



## February 2024 Pronghorn Reading List

**Theme: A Romance or Counter-romance Book.**

Matters of the heart is this month's theme. Largely considered a classic but can be overrated. Traditional romance is good and fun, however, sometimes we are not in the mood for that. Why not a book about loss? Heartbreak? Or finding your way to be happy with yourself? This month we are looking for books that make your heart sing, in any way that happens to work for you.

<b>Book Title (A-Z)</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Reader Reflection</b>
		<i>Prompt: In a sentence or two, tell us what you think about the book and/or why you chose this title.</i>
A Court of Thorns and Roses	Sarah Maas	"I begrudgingly read this book and wanted to dismiss it as being another fantasy-romance-sparkly-vampire type of thing but in the end, it won me over. I enjoyed the world-building and the story that was layered beyond the romance. Not necessarily in my wheelhouse but a good story and start to the series." <i>Joel, Douglas</i>
A Leap of Love	Catherine Lim	"Because it was a love story for our Feb. reading "assignment" I chose it when it was featured for the month on Libby. It was structured around leap year/leap day, so I was interested to read it during our current leap year. It kept my interest for at least five hours and fifty-eight minutes through several leap year encounters of the main characters in the 80's." <i>Jan, Worland</i>
A Winter by the Sea	Julie Klassen	"Romance books are not my favorites, but A Winter by the Sea was fantastic. I felt like I was reading Jane Austen and made me feel happy. During the winter season, happy endings are always welcomed." <i>Conxita, Laramie</i>

Almost Surely Dead	Amina Akhtar	"This book came up as a "suggested" read for me based on my other reading (...typically mysteries, preferably in British Isles settings). Wow, this was different! Second generation Pakistani-American protagonist...and yes, murder mysteries, and yes, enough romance interwoven into it to qualify for the February "Romance" category (I hope)! I wasn't expecting to like it...but I did very much. So give it a chance & I think you will be glad you did." <i>Shea, Cody</i>
Anatomy: A Love Story	Dana Schwartz	"I've had this title on my to-read list for a while, as I subscribe to the author's podcast, Noble Blood. February seemed like the perfect time to read about a romance unfolding between star-crossed lovers, resurrection men, and some seriously odd business at the anatomists' in Regency Edinburgh. The writing is very well-detailed, with a little something for everybody, and has an immediate sequel to complete the story, on my list for next month." <i>Justin, Cheyenne</i>
Before We Say Goodbye	Toshikazu Kawaguchi	"This is the fourth offering in the "Before the Coffee Gets Cold" series but you should start with book one, title same as series. In a certain cafe in Japan, those who wish for a "do over" or just to have one more interaction with a loved one who has passed on can do so, but the time travel rules are complex and you only have until the coffee gets cold. Each volume in the series makes us more familiar with how it all works and introduces us to the part the cafe staff and regulars play. We become intimate with several of the customers, each with their own story of regret and longing in their relationships with lovers, spouses, siblings, parents and in this volume, even a beloved dog. Life affirming and wise you will find yourself evaluating your own regrets and triumphs." <i>Susan, Lyman</i>
Better Luck Next Time	Julia Claiborne Johnson	"I chose Better Luck Next Time based on the cover alone. I tried to get through several "romance" titles before I settled on the photograph cover of two women in late 1930's/early 40's dress, one haphazard with a bow and arrow, the other smiling to the distance. It turned into an enjoyable read on a piece of American history I was never aware of before now. Divorce Ranches. There was romance, some cheeky comedy, and character development to care about." <i>Cara, Douglas</i>

Beyond the Moon	Catherine Taylor	"The book takes place mostly during WW1 and that is my favorite period of time. It's a love story that takes place in both 2017 & 1917 with time travel of a sort. The premise of the female character ending up in a period convalescent hospital is very unbelievable so I had a hard time getting into the story. But it was enjoyable, if not totally believable." <i>Alena, Casper</i>
Body Surfing	Anita Shreve	"My choice of this book was serendipitous. Body Surfing was one from a stack of books a friend brought to share at a recent book club gathering. Set in a New Hampshire beach house, Body Surfing is a story of healing and complex love affairs. Recently widowed Sydney is hired by the well-to-do Edwards to tutor their teenage daughter Julie. When Julie's brothers arrive at the beach house other forces come into play with brothers Ben and Jeff vying for Sydney's attention and the disasters that ensue from this love triangle." <i>Janet, Torrington</i>
Bound in Roses	Katherine Kayne	"This is a historical novel about strong Hawaiian women in the 1900's with a touch of royalty, magic and romance. Hawaii is one of my favorite places so Katherine Kayne's books are great fun to read." <i>Karen, Lander</i>
Braiding Sweet-Grass	Robin Wall Kimmerer	"I chose this book for this category because it was such a loving tribute to the land and the legacies that we leave. This book examined things like maple syrup and connections to family, seeds we plant and putting roots down and a simple reclamation of love in all its forms." <i>Michelle, Rock Springs</i>
Butcher & Blackbird	Brynne Weaver	"I went into this book knowing it was a romance with "Dexter" vibes and couldn't wait to see how it unfolded. With snarky humor and a touch of the everyday human existence this book made me laugh and cry. With that being said it is not for everyone and warnings at the beginning absolutely should be heeded." <i>Kindra, Evanston</i>
Butcher and Blackbird	Brynne Weaver	"Love a good serial killer book and a good romance, so super excited to get one with BOTH!!!" <i>Erin, Riverton</i>

