

Gentle Reads



A list of heartwarming
books to curl up with

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Gentle reads are books containing little violence or explicit sex. Most of the stories listed here may be uplifting or comforting and have a good, “old fashioned” quality about them. The guide below will help you locate the books found in this pamphlet.

Happy Reading!

Sample Entry:

Author

Title of the Book (Genre)

Summary of the story. **[FORMAT]**

Key to Genre Types

-  - Animal Story
-  - Mystery
-  - Romance
-  - Sci-Fi/Fantasy
-  - Part of a Series

Key to Format Types

- F - Hardcover Fiction
- PB - Paperback Fiction
- LP - Large Print Fiction
- SR - Sound Recording

Books with call numbers will be found in the Non-Fiction section

Fiction

Alcott, Louisa May

A Long Fatal Love Chase ❤️

This novel follows Rosamond Vivian, a young, impetuous Englishwoman who escapes a life of lonely dependence on her grandfather by running off with the adventuresome Phillip Tempest. [F, LP]

Asimov, Isaac

Foundation 🤖

A psycho-historian who can predict the future sees the impending collapse of the Earth and establishes a foundation to prevent it. [F]

Atherton, Nancy

Aunt Dimity and the Duke 🔍 📖

Prequel to *Aunt Dimity's Death* by the same author, the reader is taken on a trip where they will explore gardens in England and psychic phenomenon. [F]

Austen, Jane

Emma ❤️

Clever, pretty, and rich, at twenty-one, Emma is content to be companion to her father. The making of a successful match for her beloved governess leads Emma to more matchmaking with surprising results. [F, LP, SR]

Bach, Richard

Jonathan Livingston Seagull 🐦

The tale of Jonathan Livingston Seagull, the bird determined to be more than an ordinary gull, determined to find a reason for living -- determined to be free. **[F]**

Ballantine, Betty

The Secret Oceans 🐠

An illustrated novel that looks at the potential of the creatures in the unexplored realm of the oceans and of the harm pollution could cause these creatures. **[F]**

Berenson, Laurien

Underdog: A Melanie Travis Mystery 🔍 🐕

Single mom Melanie Travis returns to canine circles to nab the killer of an obedience school instructor. **[F]**

Binchy, Maeve

The Copper Beech

Nine characters in a small Irish town share life stories. **[F, LP]**

Bradley, Marion Zimmer

The Gratitude of Kings 👁

Long lived magician Lythande is summoned to the wedding of an old friend, but her journey to the event is filled with more adventure than she could have suspected. **[F]**

Brown, Rita Mae

Murder, She Meowed 🔍 🐱 📖

Mrs. Murphy, the sleuthing cat, is hot on the trail to find out why a number of horse racing jockey's are suddenly being put out to pasture – permanently. **[F, PB]**

Cather, Willa

My Antonia

Late 19th century tale of a spirited Bohemian immigrant and her struggle in a foreign land. **[F, LP]**

Christie, Agatha

They Came to Baghdad 🔍

An Englishwoman's fairy-tale daydream of love and romance leads to a nightmare of kidnapping, murder, and a deadly conspiracy that could threaten the entire world. **[F, LP]**

Connell, Evan S.

Mrs. Bridge

Experience the everyday incidents of marriage, visits with friends, the bringing-up of two daughters and a son, and later the unsuccessful attempts to alleviate the loneliness and boredom of middle age through the eyes of the wife of a Kansas City lawyer. Also by this author: *Mr. Bridge*. **[F, LP]**

Dallas, Sandra*The Persian Pickle Club*

A group of 1930's Kansas farmwives meet weekly to quilt. When a big city woman joins them, they face the revelation of an old secret involving the disappearance of one of their husbands. [F]

De Hartog, Jan*The Peculiar People*

During the 1830s, Quaker Mordecai Monk is sent to America where he and Lydia Best, a teacher at a Native American school, start a mission for the Shawnee. [F]

Doerr, Harriet*Consider This, Señora*

The lives of four American expatriates are examined as they settle in a Mexican village. The newcomers gradually adjust to an environment of excesses on the barren mesa of Amapolas. [F]

