

Coming Soon

Sarah Addison Allen

The Peach Keeper

Within the community of Walls of Water, NC, famous for its fog and its beautiful mountains, there are more secrets hiding in the town than most people could guess.

Louis Bayard

The School of Night

Outcast scholar Henry Cavendish has been hired by an antiquities collector to search for a missing letter that dates back to the 1600s. If found, this letter might prove the existence of the School of Night, a group who met to discuss God, politics, and the black arts during the Elizabethan era.

Elizabeth Berg

Once Upon a Time, There Was You

Divorced couple John and Irene barely speak until something awful happens to their beloved 16-year-old daughter, Sadie.

Maeve Binchy

Minding Frankie

Recovering alcoholic Noel agrees to take care of the child his terminally-ill, ex-girlfriend is carrying. With the help of his friends, he takes on his ward and things are fine until a prim social worker intervenes.

Suzanne Brockmann

Breaking the Rules

Navy SEAL Izzy Zanella and wife Eden Gillman are estranged and barely civil, but they agree to reconcile so that they can obtain custody of Eden's little brother.

Harlan Coben

Live Wire

Sports agent Myron Bolitar is back, facing down a pregnant former tennis star whose rock star husband, Lex, has vanished. Was Lex starting to doubt that he was the baby's dad?

Jack Coughlin

An Act of Treason

Marine sniper Kyle Swanson and his girlfriend, CIA agent Lauren Carson, have a traitor in their midst. Jim Hall, Swanson's mentor, is selling secrets to a Pakistani warlord and is intent on making al Qaeda a legitimate political party. But first, Hall must get rid of Swanson to make things work.

Charles Cumming

The Trinity Six

The famed Cambridge spy ring starring Anthony Blunt and Kim Philby was rumored to have a sixth man, who was never identified. Modern Russian history scholar Sam Gaddis's good friend thinks she knows the identity of the guy. What if she suddenly ends up dead? Sam must investigate.

P. T. Deutermann

Pacific Glory

Friends from the Naval academy, Marsh, Mick, and Tommy each meet different fates after Pearl Harbor. Tommy is killed in action and the beautiful Glory, his new bride, ends up as an uncompromising Navy nurse. Meanwhile, Marsh is involved in combat from Guadalcanal to Leyte Gulf, and finally, fighter pilot Mick's drunken bravado gets him grounded.

Rachel DeWoskin

Big Girl Small

Judy Lohden is a potential star at the local performing arts high school she attends except for a scandal she's caused, possibly related to her being under four feet tall.

Carol Edgarian

Three Stages of Amazement

Just married, Lena Rusch and Charlie Pepper anticipate a golden future but encounter everyday tragedies from economic woes to a stillborn child. Meanwhile, Lena's Silicon Valley uncle, Cal, and his wife, Ivy, create troubles of their own.

Linda Fairstein

Silent Mercy

Prosecutor Alexandra Cooper is called to the scene of a murder at a Baptist church. When a second corpse is found at a cathedral in Little Italy, Alex begins an investigation that leads her into the path of danger.



Coming Soon

Cara Hoffman

So Much Pretty

Inspired by a true story, this novel deals with domestic violence and a community's sacrifice of an individual's well-being in order to keep the peace.

Jonathan Kellerman

Mystery

Mystery is the nickname of a young woman who is found mutilated to death. When Alex Delaware sees her at the crime scene, he realizes that he has seen this girl alive before—two nights ago at a restaurant.

Linda Francis Lee

Emily and Einstein

Emily's husband has died, and she's learned that he was not who she thought he was. When she's about to be evicted from her glamorous New York apartment, relief comes in the form of a wacky dog named Einstein.

Donna Leon

Drawing Conclusions

Commissario Guido Brunetti is on his 20th case. When an old woman is found dead, the bruises on her body are thought to have come as she collapsed to the ground after a heart attack, but Brunetti is suspicious.

Henning Mankell

The Troubled Man: A Kurt Wallander Mystery

When a retired naval officer disappears after a stroll in the forest, Kurt Wallander is eager to help find the gentleman who is his daughter's father-in-law.

