

GENTLE READS

- The Plague Dogs** by Richard Adams [LP/F/ADA][F/ADA]
Two dogs escape one night from an animal experimentation laboratory in the English Lake District. Each has been badly injured – in the name of science. Weakened by their ordeals, unused to freedom, the two runaways are scarcely prepared for survival in the bleak landscape of crags and fells in which they find themselves.
- Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen [CAS/F/AUS] [LP/F/AUS][F/AUS]
[DVD/PRI]
In this classic English novel of the 19th century, Elizabeth Bennett’s unpleasant first meeting with the proud Mr. Darcy leads to surprising consequences.
- The Sweet Hereafter** by Russell Banks [F/BAN]
The story begins with a school bus accident in which fourteen of the children of the town of Sam Dent, New York, are killed. This is a large-hearted novel whose telling is, despite all, often warm and humorous and ends in a remarkably orchestrated redemption.
- Talk Before Sleep** by Elizabeth Berg [LP/F/BER][F/BER]
They met at a party. It was hate at first sight. Ruth was far too beautiful, too flamboyant. Not at all Ann’s kind of person. Until a chance encounter in the bathroom led to an alliance of souls. Soon they were sharing hankies during the late showing of “Sophie’s Choice,” wolfing down sundaes sodden with whipped cream, telling truths of marriage, mortality and love.
- The Copper Beech** by Maeve Binchy [LP/F/BIN][F/BIN]
Nine characters in a small Irish town share their life stories.

Finding Mr. Right by Emily Carmichael [F/CAR]

Right before her untimely death, Lydia Keane made one terrible mistake, she had an affair with her best friend Amy's husband. Barred from the afterlife until she makes amends, Lydia has been ordered back to Earth for one final mission: to find Amy a new husband. But there is just one small catch: Lydia must rely on her smarts rather than her centerfold body because she has been reincarnated as a mangy stray dog!

The Maltese Angel by Catherine Cookson [LP/F/COO][F/COO]

When a 19th century English Farmer falls in love with a dancer, a neighboring country girl feels spurned and wreaks havoc on his farm and family.

What Girls Learn by Karin Cook [F/COO]

In this book the author challenges traditional notions of family and femininity with both humor and wisdom. We are reminded that what seems secure is never entirely safe and that growing up means learning to love even in the face of loss.

Three Wishes by Barbara Delinsky [LP/F/DEL][CAS/F/DEL][F/DEL]

When a surprise October blizzard hits Panama, Vermont, blanketing the sleepy little town with several feet of snow, it creates a scene so tranquil no one suspects the tragedy to come, least of all Bree Miller. Slipping and sliding as she walks home from the diner where she works, she barely has time to notice the runaway truck skidding toward her until it is too late. She awakens in the hospital, remembering little of the accident or the hours thereafter, except for a very bright light, a beatific smile and a mystical nonvoice granting her three wishes.

Consider This, Senora by Harriet Doerr [CAS/F/DOE][F/DOE]

Expatriate Americans with troubled souls settle in a small dusty village in Mexico.

Walking Across Egypt by Clyde Edgerton [CD/F/EDG][F/EDG]
 Mattie Rigsbee gains unlikely companions when a stray dog and a teenage delinquent come to stay in her small North Carolina town.

A Cup of Tea by Amy Ephron [F/EPH]
 Rosemary Fell was born to privilege, her only real hardship having been the loss of her mother some years earlier. Finally, she will have everything she wants. It is then, in a moment of beneficence, that she invites Eleanor Smith, a penniless young woman she sees under a streetlamp in the rain, to come to her home for a cup of tea and to warm herself by the fire.

Horse Whisperer by Nicholas Evans [CAS/F/EVA][LP/F/EVA][F/EVA]
 [VID/HOR]
 He is the stuff of legend. His voice can calm wild horses and his touch can heal broken spirits. Annie Graves has traveled across a continent with her daughter, Grace, and their wounded horse, Pilgrim, to the Booker ranch in Montana. The accident turned Pilgrim savage. He is now so demented and dangerous that everyone says he should be destroyed. But Annie won't give up on him. For she feels his fate is inextricably entwined with that of her daughter, who has retreated into a heartrending, hostile silence. Annie knows that if the horse dies, something in Grace will die too.

The Christmas Box by Richard P. Evans [VID/CHR][F/EVA]
 This book is the touching story of a widow and the young family who moves in with her. Together they discover the first gift of Christmas and learn what Christmas is really all about.

The Letter by Richard P. Evans [F/EVA]
 The letter was discovered in the winter of 1949 pressed between the pages of a diary that belonged to the child's father, and, at first glance, it was regarded as of little consequence. It was only after it had been read that they learned the letter's great significance and the events it set in motion.

