

WORK-RELATED FICTION

ARN Arnow, Harriette *The Dollmaker* (1954)

Gertie Nevels is uprooted from her home in the back hills of Kentucky during World War II, when she and her children must move to Detroit, where her husband has found work in a war factory and a place to live in a government housing project. Feeling lost and afraid in her strange new surroundings, Gertie fights to hold her family together and retain her rural values, finding consolation in the sculpture she is carving from the block of wood she has brought with her from Kentucky.

BEC Beck, Katherine *Bad Neighbors* (1996)

David and Anita Jamison's marriage has been strained since David lost his job and now cares for their home and children while Anita works to support the family. Depression and disillusionment have set in, tempers easily flare, and money is short. When super-efficient Sue Heffernan moves in next door and offers to help, it seems like a gift from heaven, but it soon becomes clear that Sue's aggression and need for control are far more sinister.

BLO Block, Brett Ellen *The Grave of God's Daughter* (2004)

In 1941, the heart of a tiny town on the Allegheny River is the struggling steel mill that provides employment to the community of Polish Catholic immigrants living there. The 12-year-old daughter of a mill worker and cleaning lady disguises herself as a boy to find work when her mother has to pawn a religious painting in order to pay the rent, but soon realizes it will take more than money to help her family's meager existence. In her work as a delivery "boy," she uncovers a secret that forces her to confront everything she holds dear.

BRE Breslin, Jimmy *Table Money* (1986)

Owney Morrison returns from Vietnam as a hero with a Congressional Medal of Honor. Back home now in Queens, he does the dangerous and back-breaking work of digging tunnels. His wife and baby leave him when he begins to lose his battle with alcoholism.

BRO Brown, Sandra *White Hot* (2004)

Sayre Lynch returns to Destiny, Louisiana for her brother Danny's funeral, and stays to investigate when it appears he may have been murdered, and evidence points to the possible involvement of family members caught up in a labor dispute at the family-owned foundry.

BUC Buckman, Daniel *Morning Dark* (2003)

Walt Michalski is a World War II veteran who made a fortune after the war as a plumbing contractor, only to have his Vietnam veteran son waste away his life, his inheritance, and the family business on drugs and a series of failed marriages.

BUN Bunn, T. Davis *The Great Divide* (2000)

Attorney Marcus Glenwood returns to his childhood home in North Carolina and is asked to investigate the case of a missing woman who was investigating human-rights abuses in China and may have been taken captive as a slave laborer herself.

COO Cookson, Catherine *The Glass Virgin* (1969)

Annabella Lagrange is the only child of a wealthy couple, raised on their estate in the English countryside. Her life is turned upside down when she reaches adulthood and discovers that she is really the daughter of a low-class prostitute. Feeling she has no claim to her upper-class upbringing, she runs away and begins a new life as a servant.

COO Cookson, Catherine *The Tide of Life* (1976)

Emily and Lucy Kennedy are orphans working as domestic servants on an upper-class farm. When the farmer and his wife both die, the sisters must hire themselves out elsewhere.

CRI Crichton, Michael *Airframe* (1996)

Casey Singleton, vice-president for quality assurance at Norton Aircraft, is called in to investigate the near air disaster of Flight 545. If Norton's design is to blame, its imminent deal with China may collapse, and Casey finds herself caught up in labor unrest, corporate and union politics, and a television network bent on discrediting the airline.

DAS Daswani, Kavita *The Village Bride of Beverly Hills* (2004)

Priya leaves her family in India to move to Los Angeles to start an arranged-marriage with a man she's never met. She is expected to follow the traditional role of a daughter-in-law and do all of the household chores, and is even made to get a job when she doesn't immediately get pregnant. But when she is promoted from receptionist to journalist at the entertainment magazine she works for, she begins to lead a double life.

DAV Davidson Jim *Mine Work* (1999)

When Markus Cottin loses his younger brother to suicide, he decides to get to the bottom of family secrets that have haunted him throughout his life. His search takes him to Colorado mining towns and the local Navajo reservation, where he witnesses the discrimination and exploitation the Navajo miners have been subjected to for years. When he discovers the involvement of his own family in bombings and the murder of a Navajo man, he continues to unthread the mystery until he comes face to face with the truth of his family and himself.

