

RENTED ROOMS

FICTION SET IN BOARDING HOUSES, APARTMENTS AND HOTELS

Fiction Alger, Horatio

Alger, Horatio. **The Disagreeable Woman**

Dr. Fenwick boards in a rooming house in New York, where he meets a plain-spoken woman and a widow looking for a husband.

Mystery Allingham, Margery

Allingham, Margery. **More Work for the Undertaker**

Eccentric, impoverished family lives in their ancestral home as tenants of the new owner and for no apparent reason, someone is trying to kill them off.

Fiction Aswany, Alaa Al

Aswany, Alaa Al. **The Yacoubian Building**

Building holds all that Egypt was and has become over the 75 years since it was built on one of Cairo's main boulevards.

Mystery Babson, Marian

Babson, Marian. **The Twelve Deaths of Christmas**

Tenants at an English boarding house celebrate Christmas with their fellow housemates while a serial killer plagues the area.

Fiction Balzac, Honore

Balzac, Honore. **Pere Goriot**

Elderly man spoils his two beautiful daughters while he lives in poverty in a Paris boardinghouse.

Fiction Barker, A. L.

Barker, A. L. **The Haunt**

Guests gather at a dilapidated hotel on the Cornish coast.

Mystery Barnard, Robert

Barnard, Robert. **Out of the Blackout**

Simon Thorn returns to London to track down his family years after he was evacuated to a remote English village during the Blitz.

Fiction Baum, Vicki

Baum, Vicki. **Grand Hotel**

Set in the 1920s, this is a story about the various guests of a posh Berlin hotel.

Fiction Berberova, Nina

Berberova, Nina. **The Ladies from St. Petersburg**

In the novella, **Zoya Andreyevna**, a middle-class Russian woman, who has divorced her husband, suffers the contempt of fellow boarders in a rundown rooming house.

Fiction Berg, Elizabeth

Berg, Elizabeth. **Open House**

Divorced woman must take in lodgers to pay the mortgage on her large suburban house.

Fiction Boorstin, Jon

Boorstin, Jon. **The Newsboys' Lodging-House: or, The Confessions of William James**

William James goes incognito to NYC to search for the key to human nature in the struggles of the street urchins that Horatio Alger wrote about in his rags-to-riches tales.

Mystery Brett, Simon

Brett, Simon. **A Nice Class of Corpse**

Soon after Mrs. Pargeter moves into a retirement hotel, a resident dies.

Fiction Brookner, Anita

Brookner, Anita. **Hotel du Lac**

Novelist retreats to a quiet Swiss hotel after she fails to show up for her own wedding.

Fiction Brownstein, Gabriel

Brownstein, Gabriel. **The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Apt. 3W**

Story collection, mostly set within the confines of an apartment building on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

Fiction Campbell, Ramsey

Campbell, Ramsey. **Nazareth Hill**

A rebellious teenager and her father move into an English apartment house that has a checkered past.

Fiction Carey, Edward

Carey, Edward. **Observatory Mansions**

The Orme family mansion has been converted into a decaying apartment building, housing the Ormes and other eccentric tenants.

Mystery Carr, Josephine

Carr, Josephine. **My Very Own Murder**

Anne Johnson, recently divorced and living in a Washington, DC apartment, hears a mysterious warning in her head that there will be a murder in her building.

Fiction Comyns, Barbara

Comyns, Barbara. **The House of Dolls**

Four elderly ladies make money by entertaining gentlemen in their rooming house.

Fiction Egolf, Tristan

Egolf, Tristan. **Skirt and the Fiddle**

Ex-violinist Charlie, along with fellow boarder, Tinsel Greetz, raise money by killing sewer rats.

Fiction Evans, Penelope

Evans, Penelope. **The Last Girl**

Psychopath, who lives in a London boarding house, preys on the loneliness of a vulnerable college student.

Fiction Farrell, J. G.

Farrell, J. G. **Troubles**

Shell-shocked major comes to stay at the Majestic, a decaying, grand hotel in Ireland, so that he can clarify his position with his fiancée.

Fiction Fields, Jeff

Fields, Jeff. **A Cry of Angels**

Earl Whitaker helps his great-aunt run her boarding house.

Fiction Forster, E. M

Forster, E. M. **A Room With a View**

A young English woman falls in love while staying at a pension in Florence, Italy.

Mystery Fremlin, Celia

Fremlin, Celia. **Listening in the Dusk**

Divorced woman moves into a boarding house where she meets a young woman with a terrible secret.

Mystery Grimes, Martha

Grimes, Martha. **Hotel Paradise**

12-year-old Emma Graham, who works as a salad girl at the decaying resort hotel where her mother cooks, becomes obsessed with the mysterious drowning of another young girl, forty years earlier.

Fiction Hamilton, Patrick

Hamilton, Patrick. **The Slaves of Solitude**

Overcome by the terrors of the Blitz, middle-aged Miss Roach retreats to the relative safety and stupefying boredom of the suburban town of Thames Lockdon, where she rents a room in a boardinghouse.

Fiction Joss, Morag

Joss, Morag. **Half Broken Things**

Housesitter of a country manor takes in guests.

Fiction Joyce, James

Joyce, James. **Dubliners**

In the story, **The Boarding House** a young clerk is seduced by the landlady's daughter.

Fiction Kallos, Stephanie

Kallos, Stephanie. **Broken for You**

Older, lonely woman, who has recently been diagnosed with a brain tumor, opens her Seattle mansion to boarders.

