



Read-alikes compiled by Sioux City Public Library Staff

## [This Is Your Life, Harriet Chance!](#)

[by Jonathan Evison](#)

With her husband of 55 years now in the grave, 78-year-old Harriet Chance impulsively sets sail on an Alaskan cruise her late husband won. Amid the overwhelming buffets and the incessant lounge singers, between the imagined appearances of her late husband and the very real arrival of her estranged daughter midway through the cruise, Harriet is forced to confront the truth about pivotal events that changed the course of her life, and discovers she's been living under entirely false assumptions.

Misadventures lead Ove to find new meaning in a life he was ready to give up.

### **If you like sympathetic characters repairing family relationships:**

[Us by David Nicholls](#) (Fiction Nic). Douglas Peterson's family is falling apart. His son is leaving for college, and just before the family is about to embark on a European 'grand tour', his wife of 25 years tells him she wants a divorce. During the trip, Douglas hatches a scheme to win back his wife and regain his son's respect—but things don't go quite as planned.

[Inside the O'Briens by Lisa Genova](#) (New Fiction Gen). When Joe O'Brien, a 44-year-old Boston cop, is diagnosed with Huntington's disease, Joe, his wife and their four children confront the gutwrenching realities of this debilitating, hereditary illness. Seeing her potential future in her father's escalating symptoms, 21-year-old daughter Katie struggles with the questions that testing for the disease will impose on her life. Powerful human insight by the author of *Still Alice*.

[Heft by Liz Moore](#) (Fiction Moo). An independently wealthy, excolleague professor now a morbidly obese recluse receives a surprise phone call from a former student about her son, which forces the academic to reflect upon his life. Trying to overcome his shame and loneliness Arthur Opp struggles to find the courage to rejoin society, while his former student's son struggles to deal with his own conflicting emotions about his mother.

### **Bittersweet stories of late-life trails:**

[Broken For You by Stephanie Kallos](#) (Fiction Kal). Seventy-five-year-old Margaret Hughes lives alone in a mansion filled with valuable antiques, intrusive memories of her dead loved ones, and a newly diagnosed brain tumor. She takes in a young border named Wanda, and as the women wrestle with the guilt and ghosts of their pasts, they find redemption and purpose in a most unexpected way.

[Our Souls at Night by Kent Haruf](#) (New Fiction Har). Addie Moore, a 70-year-old widow, invites her neighbor, Louis Waters, to sleep over for companionship—nothing more. Against the backdrop of a gossiping small town, Addie and Louis develop a deep friendship and a sweet love story.

[A Man Called Ove by Fredrick Backman](#) (New Fiction Bac). A misanthropic old man on the surface, Ove secretly struggles with the loss of his late wife and has lost the will to live. When a new young family moves in next door, their frequent conflicts and

### **Uplifting novels to make you smile:**

[The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin](#) (New Fiction Zev). When a toddler is abandoned among the children's book shelves in his store, A.J. Fikry's life takes a surprising turn.

[The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce](#) (Fiction Joy). Fry, a shy, retired salesman, is convinced that he must deliver a letter to an old love in order to save her. He decides on a whim to walk the distance from his home in southern England to the hospice where his long-lost friend is dying of cancer, meeting a variety of characters along the way.

[How it All Began by Penelope Lively](#) (Fiction Liv). The mugging of a retired schoolteacher on a London street has unexpected repercussions for her friends and neighbors when it inadvertently reveals an illicit love affair, leads to a business partnership, and helps an immigrant to reinvent his life.

### **Novels that examine the psychology of married couples:**

[Fates and Furies by Lauren Groff](#) (New Fiction Gro). Lotto and Mathilde seem to be a perfect couple who are still madly in love decades after marrying against all odds. From the successful playwright Lotto's perspective, their marriage appears to have played out like a fairytale. Yet, their seemingly perfect marriage is balanced on a mound of secrets, which are revealed in Mathilde's much darker perception of their life together.

[The Hummingbird by Stephen Kiernan](#) (New Fiction Kie). Deborah's experience as a hospice nurse with one particularly difficult patient, Barclay Reed, touches her life more deeply than expected when she begins to read his manuscript of a forgotten WWII mission. Deborah's interactions with Reed help her to better understand the struggles her husband, a veteran of the Iraq War, faces with PTSD, but will it be enough to save their marriage?

[The Falls by Joyce Carol Oates](#) (Fiction Oat). When Dirk becomes involved in the Niagara Falls' Love Canal contamination case, his longtime marriage with Arian begins to unravel as insecurities from her tragic past resurface. Years later, their children take up their father's original cause and uncover the secrets of their parents' relationship in the process.