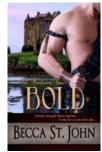
# Nicole Adams, Oshawa Public Libraries

# A Rogue by Any Other Name by Sarah MacLean



Penelope and Michael were childhood friends on their neighbouring estates. Michael loses his birthright in a game of chance and becomes estranged from those closest to him. Many years later, as Penelope is feared to remain a spinster, her father raises the value of her dowry to include a recently acquired property, the estate lost by Michael all those years ago. Michael returns to Somerset, determined to marry Penelope for the land and to exact revenge on those who wronged him, but he didn't bet on more than a marriage of convenience. For those who love Regency rogues, try also *Lord of Scoundrels* by Loretta Chase and anything in the *Wallflower* series by Lisa Kleypas

# Bold by Becca St. John



The first of the three-part *Handfasting* trilogy. In the 13th Century Scottish Highlands, headstrong Maggie is taken from her close knit clan to live for a year with Talorc the Bold in an arrangement known as handfasting. After the year is up, Maggie may return home if she finds the match unsuitable. Convinced at the start that she will never agree to marry Talorc, it becomes less certain as time passes what her decision will be. *The Bride* by Julie Garwood also features a Scottish laird and an unwilling bride, while *The Wild Hunt* by Elizabeth Chadwick tells the tale of a young woman taken in by a handsome and powerful older man in 12<sup>th</sup> century Wales.

# Fall from Grace by Megan Chance



The story of Lily Tremaine, who at the age of twelve, witnesses her parents gunned down by the notorious Sharpe gang. Lily is taken in by the gang and grows up to become "Lily the Cat" a feared outlaw. This is a story of family, love, betrayal, fear and redemption. Texas Sharpe struggles through his love for Lily and his fear and dependence on his father. Lily meanwhile lost her innocence at a young age and never recovered, until Texas' love helps her regain her humanity. For a more traditional western historical romance, try the *Texas Trilogy* by Lorraine Heath. For those looking for the outlaw theme, try the Outlaw Hearts series by Rosanne Bittner

## Flowers from the Storm by Laura Kinsale



Maddy Timms is a young Quaker, who assists her blind father in documenting his mathematical treatise. At a gathering to present one of his papers, she encounters the Duke of Jervaulx, a brilliant, yet dangerous colleague of her father's. His womanizing ways are legendary and the innocent Maddy finds herself fascinated by him. When the Duke is struck by a strange illness, Maddy steps in to nurse him back to health when all others had abandoned all hope for his recovery. For more damaged heroes, try Meredith Duran's <u>The Duke of Shadow</u> and Joanna Bourne's <u>The Spymaster's Lady</u>.

# The One and Only by Emily Giffin



For as long as she can remember, Shea has been obsessed with the Walker football program. This has led to her staying in the small Texas town where she grew up so she can be close to the team, her family and her good friends, including Walker's legendary head coach whom she's known her whole life. Over time, Shea realizes that what she feels for Coach is much more than just a love for football. For those who love their romance with a sports flavour, you might also try books by Susan Elizabeth Phillips.

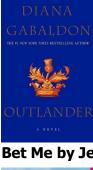
## Kristen Caschera, London Public Library

### Something Borrowed by Emily Giffin



Good girl Rachel has always been the conservative counterpart to her outgoing best friend Darcy. That is, until she accidentally sleeps with Darcy's fiancé Dex one night after one too many cocktails. Though she is determined to put the one night stand behind her, Rachel and Dex find themselves drawn to each other again and again. Something Borrowed is an unconventional love story with a surprise twist and readers will find themselves rooting for Rachel and Dex. Readers who like Something Borrowed will enjoy similar authors Jennifer Weiner and Sophie Kinsella, and Stephanie Lehman's You Could Do Better also tells the tale of an engagement gone wrong.

# **Outlander by Diana Gabaldon**



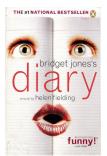
World War II has just ended and Nurse Claire Randall is enjoying a second honeymoon with her husband when she is hurtled back in time to 18th century Scotland. Caught in a world of spies, outlaws, raids and clans, Claire finds unexpected love and passion with Scottish warrior Jamie Randall. Torn between two men in two different worlds, Claire must decide whether her passion for Jamie or her devotion for her husband will govern her heart. Readers who like their romance with a side of time travel will enjoy Audrey Niffenegger's *The Time Traveller's Wife* or Anya Seton's *Green Darkness*.