Douglas, Lloyd C.*Magnificent Obsession*

A shattering personal tragedy forces a spoiled and wealthy young man to reevaluate his life and to use his discovery to embark on a course of anonymous philanthropy. [F]

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan

The Hound of the Baskervilles 🔍

When Sir Charles Baskerville arrives at his family's estate from America, he finds a death threat awaiting him and a curse hanging over the family. He calls in Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson to solve the mystery. **[F]**

Flagg, Fannie

Daisy Fay and the Miracle Man

A coming-of-age story set on the Gulf Coast follows the misadventures of Daisy Fay, a straight-shooting girl with an eye for the bizarre. **F]**

Gilman, Dorothy

Mrs. Pollifax Unveiled 🔍 📖

After facing down hijackers aboard her flight, Amanda Pym mysteriously disappears. Mrs. Pollifax, posing as Ms. Pym's aunt, is determined to find out where she is. **[F, PB, SR]**

Goldman, William

The Princess Bride 🗡️

Return to a time when men were men and swamps were fire swamps, full of quicksand and rodents of unusual size. Lagoons were inhabited by shrieking eels, and the most beautiful woman in the world was named...Buttercup? Well, it's a bent fairy tale, complete with all the fencing, fighting, chases, and escapes. **[F]**

Goudge, Elizabeth

The Child From the Sea

Lucy Walter, the secret wife of Charles II is the heroine of this richly detailed historical romance set amid the political upheavals of seventeenth century England. **[F]**

Grafton, Sue

Alphabet Mystery Series 🔑

The Kinsey Milhone adventures follow through the alphabet, beginning with "A" is for Alibi. **[F, PB, LP, SR]**

Hinton, Lynne

Friendship Cake

Five churchgoing women from Hope Springs, North Carolina who come together to create a church cookbook quickly become a source of solace, support, and strength for each other. **[F]**

Holt, Victoria

Daughter of Deceit

Noelle Tremaston's charmed yet unconventional life as the daughter of the infamous Desiree, darling of the London stage, comes crashing to a halt when her mother takes in a struggling ingénue and disaster strikes. Noelle flees to Paris where, on the eve of World War I, a bizarre twist of fate will lead her into unsolved mysteries -- and the arms of love. **[F, LP]**

Ishiguro, Kazuo

The Remains of the Day

Stevens, an aged butler, reflects back on his life during his first vacation. **[F]**

Jewett, Sarah Orne

The Country of the Pointed Firs

Novel and selected stories about the fictional town of Dunnett Landing in rural Maine and the female writing looking for seclusion and inspiration there. **[F]**

Karon, Jan

Mitford Series

These novels chronicle the everyday eccentricities of a small North Carolina town. **[F, LP, SR]**

Kay, Terry

To Dance with the White Dog 🐕

Sam Peek, 81, who has just experienced the death of his wife of fifty-seven years, journeys alone along Georgia back roads to his sixtieth college reunion. The dog in the title, mysterious and sometimes ghost-like, joins Sam and remains his companion throughout the story. **[F]**

Keillor, Garrison

Lake Wobegon Days

Humorous homespun tales from the small mythical Minnesota town “that time forgot and the decades cannot improve.” **[F]**

Kemelman, Harry

Rabbi Small Mystery Series

A Rabbi in Barnard’s Crossing is drawn into the mysteries of the small Massachusetts town he moves to. **[F]**

Kienzle, William X.

Requiem for Moses 🔍 📖

Holding an unofficial wake for the late Dr. Moses Green, a Jewish man, Father Koesler learns that several people are glad the doctor is dead, and everything descends into chaos when Green returns from the dead. **[F]**

Landrum, Graham

The Famous D.A.R. Murder Mystery 🔍

Searching for the resting place of a Revolutionary War hero at Brown Spring Cemetery, the ladies of the Old Orchard Fort chapter of the DAR discover a murdered body among the graves and launch a personal investigation. **[F]**

Landvik, Lorna

Patty Jane's House of Curl ❤️

After being left by her husband of nine months with a baby on the way, Patty Jane is convinced by her sister Harriet to set up a beauty salon, complete with live harp music, in their Minnesota town. **[F, PB, SR]**

Marshall, Catherine

Christy

When Christy Huddleston leaves a life of privilege and ease to teach in the impoverished Smokey Mountains, her faith is severely tested by her pupils, the love of two men, and the curious customs of the mountain people in her community.

