

NORTH CAROLINA NOVELS

The Piedmont

A Southern Exposure (1995)

Adams, Alice

At the end of the Great Depression, Harry and Cynthia Baird with their 11-year-old daughter move to Pinehill, NC from Connecticut. The novel traces their attempts to fit in to a Southern tightly woven community.

After the War (2000)

Adams, Alice

This novel continues the story begun in *Southern Exposure*. The time period covered is during and immediately after WW II.

Activist's Daughter (1997)

Bache, Ellyn

Beryl Rosinsky, from Washington, D.C., enrolls at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the early 1960's. She is drawn into the local Civil Rights protests. As a result of her own political awakening, she ends up with a deeper understanding and appreciation of her activist mother.

Stand by Your Man (2001)

Bartholomew, Nancy

The police questions Maggie Read, a country music singer, when her former husband disappears. In order to clear herself, she pursues the mystery on her own, becoming involved with the underside life in Greensboro, NC.

Souls Raised From the Dead (1994)

Betts, Doris

Mary Grace Thompson has a life-threatening kidney disease. The story takes us through the emotions and spiritual questioning a family faces during a tragedy. The novel is set in Carrboro, Hillsborough, Durham, Jacksonville, and Chapel Hill at the UNC hospital.

Hornet's Nest: A Novel of the Revolutionary War (2003)

Carter, Jimmy

This novel follows Ethan Pratt and his family through the Southern colonies during the American Revolution. When things turn bad in Georgia, Pratt migrates to North Carolina in search of cheap land and opportunity.

The Many Aspects of mobile Home Living (2000)

Clark, Martin

Judge Martin Wheeler agrees to help the no-good brother of a friend who is up on a drug charge. He is sucked into the lives of a group of strange characters on a mission to recover a bounty of stolen cash.

Hornet's Nest (1996)

Cornwell, Patricia

During an extremely hot summer in Charlotte, a number of tourists are murdered, and all are left with the mark of an hourglass on their bodies. Police chief Judy Hammer and her deputy Virginia West work with a young *Charlotte Observer* reporter Andy Brazil to uncover the facts of the case.

Far From the Tree (2001)

DeBerry, Virginia and Donna Grant

Sisters Celeste English and Ronnie Frazier learn that they have inherited an old house in Prosper, NC (fictional). They did not realize that the house even belonged to the family and decided to check it out for themselves before they sell it. They uncover old family secrets as they explore the house and Prosper.

Plant Life (2003)

Duncan, Pamela

This novel is the story of a group of women who work in the textile mill in the fictional town of Russell, NC. Laurel Granger, newly divorced, has returned from Las Vegas to care for her aging mother and begins to find romance again. The friendship and understanding she finds with the women she works alongside at the mill.

Divining Women (2004)

Gibbons, Kaye

In the fall of 1918 with the nation at war and a flu pandemic sweeping the country, Mary Oliver arrives to spend time with her aunt Maureen in fictional Elm City, NC. Maureen's troubles immediate and Mary takes it upon herself to save her aunt from her marriage to a cold and cruel husband. With the help of

relatives and relying on the strong women in the family's history, Mary and Maureen plan their escape.

Early Leaving (2004)

Goldman, Judy

The night he graduates from a prestigious private high school in Charlotte, NC, valedictorian Early Smallwood shoots and kills an African American teenager. This novel follows Early's mother Kathryne as she tries to understand the events of that night and reflects on Early's childhood, wondering if there was something she could have done in order to prevent the tragedy.

The Slow Way Back (1999)

Goldman, Judy

Thea McKee receives a packet of letters written by her grandmother more than 60 years ago. As she seeks help understanding the letters – they are written in Yiddish – Thea reflects upon three generations of her Southern Jewish family.

Captain Saturday (2002)

Inman, Robert

This is the story of Will Baggett, a popular weatherman in Raleigh, NC, whose life begins to crumble when in a short span of time he loses his job, his wife leaves him and he is arrested for a crime he didn't commit.

Laura Fleming Mysteries

Kelner, Toni L.P.

Laura Fleming is a computer programmer living in Boston with her husband, a Shakespeare professor at a local college. In nearly all of these novels Laura travels to her hometown of Byerly, NC, a fictional town in the western part of the state, and when she does, trouble breaks out. Time after time Laura's amateur detecting is called into play as she gets to the bottom of a murder.

Trouble Looking for a Place to Happen (1995)

Mad as the Dickens (2001)

Wed and Buried (2003)

The Justin and Cuddy Novels

Malone, Michael

Justin Savile V and Cuddy Mangum are police officers in the fictional town of Hillston, NC, a small college town described as "A Bright Star in the Flag of the New South." These novels are filled with observations about Hillston and its

citizens and provide an honest look at the continuing clash between contemporary southerners and the traditions and ideals of the Old South.