# Bet Me by Jennifer Cruisie



It all starts with a bet - handsome Cal bets his friends \$10,000 that he can get frizzy, fashion-impaired Min into bed within a month. Unfortunately for Cal, Min overhears the bet and decides to beat him at his own game. After a single disastrous dinner date, it's clear that romance is not in the cards - until fate intervenes and brings the pair together again. A series of hilarious mishaps ensue and Cal and Min find that they might just have a love connection after all. Susan Elizabeth Phillips' Call Me Irresistible also features a sassy, relatable protagonist, and readers who enjoy Cruisie's wacky humour will enjoy similar authors Mary Kay Andrews and Janet Evanovich.

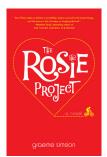
## **Bridget Jones' Diary by Helen Fielding**



The quintessential "chick-lit" novel, Helen Fielding's epistolary book follows 30something heroine Bridget Jones as she suffers through the trials and tribulations of being a "singleton." Through a series of bad dates and failed romances, the mysterious Mr. Darcy keeps reappearing in Bridget's life – could he be "The One" she's been searching for? Readers will relate to Bridget's romantic blunders and career mishaps in this laugh-out-loud funny novel.

Readers can follow the further adventures of Bridget in *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason* and *Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy.* 

## The Rosie Project – Graeme Simsion



Don Tillman is a socially awkward geneticist who is looking for love. Rosie Jarman is a fiery waitress who is looking for her birth father. Don thinks that his six page questionnaire will help him find a compatible partner who is punctual and logical. Rosie is perpetually late, impulsive, and hot headed. When these two unlikely partners join forces to work on the Father Project, the results are funny and heart-warming, and Don and Rosie learn that love can be found in the most surprising of places. *Unexpectedly Milo* by Matthew Dicks and *Us* by David Nicholls are both tales of unexpected love featuring awkward male protagonists.

### Pauline Dewan, Wilfrid Laurier University

#### Venetia by Georgette Heyer



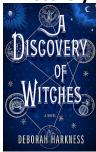
After meeting the rakish Lord Damerel, Venetia shocks her family and friends by preferring him to more worthy suitors. Venetia's aunt and uncle invite her to London to escape Lord Demerel's influence and to meet other eligible bachelors. Georgette Heyer, the accomplished writer of glamourous Regency romances, is celebrated for her Austenlike wit, her engaging characters, and her depiction of elegant society. Readers who like dashing, Regency-era heroes will also enjoy Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudic*e and Georgette Heyer's *Sylvester*.

### **Agnes Grey by Anne Bronte**



After Agnes' father gambles their life savings away and Agnes is forced to become a governess, the one bright light in her life is the new curate, Edward Weston. But Agnes' pupil, the pretty Rosalie Murray, spreads false information about Agnes and tries to win him for herself. Impoverished nineteenth-century heroines in both Jane Eyre's *Charlotte Bronte* and Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park* also live with well-to-do families—a situation that complicates their romantic ambitions.

### A Discovery of Witches by Deborah Harkness



Witch and Yale professor Diana Bishop faces life-threatening dangers once she discovers a lost manuscript in Oxford's Bodleian Library. Her life becomes even more complicated after meeting the dashing geneticist and vampire, Matthew Clairmont. If you enjoy romance novels with strong elements of adventure and suspense, you will also love Diana Gabaldon's *Outlander* and Joanna Bourne's *Rogue Spy.* 

## North and South by Elizabeth Gaskell



Margaret Hale's world is turned upside down when her family is forced to leave their beloved vicarage in southern England for a home in the industrial north. Margaret's strong sense of social justice predisposes her against the mill owner, John Thornton—a man who falls deeply in love with her. George Eliot's *Middlemarch* and Georgette Heyer's *Arabella*—other leisurely paced books set in nineteenth-century England—also feature heroines with deeply held social values that interfere with their romantic relationships.

#### Persuasion by Jane Austen



When twenty-seven-year old Anne Eliot runs into Captain Wentworth again, after rejecting him eight years earlier, she is flustered and unsettled. Ironically as she begins to regret her earlier decision, he seems to lose interest in her. When he transfers his affections to Louisa Musgrove, Anne is devastated. Set in the Regency era, Persuasion evokes a charming world of country manors and English drawing rooms. Georgette Heyer's *Lady of Quality* and Trollope's *The Belton Estate* also feature heroines past the usual age for marriage.