Michelle Moran

Madame Tussaud: A Novel of the French Revolution

Madame Marie is asked to teach the art of wax sculpting to the sister of Louis XVI—an association that nearly costs her her own head when the revolution comes.

Isaac Marion

Warm Bodies

A zombie falls for a human girl and decides to turn around his...life.

S. J. Parris

Prophecy

When Queen Elizabeth's maid of honor turns up dead, blame is placed on the alignment of Jupiter and Saturn—an event only occurring every 1000 years. The queen calls in her astrologer, John Dee, and Dominican monk Giordano Bruno to find out what really caused her maid's death.

Anne Perry

Treason at Lissou Grove

Charlotte and Thomas Pitt track an informer's murderer to France and also help the head of the London Special Branches, who's discovered that a shadow from his past is about to rise again and strike.

Taylor Stevens

The Informationist

Born in Africa to missionary parents, Vanessa Monroe became a gunrunner at age 14. Now an adult who investigates for CEOs and heads of state, Vanessa is asked by a Texas oil billionaire to return to Africa and find his lost daughter.

James Thompson

Lucifer's Tears

Finnish inspector Kari Vaara gets caught up in two apparently different cases: the investigation of a 90-year-old national hero for war crimes and the torture killing of a Russian businessman's cheating wife, whose lover seems to have been framed.

Carol Wallace

Leaving Van Gogh

Van Gogh's final days are told from the perspective of his dedicated psychiatric doctor, Paul-Ferdinand Gachet.

Meg Wolitzer

The Uncoupling

In Aristophanes's "Lysistrata," the women cease relations with their men until the men stop waging war. When the Stellar Plains High School stages the play, all females at the school also lose interest in romancing of any sort.

Poisonous

When working-class college student and expert linguist Karen Clarke agrees to tutor the rich, free-spirited orphan actress Biba Capel, she soon becomes addicted to Biba's bohemian lifestyle and crazy mix of friends. Karen also finds herself attracted to Biba's brother Rex, who is fiercely protective of Biba. Together, as they all live in their crumbling down mansion in Highgate, Karen learns that the Capel family has many secrets. But when Rex goes to prison for murder, Karen keeps the biggest secret of all.

Debut novel, *The Poison Tree* by Erin Kelly is a dark, compelling story of psychological suspense told in alternating chapters ten years apart. Not only will you not want to put it down, you'll want to discuss the ending with your friends.

—Evelyn Janoch

Get Cozy!

Cat Sitter Among the Pigeons by Blaize Clement is the new entry in the mystery series featuring Dixie Hemingway, former deputy and current pet-sitter. Dixie's client, Mr. Stern and his cat Cheddar, provide a home for granddaughter Ruby and great-granddaughter Opal. On one of her twice daily visits Dixie meets Ruby, estranged wife of famous drag racer Zach Carlyle, and falls in love with little Opal. Ruby is scheduled to testify against her former boss, Ponzi schemer Myra Kriegle. Mr. Stern's house is set on fire and the baby is kidnapped. Opal's life is in danger if Ruby decides to go ahead and testify. Zach, his friends, and Dixie execute a daring rescue. The guilty are tried and imprisoned, and the young Carlyle family is reunited.

It's all here: fraud, arson, kidnapping, rescue, and a little romance. The sixth entry in the Dixie Hemingway mystery series is a great adventure.

—Emma Dittmar

A Lady Out of Her Element

Based on real events, *The Mistress of Nothing* by Kate Pullinger is a historical novel set in the 1860s. Lady Duff Gordon is an unconventional woman by Victorian standards as an intellectual, traveler and translator of literature. When tuberculosis forces her to warmer climates, she leaves her family behind and travels to the heat of Egypt with only her maid Sally Naldrett. Once there, both women learn to speak Arabic, and shedding their corsets, they adopt native dress.

Meanwhile Sally, a spinster in England, has fallen in love with the freedom that Egypt has given to her. Unfortunately though, when Sally also finds romance, her mistress's usual permissiveness is not shown, and an incensed Lady Duff Gordon demands that Sally return to England. Set against the lush backdrop of Egypt, *The Mistress of Nothing* chronicles the choices of two very different women and delivers a rich treat that readers will savor until its last page.

