



A Bookish Affair, LOPL's romance book club, meets monthly to discuss the diverse, inclusive world of romance novels! This list of recommendations was compiled by Shandy (sdickinson@lakeoswego.city).

I don't know about you all, but my attention span is shot these days. Between working from home, supervising my daughter's math homework, rustling up three squares a day (even if some of them are boxed mac and cheese), and innumerable "Lego breaks" ("breaks," hahahaha), I don't have the time or stamina for much more than an essay here or a novella there. Fortunately for the avid romance reader, novellas abound -- it's like all of my favorite authors saw this coming. Plus, novellas are dirt cheap as ebooks -- you can buy several for the price of a new paperback -- and it feels good to be supporting authors at a time like this. Here are a few of my recent reads and some old favorites.

The Changeup, Nicole Falls

Star pitcher Geffri Robinson meets her internet nemesis, obnoxious sports blogger Noah Fence. Sparks and baseball-themed euphemisms fly as Geffri takes a chance on a dream she thought she'd given up long ago. (Bonus: first in a series that continues with *The Restart*.)

Desire and the Deep Blue Sea, Olivia Dade

Librarians Callie and Thomas fake a relationship to get a relaxing island vacation. He loves her, she loathes him, and everything will change...on reality TV. (Bonus: if you liked this, try the next in the series, *Tiny House, Big Love*.)

Treasure, Rebekah Weatherspoon

Meeting beautiful, confident exotic dancer Treasure at a bachelorette party is the highlight of a rough year for lonely student Alexis...but what will happen when the two young women end up in the same college class? (Bonus: a *lot* of Rebekah Weatherspoon's books are novella-length -- check out a few others while you're at it!)

Tikka Chance On Me, Suleikha Snyder

Pinky's stuck in her small town, working at her family's Indian restaurant. She's tempted by Trucker, but she can't reconcile his kindness and charm with his motorcycle gang membership. Is there more to the bad boy than meets the eye? (Bonus: I also love Suleikha Snyder's Bollywood Confidential novellas.)

***Once Ghosted, Twice Shy*, Alyssa Cole**

Remember Thabiso's assistant Likotsi from *A Princess in Theory*? She fell in love and got her heart broken, but it all happened off-page. This second-chance, reunited-on-the-subway romance gives us a glimpse of what Kotsi was up to while Ledi and Thabiso were busy falling in love. (Bonus: for more Reluctant Royals side stories, try *Can't Escape Love*.)

***The Infamous Miss Rodriguez*, Lydia San Andres**

How do you get rid of a loathsome fiance? Make yourself as scandalous as possible. That's Graciela Rodriguez's plan, anyway, but Vicente Aguirre keeps getting in her way. (Bonus: I also love Lydia San Andres' holiday romances.)

***Mrs. Martin's Incomparable Adventure*, Courtney Milan**

Mrs. Bertrice Martin, age 73, and Miss Violetta Beauchamps, age 69, are brought together by their shared loathing of Mrs. Martin's Terrible Nephew. Hijinks, hilarity, a well-deserved comeuppance, and an unexpected romance ensue. (Bonus: Courtney Milan is also a prolific novella-writer! Check out some of the novellas in her other series, both historical and contemporary.)

***A Little Light Mischief*, Cat Sebastian**

Lady's maid Molly has left a life of crime for respectable service, but she finds herself tempted by prim Alice. Molly may be an accomplished thief, but she's never had her own heart stolen...until now. (Bonus: if you liked this, try Sebastian's *Hither, Page*, an English village mystery -- with a side of romance, of course!)

***Unfit to Print*, K.J. Charles**

Vikram Pandey has spent his law career fighting for the oppressed of London. When his search for a missing man takes him to one of London's most scandalous bookshops, the last thing he expects is to be reunited with his long-lost best friend, Gil Lawless. Will these *very* different men find their way back into each other's hearts? (Bonus: K.J. Charles is another prolific author of innumerable novellas! Mostly queer, often diverse, and sometimes with a sprinkling of magic.)

***The Perilous Life of Jade Yeo*, Zen Cho**

It's the Roaring Twenties in London, and writer Jade Yeo just written a scathing review excoriating one of the city's most famous authors. But handsome Sebastian Hardle is more fascinated than annoyed, and romance wasn't part of Jade's plans... (Bonus: try *Spirits Abroad*, Cho's collection of short stories, or her novella *The Terracotta Bride*.)