City of Girls	Elizabeth Gilbert	"The book is not a love story in any conventional way but I chose it because Vivian Morris is portrayed as a vivacious, adventure seeking girl who comes of age in the 1940's. While missteps are made throughout her life, she assembles meaningful relationships with women in New York City. She is independent, talented, and secure in her sexuality. It is not until later in life that she finds love in a most unusual and touching circumstance. She reminisces about her life and it brings laughter and meaning to those who choose a different path in life." <i>Leslie, St. Louis</i>
Cloud Nine	Luanne Rice	"I choose the book because it was on my bookshelves as was looking for a romance and I was not in the mood for a Nora Roberts book. The Book was about lost love, family, and cancer. I really liked the book as it shows how love prevails through time and all odds. Even though we move away by distance and emotion from home, it is a place of memories and comfort." <i>Vicky, Worland</i>
Come Sundown	Nora Roberts	"I wasn't sure what counter romance meant. So I chose a book by an author my sister and daughter liked. It seemed to qualify. Set in an idyllic area in Montana on a working ranch and a dude ranch, the romance seemed perfect until the real story of the characters brings up a mystery of a sister who disappeared and had been gone for 26 years." <i>Paula, Ten Sleep</i>
Cooked	Michael Pollan	"While traditional romances are enjoyable, I craved something deeper, something that resonated with my love of food and understanding food's role in our lives and culture. It wasn't just about recipes and methods; it was about rediscovering joy in the simple act of nourishing ourselves and others. In a way, 'Cooked' became my counter romance, reminding me that happiness can be found in the everyday rituals of preparing and sharing meals." <i>Rachel, Cheyenne</i>
Crescent City: House of Earth and Blood	Sarah J Mass	"This book was VERY good! I love Sarah J Mass and have wanted to read this series for a while now. As far as romance goes, the reluctant friendship the lead character, Bryce, develops with Hunt Athalar blooms into a deep connection and understanding, leading to them falling in love and admit that love at the end, but the chemistry throughout leaves you smiling and laughing. They investigate, fight and discover together!" <i>Rebecca, Dubois</i>

Crossed Bones	Carolyn Haines	"An older publication and most definitely not the normal romance novel. I don't read romance novels, so found this combination of mystery, supernatural, and Southern belle interesting. I am tired of poor females struggling with their unrequited love - or infatuation - for the noble male in an unhappy marriage. This series takes place in the Mississippi Delta and I appreciate the historical perspective. The leading character is part of a series and I'll probably read more. After all, I have to decide whether the character is worth delving into more deeply and I'm certainly willing to give her another chance!" <i>Deb, Newcastle</i>
Daisy Jones and the Six	Taylor Jenkins Reid	"Daisy Jones and Billy Dunne both share a passion for music, but this passion becomes even more complicated as they are drawn to each other over their shared love. But, Daisy Jones and the Six isn't only about Daisy and Billy. Each chapter gives insight to all the different characters, so the reader is able to see everyone's perspective - not just the main characters. The novel also spotlights the complications and shades of love that we have -- for each other and for our heart's desires. Set in the 60s and 70s and loosely based on Stevie Nicks, the novel evokes a retrospective nostalgia for the "simpler" days of our youth. It is well worth reading or listening to!" <i>Patty, Powell</i>
Deadly Dreams (Call Me Cat Trilogy #1)	Alex Lux	"I chose this book because I love thrillers, and I LOVE a thrilling romance!! I am so happy that it is only the first in a trilogy, because I couldn't put it down and wanted to keep reading past the last page! It was THAT good!" <i>Brittney, Gillette</i>
Emergency Contact	Lauren Layne, Anthony LeDonne	"I was leaving on a month long Caribbean trip this month and host a Little Free Library switch out the books each month and before I left, I switched the books and packed 8 or so with me to read on the trip. This one happened to be a romance novel and fit the February reading challenge! I thought it was cute and funny and I also liked that the characters were willing to give love a second chance. A nice read right before Valentine's Day." <i>Bethany, Meeteetse</i>
Emma Brown	Clare Boylan	"This is a completion of an unfinished book by Charlotte Brontë and I thought it would be a good romance to read. A Victorian-type book with plenty of ins and outs among the characters (including Emma Brown) who try to learn who IS Emma Brown. A very good pastiche of two writers." <i>Rebecca, Cody</i>

