



## Dual Plot Historical Fiction

The ending point can be the most challenging part of a dual plot novel. It is the point where both plots intersect at the end resolving the conflict in a rich and meaningful way that leaves a lasting imprint on the reader. How is this done?

### Model 1:

Plot A: Present time (specific place and persons)

Plot B: Past time (specific place and persons, ancestors of Plot A character?)

Ending: Crossing paths with family history, an item, historical event, secret family recipe for dumplings. You get the idea; it can be anything that brings the two plots together and makes sense in the setting of both plots. Examples: *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn, *The Paris Secret* by Natasha Lester, or *Timeline* by Michael Crichton.

### Model 2:

Plot A: Past time (specific location and people)

Plot B: Past time (different location and people)

Ending: Main character and an outside element, both sides of a historic event end by crossing paths of both plots to tie up the end. Examples: *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah, *Braveheart* by Randall Wallace, or *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark T. Sullivan.

### Model 3:

Plot A: Future time (specific time and location)

Plot B: Past time (specific time and location, can represent the present time)

Ending: Often a cross of Sci Fi and Historical Fiction where a future event is based on an event in the past and helps resolve the issue in the future. This model is rarely used because it is so difficult to make it work. However, if used correctly it can be excellent. Example: *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home* where they return to the present to repopulate whales in the future to respond to an alien probe. This film also made an early environmental statement about the possible consequences of allowing a species to go extinct. Additional example: *Inherit the Stars* by James P. Hogan.

### Model 4:

Plot A: Past time (specific time and location, focus on the primary character's journey)

The single plot model is the traditional model in historical fiction. It focuses on the main character as they work through the obstacles of a historical event to reach their goal. This plot style is the basis for many of the historical fiction novels made into films. Examples include the following: *Saving Private Ryan* by Max Allen Collins, *Shindler's List* by Thomas Keneally, *Gladiator* by Dewey Gram, *Patton* by Frances Ford Coppola and Edmund H. North, *U-571* by Max Allen Collins, *Lincoln* by Gore Vidal, *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell.