—Carol O'Keefe

Love is Just a Tweet Away...

Can a person find love, understanding, and the way to end a writer's block through online social networking sites? In *Goodnight Tweetheart: A Love Story in 140 Characters or Less* by Teresa Medeiros, Abby Donovan is determined to find out if she can. When her publicist signs her up for a Twitter account, Abby, who is struggling to finish her second novel, agrees to try it out. Told mainly through tweets and direct messaging, Abby meets and shares her life with Mark Baynard, a college professor on sabbatical touring Europe. Through their shared interests of pop culture and books, they quickly develop an intimate online relationship but can they move this relationship into the real world? Fans of Lisa Kleypas should not miss this delightful contemporary romance!

—Donna Zmrazek

Between the Covers features a taste of what you'll find in The Reading Room, our browsing database of over 7,000 titles that have been read and reviewed by our own library staff. Click on The Reading Room on our website or go to <http://readingroom.rrpl.org> to use this special service.

ALTERNATIVE HISTORY

Shades of Milk and Honey

Mary Robinette Kowal

In an alternate style Regency Era England, Miss Jane Ellsworth can create beautiful glammers that are the height of fashion, but her sister Melody was born with true physical beauty. The question for these two sisters becomes, which kind of beauty is more desirable in a wife?

A lovely story of mostly charming characters, but it includes a few dastardly men to make things interesting and wondrous, magical artistic creations. The drawing room drama has a nice amount of tension and the end is surprisingly action-packed.

TEEN FICTION

Virals

Kathy Reichs

Fourteen-year-old Tory Brennan, great-niece to renowned forensic anthropologist Temperance Brennan, lives on a remote island off the coast of South Carolina. While exploring the island she and her friends discover a set of dog tags, which leads them to an unsolved murder and a secret experiment being conducted on a wolf-dog pup. After stealing the pup from the lab, the teens are exposed to an experimental strain of the parvovirus which has some unexpected effects. These side effects come in handy when someone tries to stop them from solving the decades-old murder.

This is a nice blend of action/adventure, mystery, and science fiction. It's suspenseful without being scary, devoid of romance, and has only an occasional mild curse, making it a nice selection for middle school readers.

HISTORICAL FICTION

Maid to Match

Deanne Gist

Tillie is a housemaid at the Vanderbilt's Biltmore mansion but is hoping to move up the ranks and become lady's maid to Mrs. Vanderbilt. However, her lifelong dream may be derailed by a growing attraction between her and the new servant Mack Danver. Mack is only acting as a domestic to raise money to get his sister out of the local orphanage but after meeting Tillie, his next goal is getting her to marry him.

A sweet story with interesting details on life in the Vanderbilt mansion and the army of servants it took to make that opulent lifestyle possible.

SUSPENSE

Secrets to the Grave

Tami Hoag

When single mother and artist Melissa Fordham is brutally murdered in the small town of Oak Knoll, California, her young daughter Haley, still in critical condition, may be able to identify the killer. No one in the area knows who Haley's father is. Former teacher and child psychologist Ann Navarre Leon and her new husband, a retired FBI profiler, take over Haley's care and become targets of the killer.

*Sequel to **Deeper Than the Dead**, but it can stand alone. You'll welcome the return of the characters from the first book as well as the quick pacing and a story with lots of plot twists that will keep you guessing until the last page.*

Law of Attraction

Alison Leotta

New assistant district attorney Anna Curtis learns that she will be going up against her attorney boyfriend in a murder case involving domestic violence, and she makes a decision that could jeopardize her career.

An entertaining first novel—full of intrigue, murder, surprises, and even some romance. The author presents a gritty, realistic picture of the courtroom as well as behind-the-scenes dealings.

Between the Covers...

FICTION

Our Tragic Universe

Scarlett Thomas

Meg is an author working on her "real" novel while writing book reviews and churning out series science fiction books to pay her rent and to support her slacker boyfriend, Christopher. Because she's pretty sure she no longer loves Christopher, she is entertaining the idea of an affair with Rowan, the older married director of a local museum. When Meg accidentally reviews a book by a psychoanalyst who suggests that we are all already dead, trying to navigate our way from this world, she finds the book influencing the choices she makes.