DEX Dexter, Pete *Brotherly Love* (1991)

In 1961 Philadelphia, the Irish Flood brothers control the union and the Italian Constantines control the streets. Peter Flood is eight years old when his sister is killed in a hit-and-run accident that leaves his grieving mother in a mental hospital. Ignoring Constantine's warning, Peter's father kills the driver responsible, a neighborhood cop who's on the take. When his father suddenly "disappears," Peter is taken by his uncle to be raised with his own son. The story comes full circle when Peter and his cousin take over the family "business" after his uncle is killed by the Italian mob.

DIC Dickens, Charles *David Copperfield* (1849)

Dickens drew on events from his own life to write the story of a young boy who leaves an unhappy, impoverished home to work in a factory, and the variety of characters, adventures, and tribulations he encounters on his journey to adulthood until he discovers his vocation as a novelist.

DIC Dickens, Charles *Hard Times* (1854)

Dickens' satire on the industrial revolution and its dehumanizing effect on workers.

DON Donnelly, Jennifer *The Tea Rose* (2002)

Growing up in the 1880s in London's East End, Fiona Finnegan, like her father, is employed by a local tea merchant. When her father tries to organize a workers' union, he is murdered, starting a string of tragedies for Fiona and her family. Fiona flees to America, vowing to avenge the man she holds responsible, and builds a business empire based on the tea trade, which gives her the means to do it.

DUN Dunn, Mark *Welcome to Higby* (2002)

Follows the kooky residents of a small town in northern Mississippi over Labor Day weekend in 1993.

EIS Eisenberg, Nora *Just the Way You Want Me* (2003)

Sam Vogel was a union organizer who refused to sign a loyalty oath and was branded "un-American" during the anti-Communism of the 1950s. When his daughter Betsy discovers years later that his body is not buried in the family plot, she begins a journey of discovery about her father, herself, and a dark period of our nation's history.

GAF Gaffney, Elizabeth *Metropolis* (2005)

In 1868 New York City, an educated German immigrant stonecutter takes a job working in the sewers and helps to build the Brooklyn Bridge.

GAU Gautreaux, Tim *Same Place, Same Things: stories* (1996)

A collection of stories that portray modern Cajun life, many focusing on the work people do - from repairmen to exterminators, from train engineers to farmers - in rural Louisiana.

GOL Gold, Emma *Hard* (2004)

Because she has decided that a person should like her job, Emma goes through several jobs before finding work at a temp agency that she enjoys: helping other people to find jobs. Now if she can get her love life in order.....

GOT Gotti, Victoria *The Senator's Daughter* (1997)

When union leader Joseph Sessio is murdered, district attorney Taylor Brooke is assigned to defend the young black man accused of the crime. Believing he has been set up, she sets out to investigate and uncovers corruption and secrets at the highest levels.

GRA Granger, Pip *Not All Tarts are Apple* (2002), *The Widow Granger* (2002), and *Trouble in Paradise* (2004)

Granger's thoroughly entertaining trilogy set in the Soho district of post-war London is filled with the escapades of pimps and prostitutes, lawyers and con men, healers and musicians – and at the center of it all is seven-year-old Rosie, who lives with her "adopted" aunt and uncle above their café.

M HAY Haymon, S. T. *Death of a Hero* (1996)

In this final installment of the Ben Jurnet series, the inspector investigates the death of the leader of a peaceful protest staged by 10,000 unemployed men.

HYN Hynes, James *Kings of Infinite Space* (2004)

Paul Trilby's affair has cost him his wife and academic career, and he finds himself working as an office temp, in this satire on modern office life. (Note: contains characters from *Queen of the Jungle* in the short story collection *Publish and Perish: Three Tales of Tenure and Terror*, 1997)

JIN Jin, Ha *In the Pond* (1998)

Talented artist Shao Bin has a job he hates in a fertilizer plant. When he is passed over in favor of party loyalists on the list to receive a larger apartment, he begins drawing cartoons that show his employers' faults, earning him their wrath but becoming popular with the masses.

JOH Johnston, Wayne *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams* (1999)

A biographical novel about Joe Smallwood, a union organizer and newspaperman who became Newfoundland's first premier.

JUS Just, Ward *An Unfinished Season* (1998)

In a postwar Chicago suburb, nineteen-year-old Wilson Ravan watches as his parents' marriage becomes more strained and his father works to defeat the union organizers behind the strike at his printing factory.

