



A Bookish Affair Booklist for *A Princess in Theory* by Alyssa Cole

After reading our inaugural book club title, *A Princess in Theory* by Alyssa Cole, are you longing for more love-in-disguise and famous flings? As we practice physical distancing, let's connect over our shared love of happily-ever-afters with these royally fun romances. Compiled by Shannon (ssedell@lakeoswego.city)

Like Naledi, Mili Rathod has been bound to marriage since she was young. Unlike Naledi, Mili has never met her betrothed. In ***A Bollywood Affair*** by Sonali Dev, Mili Rathod comes to the US to study, waiting for her husband to come back into her life. His famous Bollywood brother comes instead. Seeking a divorce on behalf of the family, could they find love instead? Dev explores Indian traditions with sensitivity and beautifully captures the struggle between familial duty and self-discovery.

After meeting the former actor she had a crush on as a teenager and fangirling all over him, Kailyn Flowers reunites with Daxton Hughes after he becomes guardian to his thirteen-year-old-sister. Combining enemies to lovers and famous flings, ***Meet Cute*** by Helen Hunting thoughtfully writes about emotional circumstances, such as grief and loss, while maintaining energy in Kailyn and Dax's love story.

Christina Lauren's latest rom-com, ***The Honey Don't List***, follows the assistants of a married celebrity couple on a book signing tour. The catch is that the couple's marriage is rocky at best. Tasked with maintaining the facade of a picture perfect couple, Carey and James work together on damage control - as well as their mutual attraction. Lauren deftly writes about themes, such as constructing a public image to chronic health conditions.

In ***Red, White & Royal Blue*** by Casey McQuiston, the First Son and the Prince of Wales must pretend to be good friends after a very public debacle at the Prince's brother's wedding. The ruse takes a turn when Alex and Prince Henry begin to share more of themselves and they get honest about their attraction to one another. McQuiston compassionately addresses real questions about public and personal responsibility, what it means to come out in the public eye, and imagines a world where one can be true to themselves in love and public life.

Rhiannon Hunter is a genius app designer and cynical about love. Like Naledi, her past experiences have Rhiannon running from all matters of the heart in Alisha Rai's ***The Right***

Swipe. When former pro-football player Samson Lima re-enters her world after a one-night stand, she must decide if he deserves a second chance despite the fact that he is in league with a business rival. Woven throughout the sexiness, Rai addresses emotional abuse and traumatic brain injuries with compassion and care.

The amnesia trope gets an update in this second-chance romance featuring reality-star chefs, ranch resorts, Instagram feuds, and Hollywood royalty. In ***A Cowboy to Remember*** by Rebekah Weatherspoon, when a rival pushes her down a flight of stairs, celebrity chef Evie Buchanan wakes up with no memory. To recuperate she returns to California, to a ranch owned by the Pleasant family, who took her in when she was young - and straight into the arms of her first love, Zach Pleasant. But will the love of her life and the man who ultimately rejected her be able to make right his wrong and help her recovery?

When child actor turned showrunner Jo Jones takes her assistant Emma Kaplan to an awards show to be her buffer from the press, the paparazzi capture them sharing a genuine smile - and soon speculation about the nature of their relationship gets top billing. Though their mutual attraction is strong, between an age difference and their professional association, Jo worries about how their relationship will appear. In this strong debut, ***Something to Talk About*** by Meryl Wilsner writes a witty and lively slow-burn romance.

A Princess in Theory is book 1 of the ***The Reluctant Royals*** series by Alyssa Cole, which I would be remiss not to include in this book list. Book 2 follows New York City socialite and Naledi's bff, Portia Hobbs in ***A Duke by Default***. When she takes a sword-making apprenticeship in Scotland, Portia puts her social media and marketing skills to good use for master swordmaker Tavish McKenzie. Soon Tavish discovers that he is a duke and they finally acknowledge their chemistry, but can they make it work? In the third installment of the ***Reluctant Royals*** series, ***A Prince on Paper***, Nya Jerami finds herself in a sham engagement to Prince Johan Maximillian von Braustein, whom she despises. This story beautifully explores family drama and emotional growth with grace, honesty and, of course, passion.

A Bookish Affair, LOPL's romance book club, meets monthly to discuss the diverse, inclusive world of romance novels! Email Shannon at ssedell@lakeoswego.city or Shandy at sdickinson@lakeoswego.city for more information.