

# LOVE RULES / LOVE STINKS

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OUR STAFF



### Kushiel's Dart

by Jacqueline Carey • TOR FANTASY

In a land where beauty and pleasure rule, where all reside under one rule, “love as thy wilt”, Phedre, god marked, is born. Trained as both courtesan and spy, Phedre is a beautiful, intelligent woman who must use her mind, skills, strength, and will to protect her country. Carey’s flowing prose

weaves a magical, sensuous tale of love, intrigue, and destiny. I love this book so much, I have a tattoo of the rose.

—Flannery

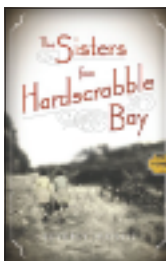


### Snow Falling on Cedars

by David Guterson • VINTAGE

1950s, Washington State: Ishmael Chambers is investing evidence in the trial of Kabuo Miyamoto, a Japanese-American accused of murdering a local fisherman. Ishmael loves Kabuo’s wife, Hatsue, and needs Kabuo to be convicted if he is to ever be with her. Yet, Ishmael decides to present evidence that will

exonerate Kabuo. Love is only real when it’s honest, making it both stinky when it’s incomplete and amazing wonderful when it’s for real. —Ben



### The Sisters from Hardscrabble Bay

by Beverly Jensen • VINTAGE

In this novel of intertwining stories, the sisters from Hardscrabble Bay can't seem to get love right. Except for a lasting connection to each other, the girls experience rejection, adultery and unrequited love. Even familial love is given in the smallest doses, clouded with resentment and

questions of incest. —Brittany

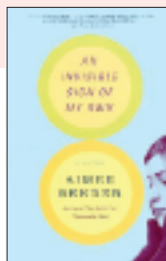


### Of Mice and Men

by John Steinbeck • PENGUIN

Love stinks because people often hurt the one they love, intentionally or not. George and Lennie are farm workers in California in the Great Depression. Big Lennie loves to stroke cute little animals, but he is dim-witted and often accidentally hurts them. After George and Lennie get in trouble, they flee, and George kills Lennie,

who he loves as a brother, in order to spare him the pain that he knows is coming. —Ben



### An Invisible Sign of My Own

by Aimee Bender • ANCHOR

The protagonist of Aimee Bender’s debut novel is a young woman who is obsessed with numbers, who finds herself teaching a classroom of first graders rather by accident, and then falls in love with a science teacher. Despite the unusual elements of this story, I found it to be one of the sweetest love stories I’ve ever encountered.

There’s a good reason Aimee Bender is a perennial staff favorite here! —Kat

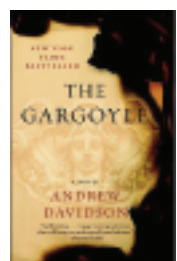


### The Thorn Birds

by Colleen McCullough • AVON

Next year marks the thirty-fifth anniversary of the publication of this sweeping, romantic saga, which follows an Australian family through three generations of hard work, heartbreak, passion and pain. McCullough’s masterpiece remains one of the great literary love stories, beautifully told and filled with

fascinating, complex characters whose hopes, dreams, and intense desires are complicated by both their personal circumstances and their strong religious beliefs. If you like epic love stories, read *The Thorn Birds*. It’s a classic. —George



### The Gargoyle

by Andrew Davidson • ANCHOR

What happens when a depressed burn victim meets a beautiful woman in the hospital who claims to have loved him in a past life? He assumes she’s a patient from the psych ward, of course. But what if he’s got nothing to lose and lets her take him home? And what if her story starts to sound a little too compelling? At that

point, you have the makings of a very strange love story. Read on. —Kat



### Unveiled

by Courtney Milan • HQN BOOKS

Love rocks and romance novels rock even harder! This steamy tale of hidden identity, conflicting duties, and tempting passions is sure to put a spark into your day. Emotionally intense and satisfyingly realistic, this story provides characters you can really root for and respect. I had to re-read several of the more

choice chapters because they were just that good. —Nici