KEL Kelly, Thomas *Payback* (1997)

The construction business is booming in 1980s New York. In the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of Manhattan, the construction trade is run by the Irish mob. When the tunnel diggers' contract runs out, local enforcer Paddy Adare is caught in the middle of the mob and his brother's diggers.

KEL Kelly, Thomas *The Rackets* (2001)

Jimmy Dolan is fired from his position of advance man for New York's mayor after getting in a scuffle with the local Teamsters boss, and finds himself back working construction. When his father is murdered while running against that boss for president of the union, Jimmy must decide between his father's honor and the rank and file workers.

KEL Kelman, James *Busted Scotch: Selected Stories* (1997)

The stories in this collection are set in the homes, pubs, and industrial workplaces of working-class neighborhoods of Scotland and England.

KEM Kemske, Floyd *Labor Day: a Corporate Nightmare* (2000)

In this satire about greed and mismanagement in the modern corporate environment, young organizer Gregg Harsh attempts to unionize the staff of a large national union and union president brings in renowned union buster Stillman Colby to stop him.

MAJ Major, Clarence *Dirty Bird Blues* (1996)

A tale of post-war black America through the eyes of Manfred Banks, who drifts from Chicago to Omaha, seeking solace in a bottle of whiskey as he tries to realize his dream of becoming a blues musician.

MAS Masiel, David *2182 kHz* (2002)

Henry Seine makes his living on the tugs and icebreakers of Alaska's frigid North Slope. One day, he hears a fading distress signal over the emergency frequency 2182 kHz. Scientist Louis Moneymaker is trapped on a melting ice floe, and Seine and his crew set out to rescue him.

M MCD McDermid, Val *Conferences are Murder* (1999)

In this fourth in the lesbian mystery series, Lindsay Gordon returns to her British homeland for a trade union conference, where she exchanges insults with union boss Tom Jack. When he turns up dead the next morning, Lindsay becomes the prime suspect, and must find the real killer in order to clear her name.

MCI McIntosh, Matthew *Well* (2003)

A haunting novel of men and women – bartenders, boxers, fishermen, mothers, exotic dancers – who are each lost in darkness and despair.

MCM McMillan, Rosalyn *Blue Collar Blues* (1998)

An African American plant manager and a young blue collar worker find their friendship threatened as they are caught up in the escalating tensions as Champion Motors begins shutting down plants and laying off workers.

MES Messina, Lynn *Tallulahland* (2004)

Tallulah is a talented designer, who drudges her days away until one day she discovers that her mother has left her land, which she sells and uses the money to set up her own designing business.

OCA O'Carroll, Brendan *Agnes Browne* series: *The Mammy* (1994), *The Chisellers* (1995), *The Granny* (1996), and *The Young Wan* (2003) This series tells the story of Agnes Browne, who sells vegetables in a street market in Dublin in order to support her family.

OLS Olsen, Tillie *Yonnondio: from the Thirties* (1974)

The Holbrook family struggles to survive the Depression by mining coal in Wyoming, farming in South Dakota, and migrating to Chicago to find work.

M PAR Paretsky, Sara *Fire Sale* (2005)

In this thirteenth of the V.I. Warshawski series, V.I. returns to her high school to coach the girls basketball team. When a small factory in the old neighborhood is sabotaged, V.I. agrees to investigate, and finds herself caught up in a deadly conflict between a mega-discount chain and the poor residents of South Chicago.

M PAR Paretsky, Sara *Indemnity Only* (1982)

In this first of the series, private investigator V.I. Warshawski is hired by the head of Chicago's biggest bank to find his son's missing girlfriend, and soon finds herself up against the worst of the city's white-collar criminals.

PEA Pearson, Allison *I Don't Know How She Does It: the Life of Kate Reddy, Working Mother* (2002) Londoner Kate Reddy tries to juggle home, work, children, and husband in this at times funny, at times sad, novel about modern working mothers.

PET Petrakis, Harry Mark *Twilight of the Ice* (2003)

Greek immigrant Mike Zervakis is a railroad car iceman, a soon-to-be obsolete profession with the advent of refrigeration, in this story of struggle and redemption set in 1950s Chicago.

PRO Proulx, Annie *That Old Ace in the Hole* (2002)

A young man takes a job locating land in the Texas and Oklahoma panhandle that can be used by his company for hog farms, and learns the hard way what the old owners will go through to hold onto their land.

