

Add a Little Spice to Your Reading Life
Kris Wiley for The News-Review

Love is in the literary air in a big way.

According to The New York Times, “print sales of romance books more than doubled in the last few years, from 18 million copies in 2020 to 39 million in 2023.”

As the person who buys the materials for adults at Roseburg Public Library, I can vouch for this trend. Whether it’s historical romance, romantic comedy, contemporary romance or romantasy (romance and fantasy), the genre is incredibly popular.

Author Colleen Hoover has led the way over the past year. Her breakout hit “It Ends With Us,” which was adapted to a movie starring Blake Lively, checked out 17 times. That book’s follow-up, “It Starts With Us,” checked out 13 times. The library has 18 of Hoover’s books in the print collection, and they all regularly circulate.

The library offers a lot of contemporary romances, and one of my go-to authors is Emily Henry.

Henry’s latest book, “Funny Story,” is my favorite. This opposites-attract novel features Daphne, a children’s librarian whose fiancé has dumped her for his best friend, and Miles, the best friend’s ex.

Daphne and Miles don’t have a lot in common except now being roommates. That is, until they hatch a plan to make everyone believe they’re having fabulous times together exploring their corner of Michigan.

Turns out, pretending to have fabulous times leads to actual fabulous times, and Daphne and Miles may be in for a happily ever after after all.

If you like romantic comedies, I suggest Christina Lauren’s books. Thanks to volunteer Marcie, I picked up their newest book, “The Paradise Problem,” a laugh-out-loud, saucy romance.

Anna and West married so they would qualify for cheap student housing in college. They barely saw each other, graduated, signed divorce papers and moved on.

Three years later, West tracks down Anna for a favor: The divorce was not finalized, he needs her to go with him to his sister’s destination wedding, and he will pay her because his family is rich and he stands to inherit a boatload of money.

Anna agrees to the charade because she is not rich and she is helping pay for her dad’s cancer treatments.

It's a long week in paradise with toxic family relationships, over-the-top wedding plans and growing feelings that take Anna and West by surprise.

Finally, I leave readers with something to anticipate. The third book in the Empyrean romantasy series by Rebecca Yarros, "Onyx Storm," is set to drop Jan. 21.

That gives readers plenty of time to catch up on the series, which started with "Fourth Wing" and "Iron Flame."

I am not a big fantasy reader, but I could not put down this story that features dragons, an enemies-to-lovers, super spicy relationship between Violet and Xaden, and a good-vs.-evil long game. "Iron Flame" ended on a great cliffhanger, and I can't wait to read what happens next.

Next week's library events

Tuesday, November 19, 10:15 a.m. – Lap-Sit Storytime with Aurora

Wednesday, November 20, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Wednesday, November 20, 3-5 p.m. – Teen Volunteer Hours

Thursday, November 21, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, November 21, 4-5 p.m. – STEAM activity for elementary-age youth

Thursday, November 21, 6:30 p.m. – Silent Book Group