Ever Faithful	Karen Barnett	"I was just in Yellowstone in January and saw this book in the gift shop. Yellowstone is my most favorite place in the world, so I was very excited to find a romance book set there. I usually don't read romance books, but I found this one to be very charming." <i>Tiff, Cheyenne</i>
Ever Faithful	Karen Barnett	"I don't usually read romance novels, but I had seen this one at the bookstore in Yellowstone National Park in January. It was set during the first CCC season of 1933 and the characters were well rounded, plus there was a mystery involved." <i>Scott, Cheyenne</i>
Every Little Thing About You	Lori Wick	"I've previously read a Lori Wick novel and found it fascinating how she wrote strong female characters in a historical setting. This is the first book of the Yellow Rose Trilogy about the Rawlings brothers. The first is about the youngest brother Slater who as a Texas Ranger finds himself handcuffed by a female deputy and refuses to say who he is in the beginning. Great read and looking forward to reading the rest of the series." <i>Lisa, Mountain View</i>
Fellow Travelers	Thomas Mallon	"I wasn't aware of the book until the Showtime series based on it, premiered last fall. As a gay man, I was excited to see it and loved it so reading the book which inspired the series was a no-brainer for me. I don't read much non-fiction but this was one I couldn't pass up. The book was a wonderful love story of sorts, but also a forbidden love. It was heartbreaking." <i>Chad, Rock Springs</i>
First Lie Wins	Ashley Elston	"This may seem like an odd choice for a romance. This book was full of twists and turns and nobody was who you thought they were, but in the end there was love." <i>Ann, Casper</i>
Fourth Wing	Rebecca's Yarro	"More fantasy and adventure than romance but it is there. Fun read that takes you from your daily troubles, keeps you reading!" <i>Christy, Powell</i>
Foxglove King	Hannah Whitten	"This dark romantasy did a fantastic job introducing an intricate and unique world. The ending caught me off-guard, and I am so excited for the sequel!" <i>Dariann, Cheyenne</i>
Friendship Club	Robyn Carr	"1st and foremost it's a book about friendship, but each of the lead characters have romance issues. I chose this book because I really enjoy Carr's books, but also because the main romance is with characters who are in their 50s and 60s- proving love can happen at any age and is not reserved for the young. One of the characters is dealing a relationship that involves abuse and stalking and the support of the friends makes the difference." <i>Kate, Casper</i>

Gone with the Wind	Margaret Mitchell	"At the recommendation of my best friend, who has read this throughout her life, I elected to read this epic. It's beautifully written and covers some impressive ground. Overall, this is a love story between Scarlett and Melanie and (to some extent) Tara; less about the dashing Rhett Butler. I enjoyed watching that friendship develop against the backdrop of a fading Southern culture. Overall, a bit depressing, albeit, incredibly told." <i>Ashli, Laramie</i>
Gone With the Wind	Margaret Mitchell	"I choose to read Gone With the Wind this February because I have read this romance novel many times in my life since I was 14 years old. Every time I have read the novel, I find a new theme or point of interest. It is always interesting to consider this book from a different lens. This time, I chose to focus on the novel's depictions of racism and social injustice." <i>Allison, Casper</i>
Gracie. A Love Story	George Burns	"Gracie Allen was a 'super star' when I was growing up. She earned international fame as a dizzy blonde, and you have to be very smart to do that. George Burns love and respect, for her flows from every page. "For forty years my act consisted of one joke. And then she died". George Burns" <i>Kay, Hulett</i>
Guardian	Terri Reed	"I chose this book frankly, because there is a dog on the cover. It was a typical romance story. I enjoyed it but probably won't be reading any more of her books." <i>Rhonda, Ten Sleep</i>
Gulf Coast Cottage	Maggie Miller	"I enjoyed this book. This is not a genre that I would usually be drawn to, it was a fun read." <i>Heather, Cheyenne</i>
Harmony by Jayne Castle	Jayne Ann Krentz	"I don't read romance much anymore and was talking with friends and they suggested paranormal romance, so why not. It was fun, lighthearted read. I enjoyed it." <i>Michelle, Casper</i>
Harvest Moon	Denise Hunter	"I chose this book because of the different romance twist as well as the life challenges this couple had to face. I really enjoyed how this author bounced from different eras within this couples lifespan! It kept me interested all the way through." <i>Amanda, Gillette</i>

Heaven Around the Corner	Betty Neels	"I don't read romance novels as a rule, but "Pronghorn Reads" gave me the opportunity to read something written by the distinguished Betty Neels, my mother's favorite writer in her later years. I chose this book because the story's setting was in Norway. I enjoyed learning about the geography of Norway from Bergen to Tromso. Now I can say I've read a Neels book and I did it as a tribute to my mother. Lastly, and I mean no disrespect to my mother, this will probably be the only Betty Neels book I will ever read." <i>Brian, Cheyenne</i>
Hello Beautiful	Ann Napolitano	"It was a book club pick and probably not something I would have chosen at this time but so glad I did! I love how the story and characters developed, going back over the same time period from different perspectives. Beautifully written book about family relationships and so much more!" <i>Becky, Lander</i>
Hello Stranger	Katherine Center	"I loved this book. It was a perfect Valentine's Day read. You definitely know how it's going to end, but getting there I'd just fun and enjoyable. It did have the "an adult conversation would have completely fixed things, but instead I'm going to be unrealistically stubborn just for the sake of furthering the plot" which drives me crazy, but that's my only complaint. This is my second Katherine Center book and what I love about her books are the characters. She just writes lovable main characters and guys you'd actually want to be with. The romance isn't completely toxic or instant love. All the supporting characters are wonderful. I really liked Mr. Kim! Parker was such an awful archenemy. I liked that Sadie is never a push over and helpless. No spicy scenes but lots of tension. 4.25 stars!" <i>Shayla, Riverton</i>
Hidden pictures	Jason Rekulak	"This book was creepy and so good! I would totally recommend this book!" <i>Jennifer, Cheyenne</i>
Honeymoon in Tehran	Azadeh Moaveni	"This is a beautifully written book about falling in love, starting a family, and living as a woman in Iran. There is so much that Americans misunderstand about that country and this book dispels some of those ideas." <i>Amanda, Laramie</i>
Hook, Line and Sinker	Tessa Bailey	"In the month of loooooove, it felt like the perfect time to dive in to a spicy romance! This one felt like watching a leveled-up rom-com and was a super-fun read the whole way through." <i>Ashley, Cheyenne</i>
Inheritance	Nora Roberts	"Nora Roberts has written many books, some are predictable, but she can catch your interest with her writing." <i>Estella, Cheyenne</i>