Time and Again by Jack Finney [CAS/F/FIN] [LP/F/FIN][F/FIN]

Time travel, mystery, a love story and a 19th century setting blend together in this tale of a young man enlisted in a secret government experiment.

Coming Attractions by Fannie Flagg [LP/F/FLA] [F/FLA]

In this humorous story, a young girl comes of age in the South.

Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle-Stop Café [F/FLA]

By Fannie Flagg

This book is folksy and fresh, endearing and affecting, with humor and drama and with an ending that would fill you with smiling tears. It's first the story of two women in the 1980's of gray-headed Mrs. Threadgoode telling her life story to Evelyn, who is in the sad slump of middle age.

Standing in the Rainbow by Fannie Flagg [CAS/F/FLA] [F/FLA]

The time is 1946 until the present. The town is Elmwood Springs, Missouri; right in the middle of the country, in the midst of the mostly joyous transition from war to peace, aiming toward a dizzyingly bright future.

Joshua by Joseph Girzone [LP/F/GIR] [F/GIR]

A simple yet talented carpenter and sculptor, moves to rural New York and wins over members of all denominations.

Monsignor Quixote by Graham Greene [LP/F/GRE] [F/GRE]

Father Quixote and his friend Sacho Zancas take a journey to Madrid that recalls the adventures of the priest's fictional ancestor, Don Quixote.

A Change of Heart by Philip Gulley [LP/F/GUL][F/GUL]

In his fifth year of ministering to the citizens of Harmony, pastor Sam Gardner finds himself challenged by Deena Morrison's impending marriage to Dr. Daniel Pierce and the Hodges' possible loss of their daughter to her biological parents.

Home Again by Kristin Hannah [LP/F/HAN][F/HAN]

Madeline, a brilliant cardiologist, a loving mother, a tender friend, a woman who is full of self doubt, but it is the story of her daughter, Lina, a confused and angry rebel and of the two very different men Madelaine loves; Francis, a priest searching for his faith and Angel, a talented but cynical man. When tragedy suddenly brings them all together they must learn to forgive the betrayals of the past and find the courage to love again.

The Protector by Dee Henderson [F/HEN]

Jack O'Malley is a fireman who is fearless when it comes to facing an inferno. But when an arsonist begins targeting his district, his shift and his friends, Jack faces the ultimate challenge of protecting the one lady who witnesses the arsonist.

Goodbye Mr. Chips, and To You, Mr. Chips by James Hilton [LP/F/HIL]

A professor at a boys' prep school in England remembers his life and the people he has known.

Daughter of Deceit by Victoria Holt [LP/F/HOL][F/HOL]

A manipulative woman sets out to steal fame and love in this story set in the Drury Lane theater district of 19th century London.

The Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro [VID/REM][F/ISH]

A very proper English butler begins to question if the blind devotion he has given his master has been worth the emotional sacrifice.

At Home in Mitford by Jan Karon [CAS/F/KAR][LP/F/KAR][LP/F/KAR]

In this first novel of the Mitford Years series, Father Tim considers romance while the other villagers experience the ups and downs of everyday life.

Wobegon Boy by Garrison Keillor [F/KEI]

In this low-key, humorous story John Tollefson leaves Lake Wobegon and moves to upstate New York, but his hometown sensibilities travel with him.

Shoeless Joe by W.P. Kinsella [CAS/F/KIN] [F/KIN]

The film *Field of Dreams* was based on this novel about an Iowan farmer carving a baseball diamond out of his cornfield.

A Gift to Last by Debbie Macomber [F/MAC]

On December 24, a crowded train is taking holiday travelers home for Christmas. But because of a snowstorm, this group of strangers ends up spending Christmas Eve together, stranded in a small New Hampshire station. Despite the cold and discomfort, they create an impromptu celebration that reminds them all what Christmas really means.

The Christmas Basket by Debbie Macomber [F/MAC]

Noelle McDowell is home to celebrate the holidays with her family. It is also her birthday on December 15. Unfortunately, Noelle's feelings about home, or rather, her hometown of Rose, Oregon were changed forever the day Thomas Sutton broke her heart.

The Ladies of Missalonghi by Colleen McCullough [CAS/F/MCC][LP/F/MCC]
[F/MCC]

With the help of her cousin, drab Missy learns to go after what she really wants in this story set in the Blue Mountains of Australia.

Drums of Change by Janette Oke

[LP/F/OKE][F/OKE]

Running Fawn awoke to the beating of the drums. There was something different about the rhythm, something strange about the intensity, something challenging in the tone of the voices. She shivered in her blankets, even though the night was warm.

A Gown of Spanish Lace by Janette Oke

[LP/F/OKE][F/OKE]

Ariana loves her life, her parents, her little town, and her job as the town's schoolteacher, her students. But one evening after classes are done and she prepares to hurry home before a blizzard hits, her whole life changes in an instant.