While this book is more philosophical than narrative fiction, it is filled with fine writing and is nearly impossible to put down. Recommended for fans of the writing process and novels that stray off the beaten path.

The Cookbook Collector

Alegra Goodman

This story of two sisters who are complete opposites borrows from a classic recipe (think Austen's **Sense and Sensibility**). It is adapted for modern assimilation with a hint of Y2K, a dollop of dot.com boom-and-bust cycles, and even a smack of the 911 attacks. Its rich flavors entice us to seek and appreciate what is meaningful in life and to savor the experience.

With its oodles of characters and slew of themes, this tempting concoction is neither too overpowering nor too thin. Its talented author has brewed a truly satisfying read and an entertaining experience. Bon appétit!

The False Friend

Myla Goldberg

Twenty years ago, 32-year-old Chicago professional Celia Durst watched her best friend, Djuna, disappear in the woods in their small upstate New York town. When Celia experiences a flashback of the event, she returns to her hometown to admit to her level of involvement in the girl's disappearance.

This haunting and suspenseful read explores the topics of middle school bullying and the repression of memories. An emotional read that will stay with you long after you've finished the last breathtaking pages.

MYSTERY

Liar Liar: A Pants on Fire Mystery

K. J. Larsen

Private Detective Caterina "Cat" DeLuca is paid to get the dirt on cheating husbands, so when she's hired to follow good-looking Chance Savino, she doesn't complain—until she's almost blown up in an explosion. Now, the Feds and anonymous phone callers are telling Cat to call off the dogs and that Savino is dead. Cat's curiosity is piqued, and she definitely remembers talking to a very-alive Savino before she blacked out. It's too late to turn back now, and Cat has something to prove—her sanity.

Fast-paced, with a strong female lead and competing love interests, this mystery is perfect for fans of Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum series. Don't miss this action-packed caper, the first in a planned series.

Bury Your Dead

Louise Penny

When the novel starts, Chief Inspector Gamache is on leave of absence and is visiting an old friend in Quebec. As the story unfolds, we learn of the horrible incident that led to his leave; we also learn of his investigation into the murder of a Champlain enthusiast, which is causing tension between the English and French communities.

Penny's latest is a great mystery to read during these wintery days. Not only is it set in icy Quebec, but the mystery is enthralling, involving history and current political trends.

Following Polly

Karen Bergreen

Alice Teakle has just lost her thankless job as assistant to an evil, high-maintenance casting director when she begins stalking her old Harvard classmate Polly Dawson, now a famous celebrity. What begins out of boredom quickly becomes a bigger problem when Polly is killed, and Alice becomes the prime suspect in her murder. Now on the run from the law, Alice 'hires' Charlie, her college-era romantic fantasy-man to help her exonerate herself. Can Charlie save her from prison? And would he want to date an accused killer when this is all over?

A laugh-out-loud, clever, multi-layered whodunit. With an atmospheric New York setting, this blend of chick lit and mystery is very enjoyable. Perfect for vacation or weekend reading.

...25 Years and Counting!

The Wake of Forgiveness

Tack oil and oats. The scent of horses and barns. The essence of these lingers at the edges of ***The Wake of Forgiveness*** by Bruce Machart. Vaclav Skala is left bitter and hard when, in 1895, his wife dies giving birth to his fourth son. Tied to the land in south Texas, Skala shows affection only to his race horses, reserving the best oats for them and keeping them out of the field. Instead of his horses, he tethers his sons to the plow to work the fields. Karel, the youngest son, especially resents the sting of his father's harsh ways. As he grows into manhood Karel's life both mimics and departs from his father's, but is always close to the land and always to the horses. This debut novel by Machart, who is a graduate of the MFA program at Ohio State University, puts one in mind of other novels of the West by Annie Proulx or Kent Haruf.

