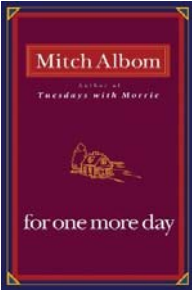
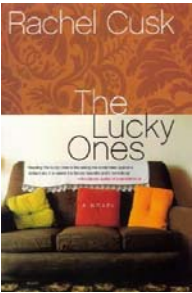
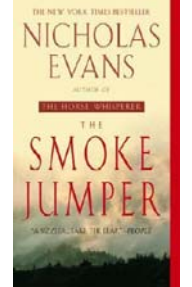
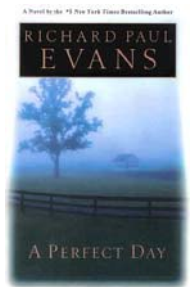


If You Like Nicholas Sparks...

Check out these novels for more heartwarming tales of love and loss.

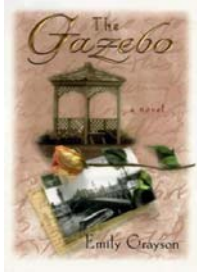
	<p>For One More Day By Mitch Albom</p> <p>This is the story of Charley, a child of divorce who is always forced to choose between his mother and his father. He grows into a man and starts a family of his own. But one fateful weekend, he leaves his mother to secretly be with his father and she dies while he is gone. This haunts him for years. It leads him to depression and drunkenness. One night, he decides to take his life. But somewhere between this world and the next, he encounters his mother again, in their hometown, and gets to spend one last day with her the day he missed and always wished he'd had.</p>
	<p>The Lucky Ones By Rachel Cusk</p> <p>The five people whose lives converge here are also haunted by family -- the longing for love, the struggle to connect. A young pregnant mother wrestles with utterly changed circumstances; a new father searches for a sign of the man he used to be; a daughter yearns for a lost childhood; and a mother reaches out in bewilderment to a child she can't fully understand. Accidental connections and overlapping relationships build a complex family portrait: all are linked by the elemental impact of children on adult lives. This profound evocation of family and its magnetic bonds reveals the mysterious forces that separate us from those we love and bind us to what we no longer understand.</p>
	<p>The Smoke Jumper By Nicholas Evans</p> <p>In <i>The Smoke Jumper</i>, Nicholas Evans delivers a searing story of love and loyalty, of guilt and honor. Two best friends are in love with the same woman and a terrible mountain fire forces her to choose between them. Set against the epic backdrop of wilderness fire fighting, Evans explores raw but complex emotion, self discovery, and the choice between love and honor.</p> <p>Also: The Divide</p>
	<p>A Perfect Day By Richard Paul Evans</p> <p>Robert Harlan has three loves in his life: his wife, Allyson, his daughter, Carson, and his writing. As a sales rep, he has hopes of one day leaving it all behind for a successful writing career. When he is unexpectedly laid off, Allyson encourages him to pursue his dream of writing. He writes a novel entitled <i>A Perfect Day</i>, based on the last few months Allyson and her father spent together as he died of cancer. The story becomes a huge success and Robert finds himself swept into a new world far from his wife and home. In time Robert loses track of the things he loves most...until he meets a stranger who begins telling him intimate details about his past, his present and, most important, the brevity of his future.</p> <p>Also: The Christmas Box, The Last Promise and more.</p>



[Remembering Blue](#)

By Connie May Fowler

Mattie O'Rourke spent her childhood starved for the one thing she thought she'd never find: love. When her mother dies and, at twenty-two, she finds herself completely without ties of any kind, Mattie takes a chance at ending her loneliness and moves to a tiny coastal Florida town. At the Suwannee Swifty convenience store, Mattie O'Rourke sees Proteus Nicholas Blue and their fate is sealed after only a few shy, stolen glances. Nick walks into Mattie's life having fled his own. A lifelong fisherman from a remote island off the coast, Nick is haunted by the certain knowledge that the sea will be the death of him and he has resolved to leave it behind. But as Nick and Mattie settle into an intimacy that both comforts and surprises them, Nick feels the inextricable pull of the waxing moon's tide. And so it is that Mattie, who only months before felt that happiness would never find her, returns with Nick to the island home that nurtured him and finds herself embraced by a large and loving family and an alluring and sensual landscape.



