly after their arrival. A good look at Nebraska pioneering.

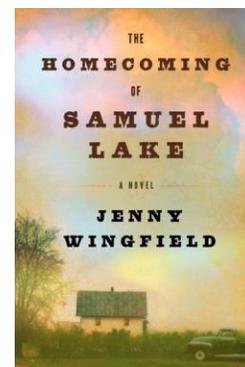


*Genre: Christian western stories*  
*Storyline: Character-driven*  
*Writing Style: Engaging*

## [The Homecoming of Samuel Lake](#) (Jul 2011)

Author: [Wingfield, Jenny, 1945-](#)

A rural Christian heart-warmer set in 1956 southern Arkansas with a teeming cast of memorable characters and an often heartbreaking story line, this gracefully written novel is sure to appeal broadly.



When he loses his latest pulpit, idealistic Methodist preacher Samuel Lake, his lovingly pragmatic wife Willadee and their three spunky kids move in with Willadee's newly widowed mother Calla Moses on

what used to be the family farm. Now Calla runs a grocery store on the front porch. Willadee's brother Toy, a war hero who lost his leg saving a "Negro" soldier, has recently taken over the all-night bar Willadee's father opened on the back porch.

With a teeming cast of memorable characters and an often heartbreaking story line, this gracefully written novel is sure to appeal broadly.

*Genre: Domestic fiction*

*Storyline: Character-driven*

*Pace: Leisurely paced*

*Tone: Bittersweet; Funny; Moving; Strong sense of place*

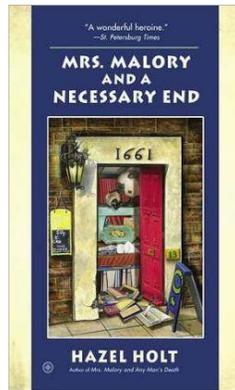
*Writing Style: Engaging*

## **Mrs. Malory and a Necessary End** **(Oct 2012)**

Author: [Holt, Hazel, 1928-](#)

Series: [Sheila Malory mysteries,](#)  
[20](#)

While filling in for a friend at a local charity shop in the quiet English town of Taviscombe, Sheila Malory must employ her keen detecting skills when the store's ill-tempered supervisor is found dead and everyone in town is a suspect.

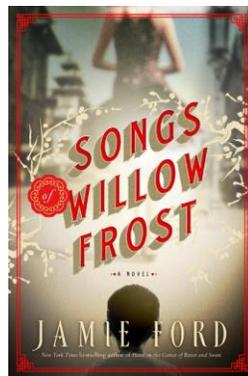


“A wonderful heroine.”—*St. Petersburg Times*

## **Songs of Willow Frost** (Sep 2013)

Author: [Jamie Ford](#) (author of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*)

Twelve-year-old William Eng, a Chinese American boy, has lived at Seattle's Sacred Heart Orphanage ever since his mother's listless body was carried away from their small apartment five years ago. On his birthday – or rather, the day the nuns designate as his birthday – William and the other orphans are taken to the historical Moore Theatre, where William glimpses an actress on the silver screen who goes by the name



of Willow Frost. Struck by her features, William is convinced that the movie star is his mother,

*Genre: Adult books for young adults; Historical fiction; Pacific Northwest literature; Parallel narratives*

*Tone: Atmospheric; Heartwrenching*

*Writing Style: Spare*