Inspired by the National Parks: Their Landscapes and Wildlife in Fabric Perspectives	Donna Marcinkowski DeSoto	"This may be a quirky title for this month but I love the national parks and custom quilts. There are a lot of gorgeous quilts featured in this book that showcase different national parks around the country. A beautiful book." <i>Cynthia, Laramie</i>
Instant Karma	Marissa Meyer	"I enjoyed The Lunar Chronicles and Heartless series by this author and I heard from a friend this one was good, too. It was a fun read with great characters, an engaging plot, and a satisfying ending. The Beatles references were fun, too!" <i>Christi, Cheyenne</i>
Instant Karma	Marissa Meyer	"I enjoyed this funny and insightful young adult enemies-to-lovers romance. I also picked up some fun information about ocean animal rescue along the way!" <i>Christi, Cheyenne</i>
Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting	Clare Pooley	"Romance isn't a genre I automatically gravitate to, but I found this book through the Libby app. I loved the writing style and colorful and lovable characters." <i>Heidi, Torrington</i>
It Ends with Us	Colleen Hoover	"I had seen this book on several best seller lists, but I don't normally read romance. But then a friend recommended it as well, so I thought I would give it a chance. It deals with the important issue of domestic violence. As a social worker with training in this area, I think she did a good job of delving into the very real struggles of this issue and showing why it isn't always so easy for women to just walk away. Love isn't always so straightforward." <i>Janel, Laramie</i>
It Ends With Us	Colleen Hoover	"Not generally a genre that I read but I was quickly swept up in characters and wondering what choices they would eventually make. I will also nos have to read the sequel." <i>Tristan, Kaycee</i>
Jamilia	Chingiz Aitmatov	"I developed an interest in central Asian culture and history late last year after learning that - among other parallels - the region was climatically similar to Southeastern Wyoming. For that reason, I have had the Kyrgyz author Chingiz Aitmatov on my radar for the past few months and took this February's reading category as an opportunity to familiarize myself with his writing by reading his famous love story <i>Jamilia</i> . I am not usually much of a romance novel reader, but I did enjoy the story and took a particular liking to the prose describing the plants, animals, and scenery of the Central Asian Steppe." <i>Harry, Cheyenne</i>
Just for the Summer	Abby Jimenez	"This was a super cute romance by an author I really like." <i>Alicia, Laramie</i>

Kate Hannigan	Catherine Cookson	"The book was written in 1950, and the storyline took place in England. It is a story about forbidden love, a young woman who had a child out of wedlock from a very poor neighborhood and a well to do married doctor. Each chapter plays out at Christmas throughout the years. It is a story about love that endured and conquered over impossible odds. A very good read!" <i>Dottie, Newcastle</i>
Last One Home	Debbie Macomber	"I enjoyed this book because of the obstacles the main character had to overcome in her life. She has looked forward to her life, learned from her mistakes and takes full responsibility for the past." <i>Jennifer, Farson</i>
Lessons in Chemistry	Bonnie Garmus	"I appreciated that the main character's focus and drive, and that her romantic partner encouraged her and empowered her (as did she to him). Even if they didn't share many overt or "traditional" romantic elements, their commitment to each other was real love." <i>McKayla, Laramie</i>
Lessons in Chemistry	Bonnie Garmus	"A family member shared this book with me. There is a "traditional" romance in it but the main focus is on the passions of the characters. These include rowing, cooking and being a woman scientist. It was difficult for me to finish the book because I would prefer to read accounts of real people with these passions." <i>Venice, Hawk Springs</i>
Love in a Nutshell	Janet Evanovich	"I've loved the Stephanie Plum series by Janet Evanovich but never read any of her other novels. I generally don't read romances but going with a reliable author made it an easy choice. This was a sweet and easy read." <i>Carol, Ten Sleep</i>
Love, Theoretically	Ali Hazelwood	"Even though this was a somewhat predictable romance, I enjoyed the physics and academia references as well as the side story of the main character's unhealthy relationship with her academic mentor. It was an entertaining novel and a quick read." <i>Rhonda, Pine Bluffs</i>
Mariposa-The Quest	Jeannie Hudson	"I chose this book because I went to college with the author many years ago. It is a great romance about English twin brothers and their wives settling in Wyoming territory in 1875 to raise cattle near Cheyenne. It has lots of tragedy, romance and twists." <i>LaRena, Riverton</i>