# Andrea Dunn, Markham Public Libraries

### Landline by Rainbow Rowell



Everyone has something about their past they wish they could change. As Georgie's career in show business is about to take off, her marriage is on the verge of collapse. Separated from her family, Georgie discovers a way her present self can communicate with her husband in the past. This is a modern day, fantasy romance about falling in love and staying that way. *Funny Girl* by Nick Hornby is similar as Sophie is trying to make her way in show business.

## Goodnight June by Sarah Jio



June returns to Seattle to settle the estate of her Aunt Ruby, including her book store. As June discovers lost correspondence between her aunt and Margaret Wise Brown detailing the development of a children's classic, June tries to rescue the store from bankruptcy. June also begins a relationship with her next door neighbour, Gavin. *The Storied Life of AJ Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin is recommended for readers who like to read about literature and about the role a book shop plays in the community.

## Dress Shop of Dreams by Menna Van Praag



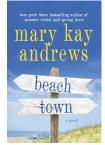
This is love with a little bit of magic. Scientist Cora is too busy for any relationship except the one she has with her grandmother, Etta. With one stitch, Etta is able to work her magic on the clothes in her shop giving the wearer confidence. When Etta attempts to work her magic on Cora with family friend Walter, complications arise. Jenny Colgan's *Sweetshop of Dreams* is similar as both leading females are finding their identity, and have a bond with an older relative.

#### The Royal We by Heather Cocks and Jessica Morgan



Who doesn't love a royal love story? Bex Porter's life changes when she meets Nicholas, during a year studying abroad. Nicholas is the future king and as the two become friends and start a relationship, Bex learns that dating a royal is not all that it seems. This fun novel will be of interest to fans of Prince William and Kate Middleton. Meg Cabot's *Royal Wedding*, the latest Princess Diaries novel, is similar in that it follows Princess Mia as she plans her wedding and protects her family from scandal.

## **Beach Town by Mary Kay Andrews**



Looking for Hollywood romance? Location scout Greer finds more than she's looking for when she finds Cypress Key for her next feature film. Greer must balance between the demands of the director and stars, the town residents, and the handsome mayor Eben, who objects to the films destruction of the town. As Greer and Eben fight their attraction, Greer looks for her own Hollywood ending. Meg Cabot's *She Went All the Way* is the story of screen writer Lou and her adventure in the Alaskan wilderness with a movie star.

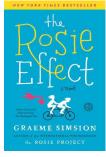
# Jennifer Green, Oshawa Public Libraries

# Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson



This is a lovely little book about Major Pettigrew and his budding romance with Mrs. Ali. Simonson's writing is quiet, but leaves a mark. Major Pettigrew could have been a simple romantic story, but the author raises the discussion of race, culture, and late-in-life relationships in small towns. A wonderful read for a rainy summer day. Books with a similar feel include *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce and *The Widower's Tale* by Julia Glass.

## The Rosie Effect by Graeme Simsion



If you've always wondered what a romantic relationship between Penny and Sheldon from Big Bang Theory might be like, look no further than The Rosie Effect! Don Tillman has decided that to find a wife, he must be logical and structured about it as he is everything else. When Rosie literally turns up on his office doorstep, though, things don't go as planned, and with warm humour and a light touch, Simsion develops a romance between these two that will make you chuckle! Those looking for a other quirky, modern romances should try *An Abundance of Katherine*s by John Green and *Silver Linings Playbook* by Matthew Quick.

### The Haunting of Maddy Clare by Simone St. James



Set after WWI, this is great book for those interested in a classic ghost story. With some romance and mystery thrown in, St. James has written a suspenseful story that goes perfectly with a cup of a tea and a warm fire. A nice fast-paced read that will have you looking at ravens in a whole new light. Try also *The Other Side of Midnight* by Simone St. James.

## Longbourn by Jo Baker



For lovers of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice, Longbourn is the story of what happens "downstairs" at the Bennet home. When a new, mysterious footman arrives at Longbourn, the servants' lives—and Sarah's heart—get turned upside down. The writing is quiet but keeps a steady and swift pace. With well-developed characters, Baker does a wonderful job bringing the other side of Longbourn to life and telling the story of the Bennet sisters. Explore similar themes in *An Assembly Such as This* by Pamela Aiden.