[F, PB]

McCaffrey, Anne

If Wishes Were Horses 🐾

Twin brother and sister Tracell and Tizra find their world suddenly changed as their father is called to war and they are called to help their mother, the village healer, tend to the refugees left homeless due to the war. **[F]**

Oke, Janette

Love Comes Softly Series

Beginning with the stories of Clark and Marty Davis, these frontier stories continue on to include the adventures of their children. **[F, LP, SR]**

Otto, Whitney

How to Make an American Quilt

Seven sets of quilting instructions blend together the stories of seven women who are members of a quilting circle in Bakersfield, California. **[F, LP]**

Peters, Elizabeth

Seeing a Large Cat: An Amelia Peabody Mystery 🔍 📖

Amelia Peabody, adventurous Egyptologist, takes on more than archeological pursuits as she sets out to explore Egypt, and ends up solving a number of mysteries in the process.

[F, PB, LP, SR]

Pilcher, Rosamunde

The Shell Seekers

“The Shell Seekers”, one of Penelope Keeling’s father’s paintings becomes a catalyst for much family turmoil as two of Penelope’s children try to convince her to sell it in hopes of benefiting from it socially. **[F, LP, SR]**

Plain, Belva

Homecoming

One crisp December day Annette Byrne drops five letters into the mail. Soon her estranged family joins her for the approaching holidays. Nothing can heal the rift until one shattering event occurs. **[F, PB, LP, SR]**

Price, Eugenia

Savannah

The first installment of the Savannah Quartet follows the orphaned Mark Browning home to Savannah, his mother's birthplace, where his affections become divided between two women. **[F]**

Pym, Barbara

Excellent Women

Over thirty and bordering on spinsterhood, Mildred Lathbury lives a quiet life in an unfashionable section of London until Helena and Rockingham Napier, an anthropologist and her flag-lieutenant husband, move into the flat below. **[PB]**

Read, Miss

Thrush Green Series 

Miss Read's charming chronicles of small-town life have achieved an almost legendary popularity worldwide by offering a welcome return to a gentler time. The prolific Miss Read is Mrs. Dora Saint, whose novels draw on her own memories of living and teaching in a small English village. **[F, SR]**

Rice, Luanne

Cloud Nine 

Thirty-seven-year-old Sarah Talbot's lengthy battle with cancer forced her to put life on hold. But a clean bill of health has given her a second chance and she's not about to take anything for granted. **[F, PB]**

Rimes, LeAnn

Holiday in Your Heart

Teen singing sensation Anna Lee realizes her dream of performing a holiday concert at the Grand Old Opry. But her happiness is clouded by her grandmother's illness back in Mississippi. It takes the lessons of an older country singer to show the young woman what really matters. **[F]**

Ross, Anne B.

Miss Julia Speaks Her Mind 

Staid southern widow Miss Julia receives a shock when she learns of her dead husband's double life. She subsequently develops a more liberal view of love and life. **[F]**

Schaeffer, Susan Fromberg

The Autobiography of Foudini M. Cat 🐱

A wise old housecat narrates the story of his life, from being orphaned as a kitten, through his being adopted by a human family, his friendship with Sam the Dog, and how he gained a feline family of his very own. **[F]**

Sheepshanks, Mary

Picking Up the Pieces ❤️

50-ish widow Kate is trying to cope with the difficulties and pleasures of the single life. But when her daughter is estranged by her husband, Kate finds herself forced into a role she cannot assume, and realizes it is time to step outside her family's preconceived notions. **[PB]**

Smith, Betty

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

Life in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn during the early 1900s is rough, but Francie Nolan blossoms and reaches out for happiness despite poverty and her father's alcoholism. **[F]**

Sparks, Nicholas

The Notebook ❤️

Noah Calhoun reads from his well-worn notebook to an aging woman who cannot remember the most cherished moments of her life. He tells his own story, a story of love found, lost, and re-discovered. **[F, PB]**

Spencer, LaVyrle

Then Came Heaven

The story of a young widower with two little girls and the nun whose urge to help them makes her question her vows.