Me before you	JoJo Moyes	"I hate romance novels. I chose this book based on a Facebook book group suggestion for a counter romance. Louisa takes a 6-month job as a caregiver for Will, a quadriplegic. Her quest becomes to show him that life is worth living even in a wheelchair. Her lively personality is a contrast to his dour outlook on life. I knew nothing of the physical needs of a quadriplegic. I learned they cannot sweat or that temperature changes can be life-threatening due to abnormal regulation of body temperature. Without the science I would not have cared for the book ... due to the romance factor it does have. No spoiler here I hope, but I thought the ending was appropriate." <i>Lois, Cheyenne</i>
Meadow Falls	Carolyn Brown adds	"I loved this book. I could actually relate to the main character of Angela. A story of grief, loss, finding love, and the power of redemption in forgiving." <i>Valerie, Gillette</i>
Migrations	Charlotte McConaghy	"This was not a typical romance book but was definitely a love story. The book moved between the past and the present to gradually build the main character's story. She loves her husband and birds and keeps secret the tragedies that have brought her to a migration of her own." <i>Kathryn, Sheridan</i>
Murder on the Orient Express	Agatha Christie	"I love murder mysteries and what better to read an Agatha Christie classic?" <i>Jill, Fort Bridger</i>
My Antonia	Willa Cather	"While not a typical love story, this is a long time favorite book. A written reflection of a long ago spot in America." <i>Christine, Dubois</i>
Never Judge a Lady by Her Cover	Sarah MacLean	"It's very spicy and full of mystery. The author is a feminist romance writer and I wanted to try another of hers and chose this one!" <i>Kelly, Torrington</i>
Out of Darkness	Ashley Hope Perez	"I chose this book because I was looking for a romance that wasn't too explicit and had a story along with the romance. There did end up being more romance details than I thought, but I still thought it was an interesting book. It dealt with the New London Texas school gas explosion in the 1930s, which I had never heard of." <i>Emily, Gillette</i>

Outlander	Diana Gabaldon	<p>"It is a book that fits or can be described as many genre. I am not sure if it fits as a romance, being a male reader and not having read traditional romance novels i am not one to have a clue. But as we are told we should get out of our element once in a while, PronghornReads makes us do just that.</p> <p>I would say the book is a good read, I am not quite finished though (640 pages, Ooph and there are how many more books?). I need to finish before I start the March book!</p> <p>For other men you can visit <a href="http://www.shereadsromancebooks.com">www.shereadsromancebooks.com</a>. The author has a recommended list of 15 possible books. This resource might help the next guy!" <i>Jeremy, Cheyenne</i></p>
Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austen	<p>"Choosing a romance for February that would interest me was tough -- being a guy and all! However, this book had been on my shelf a long time and I decided to finally give it a go -- and have been delighted to find it very humorous!" <i>Dale, Cheyenne</i></p>
Pride and Prejudice and Zombies	Jane Austen, Seth Grahame-Smith	<p>"A classic book with a gothic twist!" <i>Genesis, Cheyenne</i></p>
Really Good, Actually	Monica Heisey	<p>"This is definitely a "counter-romance." The main character is getting over (or trying to get over) a divorce. In the end, she doesn't wind up with a new partner, which was a refreshing change from the usual tropes." <i>Amy, Wolfe City</i></p>
Really Good, Actually	Monica Heisey	<p>"Touted as a good anti-romance book, complete with the mascara-streaked selfie on the cover. At first, Maggie's break-up anecdotes were amusing and somewhat creative. Then she became annoying with all that whining. She may have redeemed herself at the end, but by then it was too late. 2.5 stars." <i>Kim, Cody</i></p>
Second Chance Pass	Robyn Carr	<p>"I am reading the Virgin River series and this is book 5 in the series. They are love/suspense/drama books. This one wasn't my favorite but for the most part, I enjoy the series." <i>Jamie, Douglas</i></p>
Seventh Heaven	Catherine Anderson	<p>"I have been pulling random books from our library shelves to remind myself &amp; our patrons that there are some great options outside of the new releases. A great story of a love lost, tragic histories, healing &amp; love conquering all." <i>Serena, Moorcroft</i></p>

