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Gentle Reads

These titles contain little violence or sex and feature story lines with good, “old fashioned” qualities.

- General Fiction
 - Mystery
 - Romance
- Science Fiction & Fantasy
 - Non-fiction

General Fiction

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

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 Copper Beech by Maeve Binchy

Nine characters in a small Irish town share their life stories.

The Maltese Angel by Catherine Cookson

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.

Consider This, Senora by Harriet Doerr

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

Walking Across Egypt by Clyde Edgerton

Mattie Rigsbee gains unlikely companions when a stray dog and a teenage delinquent come to stay in her small North Carolina town.

Time and Again by Jack Finney

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 Flag

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

Joshua by Joseph Girzone

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

Monsignor Quixote by Graham Greene

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

Goodbye, Mr. Chips by James Hilton

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

Daughter of Deceit by Victoria Holt

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

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

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

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

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

The Ladies of Missalonghi by Colleen McCullough

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.

Love's Long Journey by Janette Oke

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

How to Make an American Quilt by Whitney Otto

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

The Shell Seekers by Rosamunde Pilcher

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.

The Notebook by Nicholas Spark

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.

Rose Cottage by Mary Stewart

In this gothic tale, a young widow in war-torn London returns to her family home to retrieve family mementos but finds they have mysteriously disappeared.

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court by Mark Twain

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

Ladder of Years by Anne Tyler

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

Amethyst Dreams by Phyllis Whitney

A psychological drama revolving around a deeply troubled family and a missing granddaughter.

The Code of the Woosters by P. G. Wodehouse

Bertie Wooster is rescued from more bumbling escapades by the indomitable Jeeves.

Mystery

The Balloon Man by Charlotte Armstrong

Rubies, a burglar, a hot-air balloon, and a corpse all transpire to complicate wedding plans.

Aunt Dimity's Death by Nancy Atherton

Lori Sheperd will inherit a sizeable estate if she can discover the secret hidden in a treasure trove of letters found in Aunt Dimity's cottage.

Underdog by Laurien Berenson

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

Murder, She Meowed by Rita Mae Brown

Amateur sleuth Mary Minor Harrison, her cat Mrs. Murphy and corgi Tee Tucker enter the world of steeplechase racing when 2 jockeys are murdered.

And Then There were None by Agatha Christie

In this unique detectiveless mystery, 10 strangers stranded on an island are murdered one by one.

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle

When Sir Charles Baskerville is found dead with the footprints of a giant hound nearby, Sherlock Holmes and his friend Watson are brought in to solve one of their toughest cases.

Mrs. Pollifax, Innocent Tourist by Dorothy Gilman

Disguised as a bag lady in Manhattan, Mrs. Pollifax intercepts a contraband manuscript which reveals shocking truths about Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

Friday the Rabbi Slept Late by Harry Kemelman

Rabbi David Small is forced into crime solving when he is implicated in a murder near his temple.

The Famous D.A.R. Murder Mystery by Graham Landrum

While searching for the resting place of a revolutionary war hero, the ladies of the local chapter of the Daughter of the American Revolution stumble upon a very contemporary corpse.

Highland Laddie Gone by Sharyn McCrumb

Amateur sleuth Elizabeth MacPherson is celebrating her Scottish roots at the Glencoe Mountain Games when two of the revelers wind up dead.

Rumpole and the Golden Thread by John Mortimer

In 6 stories, the very British barrister Horace Rumpole continues to juggle the vagaries of the law, the ambiguities of crime and the contradictions of the human heart.

Seeing a Large Cat by Elizabeth Peters

While Amelia Peabody and her family are on an archeological dig in Egypt, an ancient tomb yields a much more modern murder.

A Morbid Taste for Bones by Ellis Peters

Medieval monk-turned-detective Brother Cadfael is embroiled in the controversy surrounding the relocation of St. Winifred's bones when another key figure in the debate is murdered.

Romance

Thief of Dreams by Mary Balogh

The Countess of Worthing has her life all planned out—and it doesn't include marriage. But then the handsome and dangerous Viscount Wroxley appears at her birthday ball, determined to change her mind.

