

## **A Sampler of Books by Texas Authors**

Texas has a variety of writers of fiction and nonfiction. They write in many genres including drama, satire, history, commentary, short story, and novels of mystery, romance, and westerns. This sampler includes books by people who were born in Texas, lived in Texas, as well as some who say they came to Texas, "as fast I could."

**Collision DB/RC 67269** by Jeff Abbott Military consultant Ben Frostberg's bride is shot dead on their honeymoon. Two years later an assassin is murdered – and Ben's card is found in the victim's pocket. As Ben tries to convince Homeland Security agents he's being framed, a deep-cover government agent violently rescues him. Violence and strong language.

**Holly Blues: A China Bayles Mystery LB 06437** by Susan Wittig Albert China Bayles is fit to spit when her husband's troubled ex-wife, Sally, shows up at her herb shop, claiming to be broke with nowhere else to turn. When she invites Sally to stay, China starts receiving menacing calls from an "ex" of Sally's, who seems to have a connection to the murder of China's parents. Strong language.

**Yokota Officers Club RC 54726** by Sarah Bird Okinawa, 1960s. Hippie Bernadette Root returns to her large, nomadic, Air Force family after a year stateside at college. She wins a dance contest then performs on tour through Japan, looks up her family's former maid, and discovers past secrets. Strong language.

**First American: The Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin RC 50878** by H.W. Brands Biography of one of America's founding fathers, incorporating correspondence and anecdotes of his contemporaries. Franklin was heralded as a leading inventor and scientist, author, and diplomat as well as a bon vivant. In exploring Franklin's conversion from British loyalist to revolutionary, Brands seeks out the genius within the man. Best seller.

**Glass Rainbow: A Dave Robicheaux Novel DB 71706 and LB 06465** by James Lee Burke Louisiana detective Dave Robicheaux worries about his adopted daughter Alafair's involvement with local writer Kermit Abelard, whose protégé is an ex-con memoirist Robert Weingart. Robicheaux's concerns grow when he and PI Clete Purcel find connections between the Abelard clan and the murders of seven young women. Violence and strong language.

**Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories RC 33451** by Sandra Cisneros A collection of twenty-two short stories about growing up female in a culture where men are unfaithful and families are held together by the church and a sense of community. The stories reflect the experiences of these women, born south of the border but living in the United States and caught between two cultures, the past, and the present. Some strong language.

**Cow People BR 08805 and CT 04648** by J. Frank Dobie A chronicle of Texas ranchers and their customs. Written in the natural rhythm of Texas language, it is an affectionate and nostalgic remembrance of life lived long ago.

**Lone Star**      **CT 03669**    by T. R. Fehrenbach    A history of the Lone Star State, as well as an insider's look at the people, politics, and events that shaped Texas.

**Farewell: A Memoir of a Texas Childhood**      **CT 06443 and RC 49782**  
by Horton Foote      The prize-winning writer of drama and screenplays reminisces about his family experiences in Wharton, a small Texas town. He describes his parents' circumstances at the time of his birth in 1916 and continues until he leaves home at age seventeen to study and work at the Pasadena Playhouse in California.

**God Bless John Wayne**      **RC 45711**    by Kinky Friedman    Kinky Friedman, country singer turned mystery writer, reluctantly agrees to help his buddy Ratso find his birth mother. The simple search becomes a case for the irreverent, wisecracking "Kinkstah" when Ratso's previous PI turns up dead. Strong language and descriptions of sex.

**Old Yeller**      **BR 07798, BR 11976, RC 47404, and DB 47404**    by Freed Gipson  
1860s Texas. Fourteen-year-old Travis at first resents the big, yellow stray dog that hangs around his home, but he comes to love and depend on him. With his father away on a cattle drive, Travis is the man of the house and looks to Old Yeller for help and protection. Newberry Award winner.