Shadow of the night	Harkness, Deborah	"Audiobook for those long cross-state drives. Author has vivid writing on the angst of witches and vampires falling in love, then trying to handle a two career household through time." <i>Nathan, Cody</i>
Simply the Best	Susan Elizabeth Phillips	"Simply the Best is the latest in Susan Elizabeth Phillips' Chicago Stars series. Phillips pretty much invented the sports romance genre. Her books about the fictional Chicago Stars football team and various people associated with the team can be read as stand-alone books, but it's fun to read all of them in order, because characters from previous books show up in later books. I always wait impatiently for the next book in the series, and this one just came out on Valentine's Day so I was excited to find it in my library already. Phillips' characters are complex and there are always multiple story lines that converge by the end of each book." <i>Sandy, Laramie</i>
Someone Else's Shoes	Jojo Moyes	"While I chose this one thinking it was a counter-romance (and I'd read a book previously by this author and loved the characters) it ended up being both a counter-romance and romance book. I really enjoyed, once again, the characters and watching them all grow throughout." <i>Jessica, Cheyenne</i>
Surprise Me	Sophie Kinsella	"My wonderful public library here in Newcastle had this book on a Valentine's display. I picked it because of the cover! I don't usually read this kind of book because it seemed 'fluffy' but I thought I would give it a try. I did enjoy it. It had an interesting twist towards the end and is one of those books where you almost have to go back and read it again to see if you can spot clues that you missed before." <i>Louise, Newcastle</i>
Sweeter Than Chocolate	Lizzie Shane	"Sweeter Than Chocolate was just that, adorably sweet! It had everything you could hope from a Hallmark love story - centered around the magic of love at Valentine's Day! Grumpy cynic meets cute true love believer. Clean romance. A truly enjoyable read perfect for the month of February." <i>Caranna, Worland</i>
Tangled	Emma Chase	"I chose this book because I needed something light to read after my last few books. I went with traditional romance for this category because I enjoy reading them. This is a book from a man's perspective about how he lost "the girl" his true love." <i>Marissa, Mountain View</i>

The Beautiful Ones	Silvia Moreno-Gracia	"I really love Silvia Moreno-Garcia's work, and she does really interesting work with various genres. Romance can be an interesting genre for me as an asexual/aromantic person, because I'm usually more interested in the outside plot than the romance, and I'm not much of a fan of the so called "spicy" genre. I do pretty well with Regency/Victorian romances, where it's a lot more about witty banter and fighting societal norms. This book did not disappoint!" <i>Lindsey, Cheyenne</i>
The Beekeepers Daughter	Santa Montefiore	"This is the story of enduring loves, two generations and how their stories intertwine. It is a painful and sweet story of romance, life, and finding happiness." <i>Jennifer, Sheridan</i>
The Blacksheep's Arranged Marriage	Karen Toller Whittenburg	"This is the third book in the "Billion Dollar Braddock" Harlequin series, and in it, the last of the Braddocks finds love. It's a bit of a slow burn at first, but when Peter and Theodosia marry (for honor, not love!), they discover each other, and then the flames get hot." <i>Scott, Laramie</i>
The Bodyguard	Catherine Center	"This was our local book club's February book selection. It was a very cute story. It would make a great rom com movie! I would cast Justin Hartley and Mila Kunis as the main characters." <i>Jenny, Riverton</i>
The Broken Girls	Simone St James	"I've read other books by this author and was looking forward to this one. It's a spooky ghost story, with a love story, and strong female characters." <i>Deann, Hulett</i>
The Choice	Nicholas Sparks	"I chose "The Choice" because it was one of Nicholas Sparks books that was turned into a movie I hadn't seen. In the book you think you know what the choice is going to be but it turns out the choice is a much deeper decision. Nicholas Sparks does not disappoint. Not sure if I want to see the movie now!" <i>Shannon, Moorcroft</i>
The Dead Romantics	Ashley Poston	"I am not a romance reader by any means- but when I read the summary of this book it did intrigue me. Florence is a ghostwriter for a famous romance writer, but after a very bad break-up, Florence does not believe in love any more and has writer's block plus she has to contend with a new editor who thinks she's just the assistant to the writer. But the biggest surprise is the twist at the end! This is a quick, sweet read!" <i>Lisa, Newcastle</i>
The Desert Princess	Melanie Cellar	"It is so nice to step into a fantasy world and escape from reality for a while every night!" <i>Micah, Wheatland</i>

The Fabric of Our Souls	KM Moronova	"The book was heartbreaking but the end was heart mending. Definitely check trigger warnings before reading, but it was a fantastic book. I read it because a friend recommended it!" <i>Morgan, Cheyenne</i>
The Fury	Alex Michaelides	"Even though the story has Greek myth influences with love stories gone wrong, it seemed to go overboard for too long. I will still recommend it to Alex Michaelides fans, but The Silent Patient by the same author was a much better novel." <i>Kathleen, Laramie</i>
The Getaway List	Emma Lord	"Emma Lord is one of my must read YA authors. She creates stories that are easy to fall into and relatable." <i>Jenn, Cody</i>
The Giver of the Stars	Jojo Moyes	"I chose the book because it dealt with horseback librarians during the Great Depression (1930s) in Appalachia, subject matter I have read about before and enjoyed. The twist was the main character, Alice Wright considered herself an English misfit. Alice married Bennet Van Cleve a coal company manager's son who brought her to Kentucky to live with her strict father-in-law, and in the shadow of her dead mother-in-law's earthly performance. Their marriage remained unconsummated despite Alice's best efforts. She first joined the librarians as a release from her situation, but succeeded as the other librarians, also misfits (or perhaps missed-fits, became her family and her way of life. I have never thought of myself as a romance reader, but this was interesting and well written, included many of the cultural challenges of the period, and as I understand happens in a romance, the main characters apparently "lived happily ever after."" <i>Cher, Sundance</i>
The House In The Cerulean Sea	T.J.Klune	"I chose this title because I had read a lot of good things about it. It was different from what I would usually read but I enjoyed it." <i>Heather, Gillette</i>
The Last Love Note	Emma Grey	"I don't normally read romances but a friend lent me this and I thought it would fit the February category. It's a semi-autobiographical story about the grief the main character suffers over losing her husband and her eventual ability to move past it and find love again. I thought it was too long and repetitive. Give it a pass." <i>Mary, Sheridan</i>
The Man I Never Met	Elle Cook	"I chose this book because the title intrigued me. The author left a note explaining why she wrote the book. It reflected her husband's experience with testicular cancer." <i>Alisa, Worland</i>