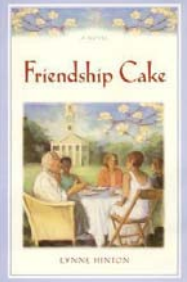
[The Gazebo](#)

By Emily Grayson

Once a year for half a century, a man and a woman have been meeting at the gazebo in the square of a small town in upstate New York. Martin Rayfield and Clair Swift long ago married other people, yet they have remained faithful to their vow to love each other always.

When Martin, now a handsome, elderly man, walks into the office of the town newspaper and tries to tell his tale to the young editor Abby Reston, she is too busy to listen. But the next day Abby finds herself drawn to the gazebo to watch for the annual arrival of Martin and Claire. She waits and waits, but they don't come. Puzzled and intrigued, Abby finds a briefcase that Martin left behind for her, and in it -- in photographs, papers, and mementos -- is the entire astonishing story of Martin and Claire, a love affair that spanned the globe and somehow survived for fifty years.

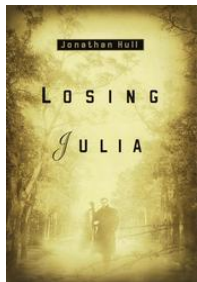
Also: [Night Train to Lisbon](#), [Waterloo Station](#) and more.



[Friendship Cake](#)

By Lynne Hinton

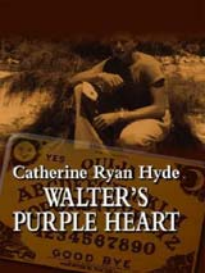
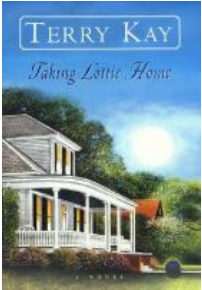
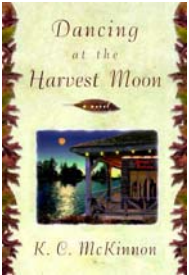
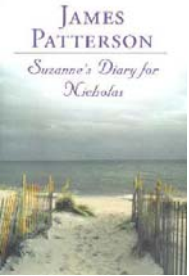
Good humor, tender moments, and life lessons abound in this heartwarming portrait of small-town Southern life that is anything but simple and quiet. Five churchgoing women from Hope Springs, North Carolina, animate this humorous, poignant tale of coming to terms with one's weaknesses, honoring the fragility of life, loving passionately, laughing through tears, and thinking with the heart.



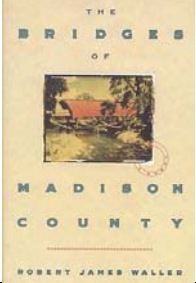
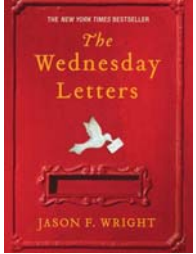


[Losing Julia](#)

By Jonathan Hull

Through the eyes of Patrick Delaney, both bright as a nineteen-year-old American soldier off to fight the Great War and dim as an eighty-one-year-old man, Jonathan Hull shows readers one man's world of discovery, of love, and ultimately, of regret. Julia was the beautiful lover of Patrick's best friend, Daniel. Patrick knew he was meant to be with her the moment he first saw her at a memorial service in eastern France, on the tenth anniversary of the battle in which Daniel died. Though married, Patrick falls desperately in love with Julia during the brief but unforgettable time they spend together exploring the still-battle-scarred countryside and grappling to make sense of what took place there. Struggling to reconcile their love with the havoc of war and life's obligations, Julia and Patrick cling to each other until one faltered step, when Patrick loses Julia, perhaps never to find her again. From the vicious savagery of trench warfare to the sometimes comic and often tragic indignities of life