**Goodbye to a River**      **CT 02908**    by John Graves      John Graves leads us through an exciting three-week trip down the Brazos River in this classic narrative. An excellent history of the early inhabitants along the river is well woven into this engrossing book, with memories of events in Texas history that took place along that river.

**Gates of the Alamo**      **RC 51379**      by Stephen Harrigan  
Saga of the legendary mission in the Mexican territory called Texas in 1835-1836. Features fictional characters of Edmund McGowan, a traveling botanist; widow Mary Mott, a San Antonio innkeeper; and Mott's sixteen-year old son Terrell, as well as historical personalities. Some descriptions of sex and some strong language.

**The Gift of the Magi and Other Stories**      **BT 03343**    by O. Henry    Includes the classic "The Gift of the Magi" and other short stories featuring O. Henry's trademark "twist endings."

**Strangers on a Train**      **CR 01846**    by Patricia Highsmith      Two men, a tennis star and a psychopath, meet by chance on a train and "swap" murders. Strangers on a Train was the source for Alfred Hitchcock's classic masterpiece. Some violence.

**Klail City**      **CT 05280**    by Rolando Hinojosa      Rolando Hinojosa is one of the best known and most prolific Mexican American novelists. Klail City in its Spanish version won Latin America's most prestigious literary award, Casa de las Americas. The pivotal novel in Hinojosa's continuing saga, Klail City deals with power and race relationships in the lower Rio Grande Valley. Strong language.

**Conan the Warrior**      **RC 22180**    Robert Ervin Howard (edited by L. Sprague de Camp)  
Heroic fantasy features Conan the Cimmerian, a barbarian adventurer of massive strength living in the Hyborian Age. Tiring of uneventful guard duty in a border post, Conan finds his next adventure when he befriends a beautiful woman pirate who is fleeing from the Stygians.

**Fax Me a Bagel: A Ruby the Rabbi's Wife Mystery, No. 1** CT 06420 by Sharon Kahn When a patron drops dead in The Hot Bagel, Ruby's friend the baker faces interrogation and it's up to Ruby to fill the holes in the story. Ruby Rothman loves bagels, as did her late husband, Stu, formerly the rabbi of a thriving congregation in Eternal, Texas, before a hit-and-run driver killed him. Ruby is particularly partial to the bagels her friend Milt sells in his shop, The Hot Bagel. She likes them so much, in fact, she's seriously considering Milt's offer to become a partner in the business. Her plans don't change when Marla Solomon, the sister of a "mover and shaker" in the congregation, drops dead, nearly at Milt's feet, from ingesting a poisoned bagel. Some strong language.

**Buckskin Line** DB 50220 and LB 04794 by Elmer Kelton On the Texas frontier in 1840, Comanche warrior Buffalo Caller claims a red-haired boy during a raid that kills many settlers. The orphan, Rusty Shannon, is eventually rescued, grows up to become a Ranger; and, years later, has another encounter with Buffalo Caller.

**Who Let the Dogs in? Incredible Political Animals I Have Known** RC 59290 by Molly Ivins Texas columnist portrays national figures from the Reagan era through George "Dubya" Bush's first term. Selections, which previously appeared in Ivins's newspaper column or elsewhere, include irreverent commentary on Ross Perot, Dan Quayle, Newt Gingrich, John Ashcroft, Ann Richards, Phil Gramm, and Madonna. Some strong language. Best seller.

**Death of a Healing Woman: A Texana Jones Mystery** RC 47921 by Allana Martin Texana Jones operates a trading post on the Mexico-U.S. border. She is still mourning the death of two friends when she finds the body of a third, healer Rhea Fair. The authorities blame drug couriers. As Texana investigates, an outbreak of rabies spreads through the countryside. Spur Award Winner. Some violence.

**The Road** BR 17072 and RC 63649 by Cormac McCarthy A father and his young son journey south after the destruction of the civilized world. Their survival kit consists of a few blankets, a pistol, a cart of scavenged food, and their love for each other. Their values are tested by encounters with other desperate survivors. Best seller.

