




MY FAVORITE BOOKS




Newsletter

DATES OF NOTE:

February 8th 6:15 pm Book Club meeting discussing the Sherlock Holmes series by **Laurie King**. New members always welcome!

February 14th 10-6 pm Happy Valentine's Day! 

February 20th  President's Day. Open regular hours.

February 2012



February brings us the hope of Spring's arrival, Black History Month, Presidents' Day, and our favorite, Valentine's Day. While Valentine boxes and hearts cut out and embellished with paper lace seem things of the past, most of us acknowledge the day in some way – a gift of flowers or chocolates or an extra "I Love You" to someone special.

There are many books about love in all its forms, but we have chosen three that you might have missed. *The Love Letter* by **Cathleen Schine** is a charming and funny feel-good love story. Helen MacFarquhar is a divorced mother of an 11 year-old and proprietor of Horatio Street Books in a quaint Connecticut town. She loves her life and her store. And then she finds a crumpled love letter in with her mail, no envelope, "To Goat, From Ram." Is it meant for her? Next the letter is found by her young employee, Johnny. Is it meant for him? A romantic comedy of errors ensues. Schine's light touch and characterizations draw the reader in, and her ending twist is most satisfying.

Annie Laurance, also a bookstore owner and **Carolyn Hart's** main character in *Deadly Valentine*, becomes involved in a Valentine's Day mystery that begins at her neighbor's Valentine's Day masked ball. This is the author's sixth book in the Death on Demand series, all prominently featuring Annie and her book shop. **Hart** references many actual mystery books and their authors throughout, which is not only appropriate but becomes a resource for the reader. **Hart** writes very much in the style of Dame Agatha Christie. Fans of intricate plots and light, cerebral mysteries should find *Deadly Valentine* and the series worth reading.

In *The Last Valentine*, **James Michael Pratt** has crafted a sweet, inspirational love story. Two parallel relationships, one in 1944 and one present-day are interwoven. Writer Neil Thomas, Jr., wants the world to know his parents' love story, and cynical reporter Susan Allison has been assigned to tell it. We learn of the poignant elder Thomas' last meeting on Valentine's Day 1944. Neil Sr.'s plane is then shot down in the Pacific, and he is missing in action. Twenty-five years later Caroline receives his last Valentine. In the process of telling his story to Susan, Neil and she also fall in love. Readers who are fond of the novels of Nicholas Sparks should find *The Last Valentine* especially heartwarming and moving.



Romance can blossom in the strangest of places, but none so strange as the schoolyard. Whether it be tackling your crush in a flag football tournament or professing your love in a cryptic sidewalk chalk message, letting that special classmate know how you feel is never easy.

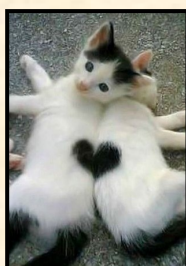
Some of acclaimed children's author **Jerry Spinelli's** earliest works are the School Daze series starring the Pickle Gang. Though their first interaction began with a battle of the sexes and ended in the principal's office, the members of the gang became a close knit group of friends who scooted back and forth to Plumstead Middle School on a green surfboard-sized skateboard called the Picklebus. Eddie pines for Sunny (which might get him beaten up), Salem composes love letters for an eighth grader (which is a serious misunderstanding), and they all long for snow days, Kit Kats, and entering the seventh grade so they'll no longer be in danger of having their underwear run up the flagpole. This silly series is perfect for intermediate readers struggling to find their own place in life and love.

Philip Hall Likes Me, I Reckon Maybe by **Bette Green**, a Newbery honor book, is the first of three books about the back and forth relationship between competitive classmates Beth and Philip. In rural Arkansas in the mid-1970s, boys don't have friends who are girls, and girls like Beth Lambert don't let something as silly as emotion stop them from trying to trump the cutest boy in class. Surely he must be best in the class because she is letting him win! These delightfully punchy books are as fun as they are familiar to anyone who has struggled with a classroom rivalry rooted in romance.

One more note of interest: the Library of Congress just announced **Walter Dean Myers** as the third national ambassador for young people's literature. Along with previous ambassadors **Jon Scieszka** (author of *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*) and **Katherine Paterson** (author of *Bridge to Terabithia* and *Jacob Have I Loved*), **Myers** will strive to promote early and continued reading among children. **Myers** is noted for depicting his own experiences as a youth in Harlem in such works as *Monster* and *Where Does the Day Go?*



MFB Staff,
Dianne, Vivian, and Trisha



My Favorite Books
1415 Timberlane Rd.
(Market Square)
Tallahassee, FL
32312

Open Mon.– Sat. 10 am-6 pm
Sun. 11am-6 pm
Phone: 850-668-7498
Jenny Jeffers
Book Tender



To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at staff@myfavoritebooksllc.com or call 850-668-7498