TEEN HISTORICAL FICTION

In the Neighborhood of True by Susan Kaplan Carlton *
1958 Atlanta. Ruth and her family move from New York City to Atlanta, and Ruth quickly figures out she can be Jewish or she can be popular, but she can't be both. Eager to fit in, she decides to hide her religion. However, a violent hate crime soon causes her to choose between her new life and standing up for what she believes.

Rima’s Rebellion by Margarita Engle
1920s Cuba. Rima loves to ride horses alongside her abuela and Las Mambisas, the fierce women veterans who fought during Cuba’s wars for independence. As she seek her way through this new world, she finds that through turbulent times, hope soars, and with it...love.

Give Me Some Truth by Eric Gansworth *
1980s New York. Carson is entering his senior year, and his best shot to leave his mark in school and on the rez is by winning the local Battle of the Bands. Carson—along with his friends Maggi and Lewis—will navigate loud protests, louder music, and first love in this novel about coming together in a world defined by difference.

The Red Palace by June Hur *
1758 Korea. There are few options available to illegitimate daughters, but Hyeon has earned a position as a palace nurse. All she wants is to keep her head down and do well, but that’s disrupted when someone murders four women in a single night. The prime suspect is Hyeon’s mentor, and she is determined to prove her their innocence.

Destination Unknown by Bill Konigsberg *
1987 New York City. Micah is at a club, trying to pretend he’s more out and outgoing than he really is; C.J. is the opposite, and Micah can’t help but be both attracted to someone like him. As their lives become more entangled in the AIDS epidemic, whatever Micah and C.J. have will be tested, strained, pushed, and pulled...

One for All by Lillie Lainoff *
1600s France. Tania is most herself with a sword in her hand, though everyone thinks her near-constant dizziness makes her weak. When Papa is murdered, his dying wish is that she attend finishing school. But this is no finishing school; it’s a training ground for a new kind of Musketeer: women who are socialites on the surface, but also armed spies who don’t shy away from a swordfight...

African Town by Irene Latham & Charles Waters *
1860 Africa & Alabama. Long after the US outlawed the importation of enslaved laborers, 110 men, women, and children from Benin and Nigeria were captured and brought to Alabama. At the end of the Civil War, the survivors created a community they called African Town, which still exists. Told in 14 distinct voices, this novel-in-verse recreates a pivotal moment in history, the impacts of which we still feel today.

The Downstairs Girl by Stacey Lee *
1890s Atlanta. By day, Jo works as a lady’s maid for the cruel daughter of a wealthy family in Atlanta. By night, Jo moonlights as “Miss Sweetie”, an advice columnist for the Southern lady. When her column becomes popular, she uses her power to address some of society’s ills but she’s not prepared for the backlash that follows...

Last Night at the Telegraph Club by Malinda Lo *
1954 San Francisco. America in 1954 is not a safe place for two girls to fall in love, especially not in Chinatown. Red-Scare paranoia threatens everyone, including Chinese Americans like Lily. With deportation looming over her father—despite his hard-won citizenship—Lily and Kathleen risk everything to let their love see the light of day.

^ = Graphic Novel or Manga | * = Available on Hoopla and/or Libby | # = Series
TEEN HISTORICAL FICTION

A Very Large Expanse of Sea by Tahereh Mafi *
2002 America. It’s a year after 9/11 and it’s an extremely turbulent time for someone like Shirin, a hijabi Muslim girl. She’s tired of the stares, the degrading comments, and the violence she endures because of her race and religion, so she’s built up protective walls and refuses to let anyone in- until she meets Ocean...

Mirror Girls by Kelly McWilliams *
1950s Harlem & Georgia. As infants, twins Charlie and Magnolia were secretly separated after their parents were killed for loving across the color line. Now, Charlie is a young Black teen in Harlem, while white-passing Magnolia is the heiress to a cotton plantation in rural Georgia. When Magnolia finally learns the truth of her heritage, the sisters must reunite to break a curse- and to discover the meaning of sisterhood.

Out of Darkness by Ashley Hope Pérez *
East Texas 1937. Naomi Vargas and Wash Fuller know about the segregated lines that dominate their town, and they know the people who enforce them. But sometimes the attraction between two people is so powerful it breaks through even the most entrenched color lines. And the consequences can be explosive.

The City Beautiful by Aden Polydoros *
1893 Chicago. Alter dreams of when he’ll have enough money to bring his mother and sisters from Romania to America but when his best friend becomes the latest murder victim in a long line of Jewish boys, his dream begins to slip away. While the rest of the city is celebrating the World’s Fair, Alter is now possessed by Yakov’s dybbuk- to keep the dybbuk from taking over Alter’s body completely, Alter must track down the killer.

I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys *
1989 Romania. Amidst the tyrannical dictatorship in a country governed by isolation and fear, Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer. Cristian has to decide: will he betray everyone and everything he loves—or use his position to undermine the most notoriously evil dictator in Eastern Europe?

Flygirl by Sherri L. Smith *
1940s Louisiana. Ida Mae dreams of being a pilot just like her father. When America enters World War II, the Army creates the WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots) - and Ida suddenly sees a way to fly. But even the WASP won’t accept her as a black woman, forcing Ida Mae to make a difficult choice of “passing”. While Ida Mae chases her dream, she must also decide who it is she really wants to be.

Music from Another World by Robin Talley *
1977 San Francisco. Closeted lesbian Tammy can’t be herself anywhere; her only outlet is writing secret letters in her diary to gay civil rights activist Harvey Milk, until she’s matched with a real-life pen pal. Sharon bonds with Tammy over punk music and secrets but as antigay fervor in America reaches a frightening new pitch, Sharon and Tammy must rely on their friendship to discover what they’ll stand for...and who they’ll rise against.

The Turning Pointe by Vanessa L. Torres *
1980s Minnesota. As the daughter of a ballet Master, Rosa seems destined to become the star principal dancer of her studio. But Rosa would do anything to be in the dance studio upstairs with Prince. Will she defy and disappoint her family by breaking away from her pointe shoes, or will she follow her predetermined destiny?

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