Crossed Quills by Carola Dunn

Political essayist Philippa Lisle has kept her gender a secret until she encounters the disarmingly handsome Lord Selworth.

The Unexpected Wife by Emily Hendrickson

The heroine escapes an arranged marriage by pretending to be married to the most notorious rake in London.

Bath Tangle by Georgette Heyer

In this regency romp, a lady and a marquis battle their true feelings for each other.

This Matter of Marriage by Debbie Macomber

Thirty-year old Hallie gives herself one year to meet Mr. Right.

Coming Home by Rosamunde Pilcher

Set against the backdrop of World War II England, this is the story of an extraordinary young woman's coming of age.

Wife on his Doorstep by Alice Sharpe

When a wedding he was to perform on this boat goes awry, a young captain becomes involved with the once bride.

Summer Kittens by Valerie King, etc.

A collection of three regency stories, all featuring cats

The Riddle of Alabaster Road by Patricia Veryan

A wounded soldier from the Napoleonic Wars arrives at his country mansion to find a beautiful Italian lady, who believes her father was killed there.

Science Fiction & Fantasy

Foundation by Isaac Asimov

In this first novel of the Foundation Series, a psycho-historian who can predict the future sees the impending collapse of the Earth and establishes a foundation to prevent it.

Another Fine Myth by Robert Asprin

A young magician in training hooks up with an odd assortment of comrades in this light-hearted fantasy.

Childhood's End by Arthur C. Clarke

The Overlords arrive and eliminate ignorance, disease, poverty and fear from the Earth. Unfortunately, they then begin eliminating humans.

The Princess Bride by William Golding

While her true love Westley is off making his fortune, Buttercup is engaged to marry the evil Prince Humperdinck. Westley battles pirates, giant rodents and death itself to win her back.

A New Hope by George Lucas

In this novelization of the first Star Wars film, Luke Skywalker sets out on a mission to save a beautiful princess and destroy the evil Darth Vader.

The Magic of Recluse by L. E. Modesitt

A young magician realizes his full potential when he engages in a battle of skills with the great Chaos wizard.

The Time Machine by H. G. Wells

Well's famous novel of one man's astonishing journey into the future—Earth in the year 802,700.

The Galactic Gourmet by James White

Gurronsevas, a six-legged Tralthan and master chef, faces his greatest challenge in trying to make Sector General's bland food palatable.

To Say Nothing of the Dog by Connie Willis

In this comic time-travel adventure, the fate of the entire space-continuum hangs on a seance, a butler, a bulldog, and the Battle of Waterloo.

Nonfiction

Fatherhood by Bill Cosby

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

Boy: Tales of Childhood by Roald Dahl

A collection of anecdotes from the author's childhood, which was as full of excitement and the unexpected as his best-selling children's books.

The Cat Who Went to Paris by Peter Gethers

The touching and humorous adventures of a reformed cat hater and his feline friend Norton.

Cheaper by the Dozen by Frank Gilbreth

A father who believes a family can be run like a factory and a mother who is his partner in everything except discipline raise 12 lively kids.

84, Charing Cross Road by Helene Hanff

For 20 years, an outspoken New York writer and a restrained London bookseller carry on an increasingly touching correspondence.

On the Road with Charles Kuralt by Charles Kuralt

Kuralt recounts his life's adventures traveling America's backroads.

All Madden: Hey I'm Talking Pro Football by John Madden

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

Under the Tuscan Sun: At Home in Italy by Frances Mayes

The author describes the obstacles—and meals—she encounters while restoring a Tuscan villa.

A Year in Provence by Peter Mayle

A funny, month-by-month account of the charms and frustrations of moving into an old French farmhouse and adapting to a new way of life.

Roll Around Heaven All Day: A Piecemeal Journey Across America by Bicycle by Stan Purdum

Approaching his fiftieth birthday, Purdum decides to fulfill his lifelong dream and sets off on the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail.

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

Humorous sketches of the NPR correspondent's travels.

Red-tails in Love: A Wildlife Drama in Central Park

The appearance of red-tail hawks in New York's Central Park captivates bird watchers and Non-bird watchers alike.