Fiction Kenaz, Yehoshua

Kenaz, Yehoshua. **Returning Lost Loves**

Lives intersect in a Tel Aviv apartment complex.

Fiction Leff, Valerie

Leff, Valerie. **Better Homes and Husbands**

Story about the residents of an exclusive prewar co-op building in New York City from the 1970s to the present day.

Fiction Levy, Andrea

Levy, Andrea. **Small Island**

Londoner Queenie Bligh, whose husband has not yet returned from his war-time post in India, takes in Jamaican boarders.

Fiction Lingard, Joan

Lingard, Joan. **The Women's House**

An octogenarian novelist, a middle-aged mime and a teenage runaway rent rooms in a ramshackle boardinghouse.

Mystery McCall Smith, Alexander

McCall Smith, Alexander. **44 Scotland Street**

Amusing chronicle of the lives of the inhabitants of a Edinburgh boarding house.

Mystery MacLeod, Charlotte

MacLeod, Charlotte. **The Withdrawing Room**

Boston landlady's most obnoxious boarder gets squashed by a subway train.

Mystery MacPherson, Rett

MacPherson, Rett. **A Misty Mourning**

Small-town genealogist/sleuth travels with her grandmother to West Virginia to visit a family friend who runs a boardinghouse but shortly after their arrival, their friend is found dead.

Fiction Mailer, Norman

Mailer, Norman. **Barbary Shore**

Young writer, suffering from amnesia due to a war wound, takes up residence in an unusual Brooklyn rooming house.

Fiction Malamud, Bernard

Malamud, Bernard. **The Tenants**

Two aspiring writers inhabiting an abandoned tenement find themselves locked in a deadly racial confrontation.

Fiction Maupassant, Guy de

Maupassant, Guy de. **The Sisters Rondoli: and other Stories**

In the story, **My Landlady**, a law student is caught *in flagrante delicto* by his landlady.

Fiction Maupin, Armistead

Maupin, Armistead. **Tales of the City**

Colorful residents populate Anna Madrigal's apartment house in San Francisco.

Fiction Michaels, Kasey

Michaels, Kasey. **The Butler Did It**

After a five-year absence, the Marquis of Westham returns home only to discover that his enterprising butler has rented out his house.

Fiction Mistry, Rohinton

Mistry, Rohinton. **Swimming Lessons and other Stories from Firozsha Baag**
Collection of stories set in Firozsha Baag, a Bombay apartment building.

Fiction Mooney, Bel

Mooney, Bel. **The Invasion of Sand**

Australian barmaid decides to take in boarders to provide her with protection and extra money.

Fiction Moore, Brian

Moore, Brian. **Judith Hearne**

Middle-aged spinster, reduced to boarding in bed-sitting houses, misinterprets a fellow boarder's interest in her.

Fiction Orwell, George

Orwell, George. **Keep the Aspidistra Flying**

Struggling poet is forced to live in squalid boardinghouses after giving up his job at an advertising agency on principle.

Fiction Paral, Vladimir

Paral, Vladimir. **Lovers & Murderers**

Story of the lives of the inhabitants of a chemical factory's employee housing complex.

Fiction Power, Nani

Power, Nani. **The Sea of Tears**

Tale of six lonely people whose lives intersect in a Washington, DC hotel.

Mystery Rendell, Ruth

Rendell, Ruth. **13 Steps Down**

Fitness-equipment repairman, obsessed with a famous serial murderer and a beautiful model, lodges in a crumbling London mansion owned by an elderly woman with obsessions of her own.

Fiction Rhys, Jean

Rhys, Jean. **Voyage in the Dark**

West Indian girl travels to England where she joins a second-rate theatrical touring company and lives in rented rooms.

Fiction Rinaldi, Nicholas

Rinaldi, Nicholas. **Between Two Rivers**

Portraits of the residents of Echo Terrace, a condo building in lower Manhattan.

Fiction Rule, Jane

Rule, Jane. **The Young in One Another's Arms**

When Ruth Wheeler's lodgers learn that her boardinghouse is to be torn down, they suddenly realize that they have become a family.

Fiction Schickler, David

Schickler, David. **Kissing in Manhattan**

A Gothic apartment building houses a group of young Manhattanites.

Mystery Smith, Carol

Smith, Carol. **The Neighbors**

Newspaper freelancer Kate Ashenberry moves into a Victorian apartment building in London, where a series of violent deaths soon follows.

Fiction Spark, Muriel

Spark, Muriel. **A Far Cry from Kensington**

Mrs. Hawkins remembers back to 1954 when she was a young war widow living in furnished rooms in South Kensington, London.

Fiction Suri, Manil

Suri, Manil. **The Death of Vishnu**

Apartment building is a microcosm of Indian society.

Fiction Taylor, Elizabeth

Taylor, Elizabeth. **Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont**

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Palfrey must cope with the indignities and loneliness of living at the Claremont Hotel.

Fiction Theroux, Paul

Theroux, Paul. **Hotel Honolulu**

A has-been writer is hired to manage the seedy Hotel Honolulu.

Fiction Trevor, William

Trevor, William. **Three Early Novels**

In the novella, **The Boarding House**, the owner of a boarding house dies, bequeathing it to two residents but with strings attached.

Fiction Tyler, Anne

Tyler, Anne. **Celestial Navigation**

After his mother dies, reclusive artist is forced to take in lodgers at his Baltimore row house.

Fiction Umrigar, Thrity

Umrigar, Thrity. **Bombay Time**

Longtime residents of a middle-class apartment building look back on their lives.