

Literary Anomalies



Thought-Provoking
Novels Guaranteed
to Make You Smile



Rolling Meadows Library
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www.rmlib.org

Loitering With Intent by Muriel Spark

In mid-twentieth-century London, aspiring young writer Fleur Talbot becomes secretary to a motley group of egoists who are composing their memoirs in advance. She uncovers material enough for any novelist, but is perplexed by the familiarity of their lives.

Lucia, Lucia by Adriana Trigiani

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.

To Say Nothing of the Dog by Connie Willis

Ned Henry goes back in time to 1889 to study the Coventry Cathedral for a wealthy American who wants to build an exact replica before it is destroyed.

Good Grief by Lolly Winston

Grieving over the death of her husband from cancer, thirty-six-year-old Sophie Stanton finds her personal and professional world in a shambles and, in an attempt to reinvent her life, moves to Ashland, Oregon.

Jeeves and the Tie That Binds

by P.G. Wodehouse

Jeeves, a member of a butler's club, contributes personal information on his employer which falls into the wrong hands and sends the gallant butler on a series of adventures to undo the damage.

Piece of Work by Laura Zigman

A mother is forced to return to work as a celebrity publicist and deal with clients and a boss who are more immature than her three-year-old son.

Annotations adapted from NovelList.

Does a novel have to
be depressing in order
to be considered
Great Literature?

The Readers' Advisory
Team at the Rolling
Meadows Library didn't
think so and we found
some great novels that
are just as deep as they
are uplifting.

Crescent by Diana Abu-Jaber

Never married, living with an Iraqi-immigrant uncle and devoted dog, and working as a chef in a Lebanese restaurant, thirty-nine-year-old Sirine finds her life turned upside down by a handsome Arabic literature professor.

Savannah Breeze by Mary Kay Andrews

Savannah belle BeBe Loudermilk struggles to cope with the loss of everything following her relationship with Reddy, an investment “counselor” and conman, until she launches a campaign to retrieve her fortune and bring Reddy to justice.

Brooklyn Follies by Paul Auster

Retired life insurance salesman Nathan Glass moves to Brooklyn to find anonymity and solitude through his declining years, but a chance meeting with Tom Wood, his long-lost nephew, forces him to come to terms with his past.

Jayber Crow by Wendell Berry

Set in a small-town “Heaven”, the rural Kentucky farmer-philosopher returns to his fictional Port William to explore themes of love, suffering, and joy.

Before You Know Kindness by Chris Bohjalian

After a decade of spending a delightful summer week at their country house in New Hampshire, the members of the extended Seton family are confronted by a terrible accident, testing the values and relationships that hold them together.

The Whistling Season by Ivan Doig

Hired as a housekeeper to work on the early 1900s Montana homestead of widower Oliver Milliron, the irreverent Rose and her brother, Morris, endeavor to educate the widower’s sons while witnessing local efforts on a massive irrigation project.

Breakfast With Scot by Michael Downing

When Scot’s mother dies, Sam and Ed, although childless and enjoying it, decide to take him in, only to get more than they bargained for when Scot reveals his love of feather boas and expresses his dissatisfaction with the house drapes.

The Jane Austen Book Club

by Karen Joy Fowler

When six Californians get together to form a book club to discuss the novels of Jane Austen, their lives are turned upside down by troubled marriages, illicit affairs, changing relationships, and love.

Future Homemakers of America

by Laurie Graham

Set in 1952, a group of women married to pilots stationed at a U.S. Air Force base in Norfolk, England, are drawn together in intimate friendships that survive forty years of marriage, divorce, separations, and reunions.

Bread Alone by Judith Ryan Hendricks

When her husband leaves her for another woman, Wynter Morrison moves to Seattle to start a new life and pursue her passion for breadmaking by accepting a position in a local bake shop, where she discovers the extraordinary healing power of making bread.

About a Boy by Nick Hornby

Will trades his lack of enthusiasm toward children for a date with a truly beautiful woman who is also a single mother.

Anybody Out There? by Marian Keyes

When Anna Walsh--who has a job and husband in Manhattan--wakes up in her family’s house in Dublin badly injured and with no memory of what has happened, she returns to New York to find clues to her memory loss.

My Latest Grievance by Elinor Lipman

Chafing under the claustrophobic care of her liberal parents, Frederica Hatch finds her snug world transformed by Laura Lee French, a new college dorm mother who had once been married to Frederica’s earnest and unglamorous father.

The Book of Ralph by John McNally

Promising eighth-grade student Hank befriends troublemaker Ralph. He encourages Hank to engage in unscrupulous activities in their 1978 Chicago neighborhood that set the groundwork for more serious behaviors in their adult lives.