

3 Library Books You'll Return to Again and Again

A quick reading list of 3 books about the magic and mayhem of libraries

There is no meet-cute on this earth more satisfying than strolling through your local library and finding a new book date. In addition to being a great place to meet your next literary lover, libraries are sacred places within the community and have been for millennia. They've provided safety to those in need, inspiration to struggling writers and solidarity in times of conflict, such as the American Library of Paris during World War II.

Now, people whose lives have been touched by these places are reaching out with their stories of libraries and library books — the good, the bad, the hilarious and the heartwarming. Here are three book dates that will bring the library to you.

Dear Fahrenheit 451

by Annie Spence

Gen-X librarian Annie Spence pens a love letter to her favorite books — literally. In fact, she pens several; to beloved favorites such as “The Virgin Suicides” and “Matilda” (“You made me feel like anything was possible”) to less amorous encounters such as “Fifty Shades of Grey” (“I hope someone drops you in the bubble bath they are sitting in when they read you”). Plus, Annie includes some *very* useful appendixes like “Excuses to Tell Your Friends So You Can Stay Home With Your Books.” “Dear Fahrenheit 451” is an exploration of what it is to truly love books, how to be a part of a library community and the way the books we love shape who we grow to become.

The Library: A Fragile History

by Andrew Pettegree and Arthur der Weduwen

Two leading historians have penned the ultimate biography of the library as a cultural icon. Beginning with their earliest inception as a collection of hand-written scrolls, through the industrialization of the printed word and the shift from private to public spaces, to the looming threat of technological advances and obscurity in the modern age, “The Library” shows you the entire grand evolution. Plus, it introduces us to several influential collectors and investors who shaped great literary collections throughout history and the thrilling

misdeeds committed in pursuit of valuable books. This is a fascinating, in-depth exploration of the written word and its place in our societal consciousness.

The Paris Library

by Janet Skeslien Charles

Based on the heroism of real-life librarians in Paris during World War II, this story follows young Odile Souchet, the newest team member at the American Library in Paris. But when war breaks out and German occupation ravages the streets of her beloved city, her world crumbles. Odile and the rest of the staff at the community English-language establishment fight back against oppression using the only weapons they have left: books. Together they smuggle stories to Jews hidden in the city and find solace and solidarity with the power of words. The American Library in Paris [still exists today](#), an honored institution for English-speaking expats in the city of light, and a force of good in a shifting and increasingly uncertain world.

As you can see, public libraries are a beautiful, complex and courageous part of our world with a special place in the hearts of readers worldwide. With these candid and fascinating reads, you can enjoy the library in all its facets whenever and wherever you can catch a moment with a good book.