ROS Rosenthal, Pam *The Bookseller's Daughter* (2004)

Following her father's death, Marie-Laure has to leave their bookstore and the literary life she adores to become a scullery maid in an aristocratic household in this novel set just before the French Revolution.

M ROZ Rozan, S. J. *A Bitter Feast* (1998)

In this fifth of the series, Lydia Chin and Bill Smith are hired to investigate the case of four missing waiters who worked at a popular dim sum restaurant, and discover a hefty trade involving the importation of illegal aliens as cheap labor to prevent the unionization of Chinese restaurant workers.

RUS Russo, Richard *Empire Falls* (2001)

Chronicles the lives of citizens of Empire Falls, Maine, a small mill town abandoned by the industries that provided its citizens with their livelihood.

RYL Rylands, Jane Turner *Venetian Stories* (2003)

Everything is connected in this book of twelve stories set in Venetian society: *Postman, Architect, Collector, Contessa, Socialite, Mason, Visitor, Mayor, Interpreter, Gondolier, Lord, and Mother.*

SEE See, Carolyn *The Handyman* (1999)

Robert Hampton is an internationally recognized artistic talent who becomes a handyman because he doesn't know what to paint, and ends up fixing people's lives as well as their homes.

M SHE Sheard, Timothy *Some Cuts Never Heal* (2003)

When a pharmaceutical representative is found dead in a patient's bed, Lenny Moss, hospital maintenance worker, union rep, and amateur sleuth, is called in to investigate.

SHE Sherburne, James *Poor Boy and a Long Way from Home* (1984)

Glen Hatton is a teenage drifter when he meets up with the leader of the International Workers of the World, and goes through an apprenticeship of con games before becoming involved in the budding movie industry in California.

SHR Shreve, Anita *Sea Glass* (2002)

When the stock market crashes and newly-married Sexton loses his job, he finds menial work in the nearby mills, where he meets a group of workers wanting to form a union.

SIN Sinclair, Upton *The Jungle* (1906) (also in GN by Peter Kuper)

The classic novel about the plight of immigrant workers in the Chicago stockyards.

SLE Slezak, Ellen *Last Year's Jesus: a Novella and Nine Stories* (2002)

Set in the Detroit area, these stories focus on the hopes and fears of working-class Polish Americans.

SOJ Sojourner, Mary *Delicate: Stories* (2001)

These stories, set in the Southwest, feature middle-aged, blue-collar women who remain steadfast to their hopes while struggling with jobs and family.

STE Steel, Danielle *Changes* (1983)

Following a disastrous first marriage, TV anchorwoman Melanie Adams falls in love with heart surgeon Peter Hallam, and must choose between her career, Peter, and her family.

STE Steinbeck, John *Cannery Row* (1945)

The story of the less fortunate inhabitants of a run-down area of Monterey, California.

STE Steinbeck, John *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939)

The classic story of the Joad family of Oklahoma, who are forced to leave their home during the Depression to find migrant work in California.

STE Steinbeck, John *In Dubious Battle* (1936)

Jim Nolan finds himself caught up in the turmoil of a strike by migrant workers in California.

STE Steinbeck, John *The Winter of our Discontent* (1961)

The story of Ethan Hawley, a descendent of New England seafarers, who works as a clerk in a grocery store, and the moral crisis he one day faces.

STO Stone, Irving *Adversary in the House* (1947)

A fictionalized biography of labor leader Eugene V. Debs.

TAN Tanenbaum, Robert K. *Absolute Rage* (2002)

In this 14th of the series, New York assistant district attorney Butch Karp and his wife, Marlene Ciampi, investigate the murders of a Teamster and his family.

M WES Westlake, Donald E. *The Road to Ruin* (2004)

In this eleventh of the John Dortmunder series, Dortmunder's hapless gang of thieves hatches a plan to obtain jobs as live-in staff to a wealthy corporate CEO in order to steal his collection of classic antique cars.

WHI Whitehead, Colson *The Intuitionist* (1999)

Black female elevator inspector Lia Mae Watson must prove that her way of inspecting – intuition, rather than visual observation - is not at fault when an elevator in a new city building crashes.

WIN Wingate, Lisa *Lone Star Cafe* (2004)

Workaholic journalist Laura Draper is in Texas on business when she finds herself having a mini-breakdown outside the Lone Star Cafe