Uncivil Seasons (1983)

Time's Witness (1989)

First Lady (2001)

The Bridge (2001)

Marlette, Doug

Pick Cantreel has just moved from New York to his hometown in North Carolina. He learns about his family's connections to the textile industry, most notably his grandmother Lucy's involvement in a mill workers' strike in the 1930's.

St. Dale (2005)

McCrumb, Sharyn

This novel follows a group of unlikely friends on the Dale Earnhardt Memorial Pilgrimage. They travel to several of the sites of the late NASCAR legend and North Carolina native. In the course of their travels they visit Piedmont North Carolina, "the land of textile mills and furniture factories, of tobacco fields and hog farms – and race tracks."

The Casey Jones Mysteries

Munger, Katie

Casey Jones is a sassy, irreverent Durham-based detective. Due to a previous record she can't get a private investigator's license, so she operates with forged credentials, careful to keep just ahead of the law. These novels are set in North Carolina's Research Triangle.

Legwork (1997)

Money to Burn (1999)

Bad to the Bone (2000)

Silk Hope, NC (1994)

Naumoff, Laurence

The old farmhouse outside the small community of Silk Hope has passed from mother to daughter for generations. The original owners stipulated that only women could inherit the house. The current owners, Frannie and Natalie Vaughan are faced with a tough decision. The sisters couldn't be more different – Frannie is the wild one in the family, while practical Natalie comes up with the idea to sell the house and land.

***A Southern Tragedy, in Crimson and Yellow* (2005)**

Naumoff, Lawrence

This novel explores the tragic 1991 fire at a chicken plant in Hamlet, NC. Many workers died when they were locked in the building, unable to escape.

***Blanche Passes Go* (2000)**

Neely, Barbara

Blanche White is back in her hometown, fictional Farleigh, NC, located near Durham, to spend the summer working for a friend's catering company. Finding that her detective skills have preceded her, she is hired to investigate a prominent local family. Blanche views her hometown as an African American and provides a different look at the New South.

***A Short History of a Small Place* (1985)**

Pearson, T.R.

Louis Benfield is the narrator of this book portraying the people of Neely, NC, a fictional town. The style of this novel has been compared to the narrative style of William Faulkner.

The Shenandoah Sisters

Phillips, Michael

Two young women from very different backgrounds must rely on each other to survive following the Civil War in fictional Shenandoah County, NC. Mayme Jukes is a former slave whose family members were killed by Confederate soldiers. Katie Clairborne is the last person left on the once majestic Rosewood plantation.

Angles Watching Over Me (2003)

A Day to Pick Your Own Cotton (2003)

The Color of Your Skin Ain't the Color of Your Heart (2004)

Together Is All We Need (2004)

Temperance Brennan Mysteries

Reichs, Kathy

Dr. Temperance Brennan is a forensic anthropologist who divides her time between Charlotte, NC and Quebec. Her job calls her to the scenes of murders where she uses her technical expertise and old-fashioned detective work to unravel the usually complicated story behind the crimes.

Deja Dead (1997)

Death du Jour (1999)
Deadly Decisions (2000)
Fatal Voyage (2001)
Grave Secrets (2002)
Bare Bones (2003)
Monday Mourning (2004)

***When the Finch Rises* (2003)**

Riggs, Jack

Robert Williams, Jr. is the narrator of this novel. He is twelve-years-old and lives in Ellenton, a fictional NC mill town in 1968. His parents are deeply troubled and go between responsible parenting and neglect. His best friend, Palmer faces and abusive stepfather and a potential sexual predator in the family. The two boys find comfort in each other's company and in their shared fantasy of growing up and escaping from Ellenton.

The Professor Simon Shaw Mysteries

Shaber, Sarah

Professor Simon Shaw is a professor of history at a fictional college in downtown Raleigh. His specialty is historical anthropology; this leads him into being called into action to investigate long unsolved crimes.

Simon Said (1997)
Snipe Hunt (2000)
The Fugitive King (2002)
The Bug Funeral (2004)

***Here to Get My Baby Out of Jail* (2003)**

Shivers, Louise

Roxy Walston is a young wife and mother on a tobacco farm in Tarborough, NC in 1937. Roxy feels an instant attraction to Jack Ruffin who is hired to help with the harvest. She is soon faced with choices that may change her life forever.

***Horseplay* (2004)**

Singer, Judy Reene

Judy van Brunt quits her teaching job, leaves her philandering husband, and finds work at a North Carolina horse farm. She finds happiness much easier to come by in the simple world of horses.

***Change Baby* (2004)**

Spence, June

Avie Goss returns to her hometown to care for her elderly mother. She finds that the family relationships that she had known growing up turn out to be much more complicated than she had thought.

Broken as Things Are (2000)

Witt, Martha

Fourteen-year-old Morgan-Lee divides her summer between spending time with her autistic and occasionally abusive older brother and developing a crush on a childhood friend. The story is set in a town similar to the author's hometown of Hillsborough.