—Ann Jackson

A Post-Apocalyptic Fantasy

In ***Bearers of the Black Staff*** by Terry Brooks, it is five hundred years after the war that devastated the United States. Immediately following the war, the boy savior known as Hawk led survivors to live in a valley. The borders of the valley are protected with powerful magic.

When two trackers from the valley, Panterra and Prue, discover the mangled bodies of two of their friends, they know that the creatures that killed them could only have come from the outside world. They decide to tell the town council. Members of the council are very hostile and refuse to believe the report. Fearing for their lives Panterra and Prue leave the valley and walk into an unknown future. Terry Brooks will continue and conclude this enthralling adventure story in ***The Measure of the Magic*** due to be published in 2011.

—Janet Sponseller

The Beat Goes On

When Piper Vaughn is given the opportunity to manage the hottest rock band at her school, she begrudgingly accepts the challenge. Her job is to get Dumb a paying gig within a month, which is easier said than done. The band consists of five members with varying degrees of talent who are ready to self-destruct at any moment. Managing the personalities of Dumb is nearly impossible, but the trickiest part of Piper's job is promoting a band she can't even hear.



While Piper's disability doesn't stop her at school and with the band, it has been causing tension at home ever since her parents used her college fund to pay for cochlear implants for her baby sister. Mourning the loss of the deaf connection with her sister, angry at a father who doesn't sign, and missing her best friend, Piper throws herself into the band. It's a rocky road to Dumb's first paid performance, but along the way Piper discovers Kurt Cobain, Jimi Hendrix, and the real Piper Vaughn. She learns that you just have to feel the music to be a rock star. ***Five Flavors of Dumb*** by Antony John is an inspiring feel-good read and impossible to put down.

—Megan Alabaugh

Life in Snail Time

Elisabeth Tova Bailey's first book, ***Sound of a Wild Snail Eating***, is part natural history, part memoir. It tells of the author's battle with a devastating illness and the little snail that made such a huge difference in that struggle. Intriguing and inspiring, this book is filled with information on an amazing little creature and the amazing perseverance of Bailey.

—Julie Mortensen

Between the Covers...

A Life in the West

When my bird feeder draws cardinals, chickadees, woodpeckers, and pesky squirrels, I think it has been quite the day for wildlife. Pulitzer Prize winner Annie Proulx, 75, writes in ***Bird Cloud: A Memoir*** of a far more varied natural world. Bird Cloud is the name she gave to her more than 600 acres of land in Wyoming, a beautiful and breathtaking place. The creatures she sees are eagles, falcons, owls, moose, and the occasional mountain lion.

Proulx hires an architect to design the home of her dreams for Bird Cloud. Her descriptions of the frustrations she encounters with the architect and various contractors are priceless. At one point she truly believes that the project will bankrupt her. Through it all Annie forges enduring friendships with a group of Wyoming craftsmen she calls the James Gang.

Readers looking for intimate details of Proulx's life will not find them here. Those satisfied with enjoying her gorgeous prose will be truly rewarded. Proulx's memoir sparkles as brilliantly as the sun on the North Platte River.

—Rosemary Ward

More Than Just a Pretty Sweater

Did you know there used to be a powerhouse of fashion and design in knitwear fashions set down, right here, in Cleveland? Ohio Knitting Mills was founded in 1927 and was a well-respected source of sportswear designs until the late 1970s. ***The Ohio Knitting Mills Knitting Book*** by Steven Tatar with Denise Grollums is more than just fabulous knitting patterns, it's a mini-history lesson told through fashion. Check out the "Beatnik Babe" sweater and you'll not only learn something about hipsters, but you'll find the easy-to-follow instructions for making the original sweater, or how to update the look with alternate colors. What a great way to take a walk down memory lane, plus have something to show for it as well!

—Stacey Hayman

Truth Be Told

Peter and Helen Radley have created a quiet, unassuming life for themselves and their two teenage children in the suburbs. They lead this boringly average life to hide the dark secret of their true identity. They are vampires. The Radleys will soon learn that denying their needs and ignoring their past could have devastating consequences for their entire family.

The Radleys by Matt Haig is a not another paranormal romance starring vampires. Instead it is a thought-provoking and moving social commentary about the choices people make and the consequences those choices have on the ones they love.