[F, PB, LP, SR]

Tolkien, J. R. R.

The Hobbit 🗿

Bilbo Baggins, a little hobbit wanting nothing to do with adventure, gets caught up in a quest with a dozen dwarves intent on reclaiming their ancestral homelands in the Lonely Mountains. **[F, PB, SR]**

Twain, Mark

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court 🗿

Knocked unconscious in a fight, a no-nonsense New Englander in the year 1889 awakens to find himself in the time of knights in shining armor. **[F, PB, SR]**

Tyler, Anne

Ladder of Years

Delia Grinstead begins a new life by simply walking away from her family's vacation at the beach. She spends the next year reinventing herself, no longer the doctor's faithful and timid wife, the dutiful mother of three, or the practical sister. **[F, PB, SR]**

Verne, Jules

Around the World in Eighty Days 🗿

On a wager with his chums at the Reform Club, Phileas Fogg attempts the trip described in the title of this classic adventure novel. **[F]**

Wells, H.G.

The Time Machine 🛸

A novel of one man's astonishing journey into the future – Earth, in the year 802700. **[F, PB]**

Wharton, Edith

The House of Mirth

Beautiful Lily Bart seems to have everything necessary for marrying well in New York City society – except her own money. Her quest is to find a wealthy husband, with unexpected results. **[F, SR]**

Wilder, Effie Leland

Out to Pasture, But Not Over the Hill

Hattie McNair may be retired, but she certainly hasn't retired from life. In journals and letters to a friend, Hattie tells the stories of her fellow residents and of the immeasurable gifts and burdens of aging. **[LP]**

Willis, Connie

To Say Nothing of the Dog 🛸 🐕

Ned Henry has been shuttling between the 21st century and the 1940s searching for a Victorian atrocity called the bishop's bird stump, part of a project to restore the famed Coventry Cathedral. When a fellow time traveler inadvertently brings back something from the past, Ned must jump back to the Victorian era to help prevent altering history itself. **[PB]**

Non-Fiction

Cosby, Bill

Fatherhood

A humorous look at fatherhood by the well-known comic.

[306.87 C834]

Doig, Ivan

Heart Earth

A prequel to the best-selling memoir *This House of Sky* movingly captures the atmosphere of the American West during the World War II years, as the author rediscovers memories of his long-dead mother after finding letters she wrote.

[92 D657]

Gallico, Paul

Snow Goose 🦢

A story involving not only the Snow Goose, the Canada-bred wanderer of the airways, but also a couple and their travels.

[598.41 A285]

Gilbreth, Frank B. and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey

Cheaper by the Dozen

A father who believes a family can be run like a factory and a mother who is his partner in everything except discipline raise twelve lively children.

[92 G4664] [SR]

Herriot, James

All Creatures Great and Small 🐾 📖

Herriot's heartwarming and often hilarious stories of his first years as a country veterinarian.

[636.089 H567c] [LP]

Kuralt, Charles

On The Road with Charles Kuralt

Kuralt recounts his adventures traveling America's back roads.

[917.3 K96on] [SR]

Lipinski, Tara

Triumph on Ice

An autobiography by skating sensation Tara Lipinski, the youngest skater ever to win United States and World Figure Skating Championships.

[796.91 L764]

MacPherson, Malcolm

The Cowboy and his Elephant: The Story of a Remarkable Friendship 🐘

The true story of how Bob Norris, a former Marlboro Man, adopted an elephant named Amy with the goal to help her regain her confidence.

[599.67 M172]

Madden, John

All Madden: Hey, I'm Talking Pro Football

The former football coach turned TV commentator gives the reader an insider's view of the NFL.

[796.332 M179AM]

Mayle, Peter

A Year in Provence

Peter Mayle transports us to the earthly pleasure of Provencal life and lets us live vicariously in a tempo governed by seasons, not by days.

[944.9 M469y]

White, Bailey

Sleeping at the Starlite Motel: And Other Adventures on the Way Back Home

Humorous sketches of the NPR correspondent's travels are documented in this book.

[814.54 M582s]





Cudahy Family Library

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