**Dead Man's Walk** BR 12567 and LB 04497 by Larry McMurtry This prequel to Lonesome Dove recounts the early days of Gus McCrae and Woodrow Call. Not yet twenty, they join the Texas Rangers under the command of Caleb Cobb. Traveling with the Rangers is Matilda Roberts, a hefty prostitute who occasionally provides comfort to the men as they head for Santa Fe across the *Jornada del Muerto*. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex.

**Texas** BR 06335 and RC 22973 by James A. Michener In this novel, the Texas governor charges a task force with studying the state's history to encourage citizens to appreciate their heritage. The author blends fact and fiction in an expansive panorama that follows the lives and fortunes of several families of varied ethnic backgrounds, from the days of the Conquistadors to the modern lives of contemporary oil barons. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex.

**Pale Horse, Pale Rider** BR 17498, CT 03767, and RC 65339 by Katherine Anne Porter A short story collection. In "Old Mortality" girls Maria and Miranda learn about

the young woman pictured in an old framed photograph at their grandmother's house. "Noon Wine" is about Olaf Helton, who hires on at a Texas dairy farm. The title piece recounts a grown-up Miranda's tragic love affair with a soldier.

**Deerinwater RC 25272** by Jan Reid Jared Ramey, ex high school football star, college dropout, and Marine, returns to his home town of Deerinwater, Texas, to seek his little daughter's love. He also wants to try to reclaim his former wife and win back the respect of his parents. Working as a deputy, Jared is drawn into a fierce feud between his boss, Sheriff Sam Bookout, and District Attorney Jerome Ramey, Jared's father. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex.

**Lightning Thief: Percy Jackson and the Olympians RC 63443** by Rick Riordan Upstate New York, 2005. Sixth-grader Percy Jackson is shocked to discover that he is the son of Poseidon and a mortal mother. He attends a summer camp where demigods learn to defend themselves against the predations of monsters from Greek myth. . After Percy angers Zeus, his friends Grover, a satyr, and Annabeth, daughter of Athena, join him in a quest to resolve the problem. For grades 5-8.

**Arms of Nemesis RC 41404** by Steven Saylor The Spartacus Slave Revolt is underway in 72 B.C., and some slaves are suspected of murder. Gordianus the Finder is awakened at night by a visitor who insists he come with him to Baiae on the Bay of Naples. Upon arrival, Gordianus learns the overseer of Marcus Crassus's estate has been murdered, and if the guilty parties can not be found before the funeral games, ninety-nine slaves will die. Some violence.

**The Tourist DB 69186** by Olen Steinhauer After barely surviving a difficult mission, Milo Weaver transfers out of his post as a CIA assassin or "tourist." But when an old friend is suspected of espionage, Milo must leave his family and desk job to revisit his dark past. Some violence and some strong language.

**Lone Texan DB/RC 69944 and LB 06519** by Jodi Thomas Galveston, Texas, 1859. Widow Sage McMurray Lander of Whispering Mountain Ranch returns home after studying medicine back East. Drummond Roak has waited for Sage and begins courting her, but unsavory outlaws and Sage's brother-in-law cause problems that include kidnapping and murder. Explicit descriptions of sex and some violence.

**The Great Plains CT 03807** by Walter Prescott Webb A landmark work in historical interpretation of the West, this book examines the causes and effects of development of the plains. It analyzes the land, climate, barbed wire, dry farming, wells, windmills, and native animal life in a very readable style.

**The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11 BR 17079, RC 63287, and DB 63287 as a download** by Lawrence Wright Traces Islamic fundamentalism from 1948 to the 2001 attack on America. Highlights Al-Qaeda leaders Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri. Asserts historical lack of concern from intelligence agencies except for FBI agent John O'Neill and Saudi prince Turki al-Faisal. Violence and strong language.