The Mona Lisa Vanishes: A LEGENDARY PAINTER, A SHOCKING HEIST, AND THE BIRTH OF A GLOBAL CELEBRITY	Nicholas Day	"I chose to read <i>The Mona Lisa Vanishes</i> because it just won the Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal. I didn't expect to love this book but I did. Even though it is a nonfiction book, I think it qualifies as a "romance" because it's about how the world fell in love with the Mona Lisa. It has so much history in it from when the Mona Lisa was painted, to when it was stolen in 1911, to now. I would have loved art history if it all was as engaging as this book!" <i>Nikki, Ten Sleep</i>
The Perfect Marriage	Jeneva Rose	"Clearly this one falls in the "counter romance" category, but this book had been recommended a lot for those who are fans of thrillers. As expected, the book featured a lot of twists, and calls into question how well couples really know one another — and showcases just how far someone might go to exact revenge for a broken heart." <i>Melissa, Jackson</i>
The Princess and the Scoundrel	Beth Revis	"I expected this to take me a bit longer to read, but the writing style paired with the setting and characters had me unable to set the book down. One thing I didn't like about the Star Wars sequel trilogy was that no one seemed able to write a steady romance - Beth Revis took the groundwork laid in the original trilogy and expanded it beyond the edges into a good and grounded novel." <i>Rachel, Laramie</i>
The Ranch	Danielle Steel	"I had heard of this popular author for years, but had not read any of her books. Since the theme for February was romance, I decided to try one of her novels. This was an audio book and I was traveling to Texas, so I listened to the 5 CD's as I drove. The setting for the story is a ranch in Moose, Wyoming. Three former college roommates come together for a few weeks at a ranch in the foothills of the Grand Tetons. As the cover states --- For each of the women, a few weeks at the ranch will bring healing and release, as old hurts are buried, secrets revealed, and love replaced or renewed. It was a good story and of course the references to Wyoming added to it." <i>Dolores, Laramie</i>
The Recipe Box	Viola Shipman	"I love recipes and the back jacket write-up appealed to me. It covers more than one generation and weaves a beautiful story of food, family and love." <i>Yvonne, Sheridan</i>
The Red Widow: The Scandal that Shook Paris and the Woman Behind it All	Sarah Horowitz	"I thought this could be a fun anti-romantic because it is a non-fiction murder mystery but it was also about Meg's search for love and stability, and love of being a social elite. An interesting story but I wish it spent less time on the after-murder assumptions of Meg." <i>Abigail, Cheyenne</i>



The Rose Code	Kate Quinn	"Riveting story about 3 female code breakers at Bletchley Park. One is in a romance with Prince Phillip of Greece before he leaves her for Elizabeth. Picked it because I like the author and enjoy historical fiction. It did not disappoint!" <i>Liisa, Rock Springs</i>
The Selection	Kiera Cass	"I'm not much for reading Romance novels, but I do love a good YA book. The Selection was a good choice, a teen romance set in a dystopian post-World War 4 era. It's the start of a series, and I'm eager to know what happens next!" <i>Marie, Worland</i>
The Seven Year Slip	Ashley Poston	"It was absolutely adorable! I ate it up so fast! the characters and dialogue and the way grief can lead to unexpected things was so endearing. Favorite read this year!" <i>Aubrey, Worland</i>
The shadows between us	Tricia Levenseller	"I've looked at this book several times, but I wasn't sure if I would like it or not. I loved the main character and her spunk. I read the book a lot faster than I intended, story moved at a good pace and I loved the twist at the end." <i>Merilee, Fort Bridger</i>
The Sherbrook Bride	Catherine Coulter	"I chose this book because it fulfilled requirements for two reading challenges. This month's, but also to meet the romance genre one at my local library. I'd read other books by this author and many historical romances in the past." <i>Cynthia, Powell</i>
The Smell of Other People's Houses	Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock	"One of the editorial blurbs that I read about this title mentioned that this story was a "love letter to growing up in Alaska," and it made me think about how there are places we have lived or visited that are so important to us that we love them like family. This book doesn't quite encapsulate that feeling about Alaska (sadly), but it did demonstrate that "community" can be its own character and inspire devotion from the people within it." <i>Angela, Worland</i>
The Tattooist of Auschwitz	Heather Morris	"It was recommended by my daughter as a romance, but a sad story. I had it on my list for a while. It was indeed sad but a wonderful read!" <i>Tami, Cheyenne</i>