	<p>in a nursing home, readers will make an unforgettable journey through Patrick Delaney's memories as he questions whether the joy he shared with Julia can outweigh the losses of a lifetime.</p>
	<p>Walter's Purple Heart By Catherine Ryan Hyde</p> <p>Michael Steeb is an aimless twenty-one-year-old pot farmer living a day-to-day existence in an unfinished farmhouse in central California in the 1980s. He has no real plans or interests - until the day he connects with the memories of a life that seems to belong to someone else, that of a young American soldier killed in World War II. Seeking answers on the Ouija board, he instead finds Walter, the spirit of the young soldier. Only much later does Michael come to understand that Walter is an earlier incarnation of himself. For while Michael is, of course, only one person, inside him are two dueling identities: an aimless, carefree pothead, and an angry young soldier who was unprepared for death and who won't let go. Only the resolution of deep grudges and grievances will enable Walter to move on, to merge into his new life, and only Michael can effect that transition.</p>
	<p>Taking Lottie Home By Terry Kay</p> <p>When Foster Lanier and Ben Phelps are released from a professional baseball team in 1904, it is the only experience they have in common until they meet a runaway - a girl-woman named Lottie Parker - on the train that takes them from Augusta, Georgia, and away from their dreams of greatness. Foster will marry her and father her son. Ben will escort her home. And Lottie will change the lives of everyone she meets from the day she runs away until she finally finds the place where she belongs.</p> <p>Also: To Dance With The White Dog</p>
	<p>Dancing At The Harvest Moon By K.C. McKinnon</p> <p>Dear Maggie. I will always love you...Keep me safe in your heart. --Rob. His letters thrilled her as a young woman in love for the first time, and now, many years later, they mean more than ever to Maggie McIntyre. After her husband of twenty years leaves her for a younger woman, it's the discovery of Robbie's letters that gives Maggie a renewed sense of purpose: to return to Little Bear Lake and recapture the woman she once was--the woman she knows she could be again. But time has changed the place she knew and loved. The Harvest Moon dance hall where she worked as a waitress is closed. Still, Maggie is determined to reopen it, with the help of friends and a special man who enters her life in a most unexpected way.</p> <p>Also: Candles on Bay Street</p>
	<p>Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas By James Patterson</p> <p>Katie Wilkinson has found the perfect man at last but one day, he disappears from her life, leaving behind only a diary for her to read. The diary is written by a woman named Suzanne and is addressed to her new baby boy, Nicholas. In it she pours out her heart about the joy he has brought her. As Katie reads this moving story, she realizes that the man she's fallen in love with is Suzanne's husband, Nicholas father. She reads on, filled with terror and hope as she struggles to understand what happened and whether her new love can survive. Written with Patterson's perfect pitch for emotion and suspense, this novel captures beautifully the joys of a new family. This is an unforgettable story, at once heartbreaking and full of hope.</p> <p>Also: Sam's Letters to Jennifer</p>

	<p>The Last Valentine By James Michael Pratt</p> <p>Television reporter Susan Allison is looking for the perfect story about true love, but her heart of hearts tells her such a thing doesn't really exist. Writer Neil Thomas, Jr., wants only to share the powerful message of the "last Valentine", his parents' tragic yet triumphant fifty-year love story. On February 14, 1944, Caroline Thomas said good-bye to her beloved husband, a Navy pilot sent to the Pacific. For fifty years, she waited for him to return - until a miracle happens and she receives his last Valentine. In the present day, when Susan and Neil meet, neither of them expects the emotional outcome: that the story of Neil's parents will bring them together in a love as powerful as she dreams of and he remembers.</p> <p>Also: The Lighthouse Keeper, Ticket Home</p>
	<p>Night Gardening By E.L. Swann</p> <p>When Maggie, recovering from a life-threatening illness, meets Tristan, a handsome landscape architect, her diminished spirit is rekindled. As he restores her fading garden, their relationship blooms into an intensely exciting romance neither one had ever dared to imagine.</p>
	<p>The Bridges of Madison County By Robert James Waller</p> <p>When Robert Kincaid drives through the heat and dust of an Iowa summer and turns into Francesca Johnson's farm lane looking for directions, the world-class photographer and the Iowa farm wife are joined in an experience of uncommon truth and stunning beauty that will haunt them forever.</p>
	<p>The Wednesday Letters By Jason Wright</p> <p>Their story begins with one letter on their wedding night, a letter from the groom, promising to write his bride every week for as long they both shall live. Thirty-nine years later, Jack and Laurel Cooper die in each other's arms. And when their grown children return to the family B&B to arrange the funeral, they discover thousands of letters. The letters they read tell of surprising joys and sorrows. They also hint at a shocking family secret and ultimately force the children to confront a life-changing moment of truth.</p>

Annotations from Syndetic Solutions unless otherwise noted.