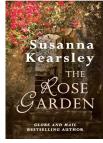
## Love, Rosie or Where Rainbows End by Cecelia Ahern



A sweet, almost completely epistolary story about two friends who never seem to fall for each other at the same time. Rosie and Alex have been the best of friends since childhood and are always there for each other. But when Alex moves to Boston, Rosie stays connected through often funny emails and phone calls. A fast-paced romance with some great characters reminiscent of *When Harry Met Sally* (film) or *Bridget Jones's Diary by Helen Fielding.* 

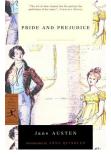
# Melanie Kindrachuk, Stratford Public Library

#### The Rose Garden by Susanna Kearsley



Eva returns to her beloved Cornwall to scatter her sister's ashes. While staying with family friends, she begins to slip back centuries, encountering former resident Daniel Butler. Over the weeks, she must decide which era she belongs in. With a sweet tone and a gentle love story, this will appeal to traditionalists. Diana Gabaldon's epic *Outlander s*eries is a denser read, but also features a woman who finds love as she slips through time. Follow a woman who stays put while her love interest is affected by time's instability in *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger.

### Pride & Prejudice by Jane Austen



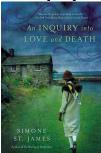
What's not to love about this classic tale of a woman who knows her own mind, says it like it is – and still finds love and financial security with the tallest, darkest, handsomest, and richest fellow around? A must for those who enjoy classics and witty repartee. One of the best among the plethora of Jane Austen follow-ups is Mary Street's *The Confession of Fitzwilliam Darcy,* which tells the tale from Darcy's point of view. For more charming Regency tales, head to any of Georgette Heyer's novels.

## Garden of Lies by Amanda Quick



Ursula Kern runs a secretarial agency in Victorian London. She's also investigating the death of one of her best employees, with help from adventurer Slater Roxton. They form a quirky, sarcastic and sexy detective duo. Like all of Quick's books, this is a fast-moving, funny story, with loads of snappy dialogue and a strong sensual element. Barbara Michaels' *The Dancing Floo*r is more gothic-lite (with a lot less frank sexual content) but has similar appeal. For another story of two supremely self-confident and pleasantly obnoxious lead characters, try the first book in Elizabeth Peters' Amelia Peabody series, *Crocodile on the Sandbank.* 

## An Inquiry into Love and Death by Simone St. James



In 1920s England, Oxford student Jillian is pulled away from her studies by the sudden death of her Uncle Toby, a ghost hunter. Replete with secretive villagers and a truly chilling ghost, this is a wonderful period piece with a swoon-worthy hero in detective Drew Merriken. Karen White's *The House on Tradd Street* is set in the present day but also features a smart woman, a man with a penchant for mysteries, and a looming ghostly presence. For another romantic 1920s ghost story, explore the Scotland-set *Ghost Light* by LeeAnne Hansen.

## The Precious One by Marisa de los Santos



After her estranged father has a heart attack, Taisy Cleary returns to her hometown on his request. She sinks into his new family life, befriending her naive teenage half-sister, and running into her old high school beau...who is still single. This is a heart-warming story of many kinds of love within a larger family circle. *One Plus One* by JoJo Moyes is another romance for adults which includes the whole family, told with charm and humour. Juliette Fay's *The Shortest Way Home* is a story of family reconnection and rediscovered love, told from the perspective of a male nurse.

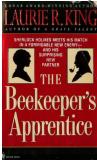
# Diana Krawczyk, Mississauga Library System

### **Courting Greta by Ramsey Hootman**



Samuel Cooke has long lived without romance in his life being unable to walk without the use of crutches. He is often ignored by women until he meets Greta, a gym coach at the high school where he teaches computer classes. Greta has her own issues and, while not romantically inclined, could use someone to care for her. An unconventional love story, with similarities to *The Next Best Thing* by Jennifer Weiner, this book gives hope to those often overlooked by cupid's arrow.

### The Beekeeper's Apprentice by Laurie R. King



Mary Russell runs into an elderly Sherlock Holmes after moving to her aunt's home following the tragic death of her family in an auto accident. Mary finds a kindred spirit to share her sharp intellect with and both end up in a new mystery involving Moriarty. A unique May – December romance, this mystery series keeps readers coming back with a twist on the conventional romance. Anne Perry's couple, Thomas and Charlotte Pitt, in their mystery series will be satisfying for those that love King's work.

#### Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte



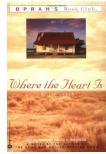
Jane is abandoned by her living relatives at Lowood Institution where she gets a meagre education and lust for a life beyond her circumstances. Taking a governess position at Thornfield Hall, Jane meets the tortured yet irresistible Mr. Rochester who has many secrets to hide. Jane's love is timid but steadfast and it is balm to Rochester's seemingly unhealable wounds. Daphne DuMaurier's *Rebecca* echoes many of the same themes in a similar plot.

## The Firebird by Susanna Kearsley



Born with a gift to see the history of an object in her hands, Nicola Marter works for Russian art and antiquity dealer, Sebastian. When a mysterious woman presents a small carving of a bird once owned by Catherine the Great, Nicola instantly knows its story and value. She returns to a previous lover to help prove that the woman is speaking the truth. Kearsley is a Canadian writer and has a number of bestselling romance including her latest, *A Desperate Fortune*.

#### Where the Heart Is by Billie Letts



"Seventeen, seven months pregnant, thirty-seven pounds overweight, and superstitious about sevens," Novalee is running away from her life with her boyfriend, Willy Jack, when she gives birth in a Wal-Mart. Taken in by Sister Husband, the one-woman welcome wagon, Novalee raises her daughter Americus to have a better life than she had. All the while, Forney Hull, who works at the library, tenderly gives her the chance to love and be loved. Although not a true romance, Fannie Flagg's *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café* will give you the same feel.

# Elsa Ngan, Toronto Public Library

### Soulless by Gail Carriger



Alexia Tarabotti comes to terms with the fact that she has no soul (a preternatural) and that she will be a spinster (at the tender age of twenty-five). After a vampire attacks her, she meets the handsome werewolf Lord Maccon, who is sent by Queen Victoria to investigate the incident. The two fall in love while solving a paranormal crime and are on the receiving end of strong disapproval from those in the supernatural realm. This is the first novel of the Parasol Protectorate series. In the manga series, *Midnight Secretary*, Kaya Satozuka is an extremely capable administrative assistant. Despite her discovery that her director, Kyohei Tahoma is a vampire, Kaya does her best to protect him and finds herself falling in love.

### The Royal We by Heather Cocks and Jessica Morgan



When Rebecca Porter (Bex) arrives at Oxford, she does not expect to meet Prince Nicholas and fall in love with him, just like in a fairy tale. Despite all the baggage that comes with Nick's title, their love must endure disapproval and betrayals. Nick and Bex must keep true to themselves while learning what it truly takes to be each other's true love. The latest adult novel by Meg Cabot, *Royal Wedding: A Princess Diaries Novel,* also describes the hardship (with humour) of finding true love as a member of royalty.

## Happy Marriage?! by Maki Enjoji



Chiwa Takanashi is holding two jobs in order to pay for her father's financial mistakes. Then Hokuto Mamiya, a CEO of a powerful Japanese company walks in and offers her a marriage proposal that will solve all her problems. Chiwa soon discovers the real reason behind Hokuto's proposal but resolves to stand by him because she can't help but fall in love with him. This manga series is a comedic read.

#### After the War is Over by Jennifer Robson



For four years of the Great War, Charlotte Brown serves as a military nurse, helping wounded soldiers suffering from PTSD. She is happy and relieved to see her injured friend, Lord Edward Ashford, return. After discovering he is suffering from a post-war concussion and caring for him, her feelings for him resurface. Jude Deveraux's *Ever After* shares the sad plight of Jamie Taggarts who tries to cope with PTSD (after a tour in Afghanistan), while being treated for his physical injuries by his physiotherapist, Hallie Hartley. Together, they heal each other's invisible wounds.

#### Library Wars: Love and War by Kiiro Yumi



After a brave soldier saves her favourite book from being confiscated, Iku Kasahara dreams of joining the Library Defense Force, a group that has vowed to protect the library's collections in defiance of the federal government's plan to rid society of books it deems unsuitable. Once she joins the force, she works hard and, despite the fact that her very serious drill sergeant pushes her limit, Iku can't help but wonder if this is the same soldier she fell in love with.

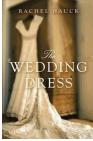
# Lindsay Tyler, CELA Library

### **Bet Me by Jennifer Crusie**



Minerva overhears her ex-boyfriend making a bet about her with a friend named Cal. She decides to accept Cal's invitation to dinner in spite of the bet, and so begins this very funny contemporary romance. Readers who enjoy modern, humorous romances with a realistic heroine will enjoy this title and others by Jennifer Crusie. *Ain't She Sweet* by Susan Elizabeth Philips also has a humorous tone and an imperfect but ultimately loveable heroine.