The Villainess Wants to Make Money, Not a Match	Arisa May	"In an interesting turn of events, Renee de la Croix, goes back in time after her death to right her wrongs. This time, however, she's not looking for a man to save her! Renee decides she will make waves by making money. I chose this title because I liked the idea of a woman of means deciding to secure her own future through entrepreneurial opportunities. I enjoyed the book even though it seemed a little rushed at the end and I can't wait to read the next one!" <i>Kaylee, Douglas</i>
The Wedding	Nicholas Sparks	" This is a powerfully moving tale of love lost, rediscovered and renewed. This story is about a husband who spent too little time at home and too much time at the office, leaving the responsibility of raising their children to his wife. He is forced to realize that the romance has gone out his marriage. Should have read The Notebook first." <i>Kaye, Cheyenne</i>
The Women	Kristin Hannah	"I think this is one of Hannah's best books. It focuses on the women who served in the Vietnam War, especially in small hospitals near the fighting. Hannah described the emotional toil the women experienced vividly and realistically. I was appalled at the treatment the women received when they returned home - from their families, from their friends, and from the Veterans' Administration. This book opens up a new perspective of the Vietnam War from the eyes of the women who provided care and comfort to the injured and dying young soldiers and were dismissed by their own government when they sought care and treatment for themselves." <i>Nancy, Laramie</i>
The Year of the Puppy	Alexandra Horowitz	"In lieu of a romance, I'm so glad I could read a book about something that fills my heart in February! Having brought an 8-week-old puppy, Huey, into my home back in August, this book has been a lifesaver! As a dog researcher at Barnard College, Horowitz is an expert at what makes dogs tick, and this recounting of a year with her puppy and all she learned was an enjoyable and enlightening read.  I enjoyed the book so much that as soon as I finished it I started reading her 2009 book "Inside of a Dog." Much of my heart has been dedicated to my dogs over the years, so it's great to learn more of the science behind my canine companions." <i>Jennifer, Cheyenne</i>

Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow	Gabrielle Zevin	"The book was on my "to read" list, and when I reread the description it seemed to fit the "counter romance" theme for this month. It did, as the two main characters never actually get together, though one is definitely in love with the other. I sometimes don't like this type of story - where the characters never get together because of no communication or miscommunication - as I often want to scream at them to JUST TALK TO EACH OTHER, and tell the truth!! It was still an interesting story, and I very much like the Marx supporting character." <i>Aimee, Laramie</i>
Twice Shy	Sarah Hogle	"I chose to read this book as a nice mindless fluffy book, it delivered with likeable, but flawed, characters who have to work together to remodel a house that they have both conveniently inherited." <i>Marcie, Cheyenne</i>
Until Leaves Fall in Paris	Sarah Sundin	"I'm not much of a romance reader, but this book was set in Paris during the few months before the U.S. declared war on Germany. It was a fairly complex story about two Americans involved in the French resistance that happened to fall in love. A fun read!!" <i>Wanda, Cheyenne</i>
Us Against You	Fredrik Backman	"It is the second book in a series and did not disappoint. There are many kinds of love and loss: teens, families, teams and towns are all involved. All because of hockey in a small town. Backman is an excellent writer and this story continues to weave its spell on the reader." <i>Sharyl, Douglas</i>
Waltzing Montana	Mary Clearman Blew	"Enjoyed the book, fiction, based on an actual person, a 1920s midwife located in central Montana. Title choice because I have enjoyed other books by Mary Clearmon Blew." <i>Linda, Baggs</i>
What Happens After Midnight	K.L. Walther	"I heard about this book on a podcast that claimed it had "Swiftie" vibes! I didn't quite get the T. Swift references but it definitely had me with the feelings of young love and a fun mystery!" <i>Katlyn, Laramie</i>
What We Find	Robyn Carr	"Engaging love story. Not my genre', but a good read (listen)." <i>Barbara, Farson</i>
Where the Heart is..	Jo Knowles	"A lovely middle grade novel about the meaning of home and family, growing up and first loves." <i>Anne, Cheyenne</i>
Wind in the Thistle and the Talking Pig	E Jayne Mockler	"As a counter romance, Jayne Mockler wrote about the loss of her mother Esther and father Frank. I know Jayne and this story is particularly poignant to us in Dubois where Esther opened the first library, the literary center of Dubois." <i>Meredith, Dubois</i>

Winter Solstice	Rosamunde Pilcher	"Predictable romance but light and entertaining and I will follow it up with the Acorn TV series. Love at all stages of life." <i>Melissa, Torrington</i>
Winter Wedding	Martha Barnhart Harper	"I picked up this book at a library book sale many years ago and decided to finally read it. It is a good story based on the authors actual ancestors." <i>Mary, Buffalo</i>
Wyoming Strong	Diana Palmer	"I chose this book because, with Wyoming in the title, it made me feel like it could be relatable. It was a good story but unfortunately Wyoming was an extremely small part of it." <i>Lacey, Moorcroft</i>

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