—Megan Alabaugh

Remembering Good Times

A wonderful thing about getting older is that you can reflect on the good times, and that's exactly what Nora Ephron does in her New York Times Best Seller, ***I Remember Nothing and Other Reflections***. In the title essay, "I Remember Nothing," Ephron talks about how she's been forgetting things since her thirties—names, recipes, directions, you name it—but today, at sixty-nine, her memory seems to have improved... thanks to Google. I really enjoyed "Journalism: A Love Story" in which she shares her writer's passion for the *New York Post*—the people she worked with; the crazy deadlines; the ambiance, even the smell of the newsroom. Unforgettable. She talks honestly about her experiences as a director and screenwriter in "Flops." And in "Pentimento," warmly remembers her first meeting with author Lillian Hellman; although it began badly, it blossomed into a life-long friendship. That's just a hint of the experiences she shares—all with her special wit, insights and humor.

Further enticement: Ephron recently wrote the hit movie *Julie & Julia* and lists receiving the Academy Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay for *When Harry Met Sally* among her many accomplishments.

—Chris Nowak

...25 Years and Counting!

Rocky River Public Library

Straight From the Horse's Mouth

In her third novel, *Lord of Misrule*, Jaimy Gordon has truly captured the language and gritty world of backcountry horseracing in the 1970s and brought it to life. Tommy Hansel and his tortured girlfriend Maggie have concocted a scheme to save their failing stable—they will run decent horses in claiming races with long odds and then take off with the money before anyone can catch them. The trouble starts when Maggie befriends several of the stable hands at Indian Mound Downs and falls in love with a misunderstood, has-been horse who is swindled out from under her. The vivid characters, twisted relationships, and peppery racetrack slang all make this book one that is well worth the effort to read.

—Maureen Stratton

Dictionnaire D'amour

love, n.
"I'm not going to even try."

In *The Lover's Dictionary: A Novel*, author David Levithan creatively uses words, arranged as A to Z dictionary entries, to weave together the story of a relationship between two people in New York City. Defining one word per page, the narrator meanders back and forth, from sweet beginnings through everyday contentment and irritation to a joyful commitment and a heartbreaking betrayal. Telling details reveal their stark differences: his insecurity and social awkwardness, his partner's confidence and flippancy. He can be steadfast, but a bit dull, his partner unreliable but adventurous. Yet despite their differences, they fall in love.

Poetically written and creatively constructed, the definitions vary between short, one or two sentences to more lengthy entries. Defining words such as antsy, bemoan, cavort, sacrosanct and vestige, Levithan describes snippets of memories, evocations of feelings, and observations about the frustrations of love. Both funny and poignant, this is a book that we can all relate to and relish.

—Dori Olivos

A Mystery Within a Mystery

The Sherlockian, Graham Moore's debut novel, is really two interconnected stories in one to intrigue and captivate mystery lovers of all ages. Written in alternate chapters, this novel focuses on the amateur sleuthing of Harold White in 2010 and that of the real search by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with his friend, Bram Stoker, for a serial killer in 1900. Harold, a literary researcher and ardent Sherlock Holmes fan, is hired by Doyle's great-grandson to find the missing journals of Doyle from that same time period in 1900. What did those journals contain that made them disappear? As Sherlock Holmes would say, "Come, Watson, come! The game is afoot."



—Donna Zmrazek

Oh Mr. Colbert, You're Funny!

Stephen Colbert's *Tek Jensen: Invasion of the Optik-ions*, serialized by John Layman, is as smartly ridiculous and weirdly funny as fans of *The Colbert Report* could have hoped to find. As leader of Alpha Squad Seven, Tek is a hero of epic proportions, with the ego to match. As he leaps into (slightly) dangerous situations with (not so) dangerous space aliens, Tek can be traced though the solar system fighting for his own brand of Truth, misguided Justice, and his very Own Way.

This graphic novel for adults cleverly spoofs classic action hero comics, and even pokes a little fun at the messages in those comics, but mostly provides another venue for Colbert fans to have a laugh.

—Stacey Hayman

Between the Covers