### The Wedding Dress by Rachel Hauck



Many readers love romance, but not the steamier side of the genre. This is a gentle love story involving a magical wedding dress which plays a crucial role in the lives of several generations of brides. The book is classified as inspirational, but I didn't find the Christian theme too strong. Readers may also enjoy Debbie Macomber's *Blossom Street Brides*.

#### Persuasion by Jane Austen



Jane Austen fans each have their favourite novel, and Persuasion is mine. Anne is becoming too old to marry by the standards of her time, and she is still in love with Captain Wentworth whom her family dissuaded her from marrying 8 years because he was poor. Persuasion is more poignant that some of Austen's other novels, but certainly readers who enjoy this title should also read *Sense and Sensibility* or *Pride and Prejudice.* 

#### In Your Dreams by Kristin Higgans



Like many romance novels, In Your Dreams begins with the hero and heroine coming together because one of them desperately needs a date for a wedding. In this case, Emmaline Neal requires a suitably impressive date for her ex-fiancé's wedding, and local winemaker and general good guy Jack Holland agrees. The enjoyable characters and warm community in this novel lift it above the average contemporary romance. And the other titles in the *Blue Heron Romances* series will satisfy those who want more of these characters and their friends and family.

## The Devil in Winter by Lisa Kleypas



*The Devil in Winter* is a Victorian romance, and there are lots of familiar themes in this novel – a heiress desperate escape her cruel family through marriage, a well-born man in need of a fortune, and a dramatic clash of personalities. This is a fun, characterdriven, entertaining read. Readers who like *The Devil in Winter* may enjoy *Surrender* by Amanda Quick, a historical romance with many of the same themes including marriage of convenience and the seamy side of London.

# Julie Wendland, County of Lennox & Addington Libraries

### The Princess Bride by William Goldman



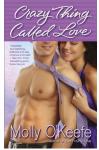
The Princess Bride tells the story of Princess Buttercup who believes the servant boy she loved is dead. She gets kidnapped by mercenaries, rescued by pirates and then re-kidnapped and forced into marriage all before she is reunited with her true love. This book is enjoyable for all ages and provide you with plenty quote-worthy phrases. *Stardust* by Neil Gaiman will satisfy in much the same way.

#### The Blue Castle by L.M. Montgomery



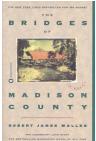
Valancy Stirling lives with her pretentious mother and aunt who think she is wasting her life reading romance novels. When she is diagnosed with a terminal heart problem, she decides life is too short to live under their roof. She becomes a housekeeper to a "less fortunate" family and meets a man who allows her to enjoy life. This book has all the trademarks of a true romance. *The Ladies of Missalonghi* by Colleen McCullough is very similar- as a side note, McCullough was accused of plagiarism of The Blue Castle)

# Crazy Thing Called Love by Molly O'Keefe



Madelyn Cornish has picked up the pieces of her broken heart made a successful life as a morning show host after divorcing her high school sweetheart hockey player husband. He is your typical bad boy so when the producers of her morning show decide to use him as a makeover project on the show she is thrown for a loop as she tries to keep her distance despite the sparks flying. Try also *A Slice of Heaven* by Sherryl Woods.

#### The Bridges of Madison County by Robert James Waller



Although this book doesn't necessarily have the conventional happily ever after ending, it is a truly great love story. Robert Kincaid, a renowned photographer meets Francesca Johnson, a farmer's wife asking for directions to the covered bridges. Over the next four days, they form a connection that will last a lifetime. The writing is phenomenal down to feeling the tension when Francesca has to make the decision of whether to stay with her family or leave with free spirit Robert. Any Nicholas Sparks book would satisfy those looking for a similar read.

#### One Plus One by Jojo Moyes



Think Little Miss Sunshine but in book form. Jess Thomas, is a struggling single mom who needs to find a way to get her gifted daughter to a Math Olympiad. Ed Nicholls needs to get out of town quickly due to a case of mistaken insider trading. In a rare selfless act, he offers to take Jess and her family to the Olympiad. What you have next is a road trip with some zany adventures, a smelly dog, and love. *Wild Designs* by Katie Fforde has a similar feel.