Julia's Last Hope by Janette Oke

[F/OKE]

No one in the small lumber town of Calder Springs, tucked away in the remote setting of the Canadian Rocky Mountains, was prepared for the news. When the men of the village left for another day of work at the lumber mill, they did not know their lives would be dramatically changed.

Love's Long Journey by Janette Oke

[F/OKE]

Young newlyweds share adventures while traveling west to their new cattle ranch.

How to Make an American Quilt by Whitney Otto[VID/HOW][LP/F/OTT]
[F/OTT]

Seven sets of quilting instructions tell the stories of seven women, members of a quilting circle in a small California town.

The Pledge by Jane Peart

[LP/G/PEA][F/PEA]

With the death of her father, Jo-Beth, her brother, and their mother, Johanna, move in with relatives in town. There, Johanna makes a living sewing her exquisite quilts and Jo-Beth discovers a special friend. Kind, thoughtful and deep, Wesley Rutherford draws Jo-Beth like a magnet and their attachment to one another becomes strong.

The Shell Seekers by Rosamunde Pilcher [CAS/F/PIL][LP/F/PIL][F/PIL]
[VID/SHE]

Penelope Keeling prizes her father's paintings, which remind her of her idyllic youth. But when her children discover that the paintings are now worth a fortune, they make plans to take them away from her.

An Angel's Touch by Heather G. Pozzessere [F/POZ]

It begins when the thirty-something angels leave New York in a rush of traffic, headed for Connecticut and the prospect of spending Christmas Eve with friends and family. The accident is inescapable and catastrophic; the aftermath, almost beyond belief.

The Lighthouse Keeper by James Michael Pratt [CAS/F/PRA] [F/PRA]

When he was a child, Peter O'Banyon's life changed forever when his family was killed in a car accident. He was sent to live with his uncle Billie, the keeper of the Port Hope Lighthouse in Massachusetts. From Billie, he learns the secret of keeping love alive, even when tragedy strikes and he discovers how Billie himself was put to the test as a young man.

The Notebook by Nicholas Sparks [DVD/NOT][LP/F/SPA][F/SPA]

With his wife suffering from Alzheimer's, an old man reads her his notebook, which records the tale of their romance, in hopes of jogging her memory.

The Rescue by Nicholas Sparks [CAS/F/SPA][LP/F/SPA][F/SPA]

Taylor McAden is a volunteer fireman who is always the first to plunge into danger. But there is one risk he can't seem to take: falling in love. Until he meets Denise Holden, a single mother who has moved to the small town of Edenton, North Carolina, to build a new life. A near fatal car crash will bring these two together, but before that can happen, Taylor must first look into his past and see if it's not too late to take a chance on the future.

Family Blessings by LaVyrle Spencer [LP/F/SPE][F/SPE]

Forty-four-year-old Lee Reston, a widow who takes deep pleasure in her three children and satisfaction from the profitable florist business she has skillfully built. Then Greg, her oldest son, is killed in a motorcycle crash and Lee's world shatters with renewed pain.

World of Pies by Karen Stolz [LP/F/STO] [F/STO]

Roxanne is twelve years old and wild for baseball in 1962, the year of a pie-baking contest that will change her life forever. Life in the small town of Annette, Texas, has been idyllic and cozy; until this summer, Roxanne's toughest choices have revolved around whether to wear an apron while she helps her mother in the kitchen or whether to pitch underhand or over.

Lucia, Lucia by Adriana Trigiani [CAS/F/TRI][LP/F/TRI][F/TRI]

The daughter of an Italian immigrant family in 1950 Greenwich Village, Lucia Sartori pursues a career in the fashion industry until she falls in love with a handsome stranger, who must win over her traditional family to marry her.

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court by Mark Twain [F/TWA]
[CAS/F/TWA]

In this famous fantasy and American classic, a factory foreman wakes up in medieval England.

Ladder of Years by Anne Tyler [CAS/F/TYL] [F/TYL]

Delia, a forty-something housewife, simply walks away from her family and begins a new life in another town.

Amethyst Dreams by Phyllis Whitney [F/WHI]

This book is about a psychological drama revolving around a deeply troubled family and a missing granddaughter.

It Had To Be You by Linda Windsor

[F/WIN]

When rancher Dan Jarrett and nurse Sunny Elders join their respective parents on a Thanksgiving cruise vacation, they are distracted from family issues by a growing attraction for each other.

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This is a selected list. For Reader's Advisory suggestions please see our computer catalog or ask at the Adult Services desk.

LP=Large Print

F=Fiction

CAS=Book on Cassette

NB=New Book

SCIFI=Science Fiction/Fantasy