

MALTA

A beautiful Mediterranean archipelago

Nowhere in the world is there a place quite like Malta—where knights, myths, and the warmth of the sun weave together a story centuries in the making.



Malta, with its rich history, unique culture, and breathtaking landscapes, has inspired countless stories and nurtured talented writers who bring its essence to life. Whether you're exploring Maltese literature for the first time or looking for your next read, here's a selection of works by Maltese authors and books set in Malta that will transport you to the heart of this Mediterranean gem.

Maltese Authors: Voices of the Islands

Maltese authors have a knack for weaving stories that capture the islands' blend of history, mythology, and contemporary life. Here are a few standouts:

- **Immanuel Mifsud:** One of Malta's most celebrated authors, Mifsud is known for his poignant and lyrical prose. His book *In the Name of the Father (and of the Son)* won the European Union Prize for Literature and explores themes of family, identity, and memory.
- **Pierre J. Mejlak:** Mejlak's *Having Said Goodnight*, another EU Prize for Literature winner, is a collection of short stories filled with humour, melancholy, and unforgettable characters.
- **Clare Azzopardi:** Azzopardi's writing spans genres, from children's literature to thought-provoking adult fiction, such as *Others*, *Across*, which explores the lives of Maltese women across generations.



Books Set in Malta: The Island as a Character

Malta's unique geography and history make it a compelling backdrop for fiction and non-fiction alike:

- ***The Sword and the Scimitar* by David Ball:** This historical epic plunges readers into the Siege of Malta in 1565, a defining moment in European and Ottoman history. Ball's vivid descriptions bring the island's medieval past to life.
- ***The Information Officer* by Mark Mills:** Set during World War II, this gripping novel intertwines a murder mystery with the brutal realities of Malta's time as a strategic Allied base under relentless bombing.
- ***Fatal Isle* by Frank Lean:** A crime thriller with twists and turns, this book paints a vivid picture of modern-day Malta, showcasing its beauty and hidden shadows.

Beyond Fiction: Non-Fiction and Cultural Insights

For those who prefer non-fiction, Malta's rich tapestry of history and culture is explored in works such as:

- ***The Story of Malta* by Mabel Strickland:** A detailed overview of the islands' storied past, perfect for history buffs.
- ***The People of Malta* by Matthew Mirabelli:** A photographic journey capturing the diversity and spirit of the Maltese people.



Bookshops, Libraries & Publishers

Malta boasts a vibrant literary scene supported by independent bookshops, historic libraries, and local publishers. Iconic bookstores like Agenda Bookshop and Miller Distributors offer a mix of international bestsellers and Maltese literature, while Merlin Publishers and Midsea Books champion local authors and publish works in both English and Maltese. For those seeking a deep dive into Malta's literary heritage, the National Library of Malta in Valletta houses centuries-old manuscripts, making it a must-visit for book lovers.



Why Read Maltese Literature?

Reading books from or about Malta offers a unique lens into its layered identity. Through its literature, you'll uncover the resilience and creativity of a small nation that has been at the crossroads of civilisations for centuries.

Where to Start?

Whether you're drawn to historical fiction, contemporary narratives, or cultural explorations, there's something in Maltese literature for everyone. Begin with Immanuel Mifsud's lyrical works or dive into Mark Mills' wartime intrigue. Better yet, let the spirit of Malta guide your choices.

Have you read any books by Maltese authors or set in Malta? Share your favourites in the comments—I'd love to add more titles to this growing list!

