

Kevin Kwan retells
Forster's *A Room With A View* as
***Sex and Vanity* (2020)**

In classic Kwan style, this jaunt into the lives of the mega-rich is both a decadent romp and a moving tale of love and loss, missed opportunities, and social stigmas.

Zadie Smith retells
Forster's *Howard's End* as
***On Beauty* (2005)**

A story of a Massachusetts-based interracial family whose participation in the culture wars of both Europe and America leads them to a massive conflict between the strictly personal and the decidedly political.

Gregory Maguire retells
L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* as
***Wicked* (1995)**

Both a showstopping Broadway hit and now a blockbuster film, this gritty retelling of Baum's classic owes as much to modern politics and dark fantasy as it does to the original novel and film. Fans of the movie and musical may be shocked by the explicit moments, not to mention the depth of ugliness, evil, and pain in Maguire's Oz, but they may also fall deeper in love with the world and the witch.

Sandra Newman retells
George Orwell's *1984* as
***Julia* (2023)**

Both daring and thought-provoking, this feminist retelling of Orwell's classic from the perspective of his protagonist's enigmatic lover. Discover the truth behind the mysterious woman as her origins and place in one of the greatest dystopian novels of all time is brought to vivid life.

A SELECTION OF RETOLD FOLKTALES

Katherine Arden retells
The Russian Folktales about Vasilisa as
***The Bear and the Nightingale* (2017)**

Eowyn Ivey retells
The Medieval trans-European "The Snow Child" as
***The Snow Child* (2012)**

Helen Oyeyemi retells
The Brothers Grimm's "Snow White" as
***Boy, Snow, Bird* (2014)**

GennaRose Nethercott retells
The Russian Folktales about "Baba Yaga" as
***Thistlefoot* (2022)**



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FAVORITE RETELLINGS!



Great stories are not only a pleasure to read and re-read. They can also be a pleasure to reinvent—to make our own. What follows is a list of favorite tales and the authors who have reinvented them!

All the items mentioned on this list are available through the CLAMS system. **Items in bold are owned by the Eldredge Public Library.**

ANCIENT AUTHORS

Pat Barker retells
Homer's *Iliad* as
***The Silence of Girls* (2018)**

See the Trojan War from the perspective of Briseis, one-time queen and now concubine of Achilles. As an object of desire amongst the Greek leaders, she has unparalleled insight into the minds of Greek kings—and through her, we do, too.

Madeline Miller retells
Homer's *Odyssey* as
***Circe* (2018)**

In this award-winning tale, we see the world through the eyes of Circe, a goddess unlike any other. Her story is central to *The Odyssey* but expands well beyond it. This magical tale will have readers rethinking everything they know about heroes and gods.

Kamila Shamsie retells
Sophocles' *Antigone* as
***Home Fire* (2017)**

Set in the modern world, this adaptation of the famous ancient play explores the ties between sisters, the duty we owe our family and each other, and, most importantly, the true nature of the sacrifices on which our lives hinge.

MEDIEVAL AUTHORS

Bernard Cornwell retells Malory's
***Le Morte Darthur* as**
***The Warlord Chronicles* (1996-1998)**

Collected in three volumes (*The Winter King*, *The Enemy of God*, and *Excalibur*) these books are Cornwell's masterful retelling of the Legends of King Arthur. Deeply realistic without losing the magic, these are must-reads for any Arthurian fan!

Updated 2024

RENAISSANCE AUTHORS

**Libba Bray retells
Cervantes's *Don Quixote* as
Going Bovine (2009)**

In this psychedelic adaptation, Cam, a lackadaisical teen who has just been given a terminal diagnosis, is sent on a quest with a gamer dwarf and a garden gnome to figure out what he wasn't understanding about life in the first place.

**Julia Armfield retells
Shakespeare's *King Lear* as
Private Rites (2024)**

In a strange and magical land full of storms, three sisters come back together in the glass house their cruel father built. As they sort through the detritus of their father's life, the sisters' lives begin to unravel. This post-Lear take on the key figures in the play will challenge everything you thought you knew about the king's famous daughters.

**Edward St. Auben also retells
King Lear as *Dunbar* (2017)**

Henry Dunbar is the former CEO of one of the most powerful corporations in the world. He is stripped of his authority by his plotting daughters and confined to a nursing home against his will, he must escape into the Lake Country with only an alcoholic comedian as his companion. Will he find himself before his daughters or will the storms within and without destroy him?

**Tracy Chevalier retells
Shakespeare's *Othello* as
New Boy (2017)**

In a suburban Washington D.C. school in the 1970s, the tragedy of *Othello* plays itself out anew over the course of one day. Osei, the troubled son of a diplomat, immediately clicks with powerhouse Dee, much to the consternation of Ian.

**Margaret Atwood retells
Shakespeare's *The Tempest* as
Hag Seed (2016)**

Reduced to teaching theater to inmates, once-great director Felix decides on revenge. With only the memory of his long-dead daughter as his companion, he plots to gather all of his enemies to one place where he can punish them for bringing him low.

**Anne Tyler retells
Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* as
Vinegar Girl (2016)**

When Dr. Battista discovers that his essential but problematic lab assistant, Pyotr, is about to be deported, he concocts a plan that puts his outspoken daughter into a position that she refuses to submit to.

19th CENTURY AUTHORS

**Geraldine Brooks retells
Alcott's *Little Women* as
March (2005)**

If you have ever wondered about Mr. March, the absent father of Alcott's masterpiece, this novel is for you. Follow March as he idealistically enlists in the Civil War as an ardently abolitionist chaplain. But as his idealism is crushed by the brutality and hypocrisy of war, it is love that saves him.

**Curtis Sittenfeld retells
Austen's *Pride & Prejudice* as
Eligible (2016)**

After her father's health scare, Liz moves with him back to their family home in Cincinnati. Her sisters and mother all have familiar foibles and her life settles down until Chip Bingley hosts a bbq and invites his friend, the disagreeable Dr. Fitzwilliam Darcy.

**Barbara Kingsolver retells
Dickens's *David Copperfield* as
Demon Copperhead (2022)**

In this smash hit, Kingsolver transports Dickens's most famous protagonist to modern Appalachia. A masterful bildungsroman, this novel also exposes the challenges of poverty and the opioid epidemic.

**Percival Everett retells
Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as
James (2024)**

Told from the perspective of Huck's enslaved friend, Jim, this story is fueled by Everett's trademark wit and pacing. The author elevates Twain's creation and imbues him with depth and agency as we experience his quest for freedom alongside him.

20th CENTURY AUTHORS

**Haruki Murakami retells
Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* as
Killing Comendatore (2017)**

Less a retelling of *Gatsby* than a tribute, this novel traces the quest of a man who has been abandoned by his wife. His journey, in typical Murakami style, involves dreams and metaphors, magic and reality, and virtuosic writing.

**Nghi Vo also retells
Gatsby as *The Chosen and the Beautiful* (2021)**

Although Jordan Baker is born into the dizziest heights of privilege in 1920's society, she is also barred from enjoying much of its pleasures. As a queer, adopted, Asian child, she is treated as more of curiosity than a person. But in this world of magic, Jordan has secrets and powers of her own.