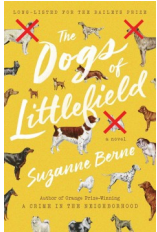


For the Love of Reading

Book reviews and items of interest for readers, by Library Staff

The Dogs of Littlefield



[view in catalog](#)

Something is happening to the dogs of Littlefield, Mass. Is someone poisoning them or does the blame fall on something more supernatural? A cast of delightful, small-town characters suffers through this travesty as circumstance and personality pit one against each other.

It begins with the posting of warnings: pet-owners should not let their dogs roam free in the park. The signs start off politely, then denigrate into meaner advice: "Leash your beast or else." Then a white bull-mastiff is found poisoned in the park woods. Soon the aldermen schedule a meeting to discuss two diametrically-opposed proposals: ban all dogs from the park, or create a leash-free area for the dogs to play and have freedom.

Littlefield, long on the top ten list of best small communities to live in America, appears to be coming apart in myriad ways. Most of the teens and adults have therapists. The veneer of social niceness quickly disappears. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on June 21, 2016

[The Dogs of Littlefield: A Novel](#)

[Fiction](#)

[Family Relationships](#)

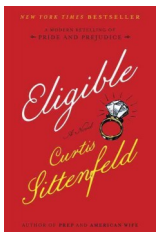
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Eligible



[view in catalog](#)

What do jogging, hate sex, cross fit gyms, and reality TV have to do with Jane Austen? Don't be so 19th century. So what if Austen is rolling over in her grave. Sittenfeld has made a delightful pastiche of *Pride and Prejudice*, much more to my fiction-reading tastes than *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*.

In this reimagined version of the classic, it's 2013 and the Bennet family has relocated to a spider-infected old Tudor in an upscale neighborhood of Cincinnati. Country club lunches, anyone?

The five unmarried daughters still ground the story although all of them have turned very 21st century. Even Mrs. Bennet has been modernized, she's now a shopaholic busybody. However, she still remains in determined pursuit of worthy husbands (rich, upper class) for her daughters. Jane and Liz have flown the nest for New York City where gentle Jane teaches yoga, and Liz, writes for the entertainment mag, *Mascara*. She also sleeps with her married boyfriend. At thirty-nine, Jane has given up on finding a man, and has begun *in vitro* fertilization treatments in the hopes of having a child. Alas, no wedding bells in the offing for both Jane and Liz. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on June 13, 2016

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Dumplin', Julie Murphy



[view in catalog](#)

Willowdean Dickson is a Dolly Parton fan, a self-described fat girl, and a resident of a small town where the event of the year is a beauty pageant. Willowdean's mother is a former winner and now basically runs the pageant. Will does her best to ignore it, preferring to spend her time with her best friend, Ellen, and at her after school job where she has a crush on a coworker. After experiencing her first heartbreak and standing up to the school bully, Will decides to go for broke and enter the pageant.

Willowdean is a character to root for. She is a very real girl who finds herself an unexpected superhero for the misfits of her town. Her story is one of family, friendship, love, and self discovery that will appeal to many readers. Check out *Dumplin'* this summer and enjoy it with a big glass of sweet tea (Willowdean is a Southern girl after all). Don't forget to sign up for the Teen Summer Reading Program so you can earn prizes for reading!

Posted by Becky F. on June 10, 2016

[Dumplin'](#)

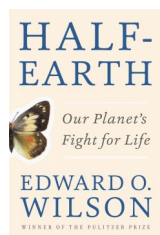
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Half-Earth: our Planet's Fight for Life



[view in catalog](#)

The central premise of this book is that in order to save many of the world's species, humankind has to do something truly radical, that is, create wildlife and nature preserves over half the earth. Renowned entomologist and conservationist, Edward O. Wilson, presents in this book many examples of how interconnected life is in on our planet, and then makes a clarion call to save it. As someone who has actively worked for conservation for decades, Wilson is very knowledgeable.

He points out that of all the fauna and flora now on earth, we know only 20% of them at most at the species level. And much less about how they work together to maintain this web of life. To learn all these species, even were they to survive, would take at least a couple more centuries.

[Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on June 6, 2016

[Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life](#)

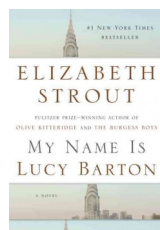
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My Name is Lucy Barton



[view in catalog](#)

If you ever worried as a child about bringing other children home from school and their possible reaction to your home and family life, this book will resonate with you. If you ever reconnected with a close relative after a long absence, ditto.

Lucy Barton had a pretty horrific childhood: dirt-poor for many years the family lived in an actual garage without running water. And not only was there little money, food, or clothes, but her parents provided little emotional sustenance.

Strout takes you deep into the mind and heart of her protagonist, a young mother in her twenties, recently hospitalized after an operation. Lucy is happily married with two young children whom she feels she has abandoned because of her illness. She also is a new writer, proud of her work, but still not at ease calling herself an author.

The present time of the book occurs in a New York City hospital where Lucy is amazed to see her mother, who's come all the way from Iowa to take care of her daughter. But this is so out of character for her, that Lucy can scarcely believe she has arrived. Neither parent has ever visited Lucy before and neither attended her wedding. At his one meeting with their future son-in-law, Lucy's father flipped out because her fiancée was German.

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Posted by Dory L. on June 1, 2016

[My Name is Lucy Barton: A Novel](#)

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