

# Romance

## Sweet reads for kids

### Fiction

Baker, E.D. **Fairy-Tale Matchmaker** (series). Cory Feathering has abandoned the tooth fairy guild she was born into in favor of choosing her own path as a matchmaker, and now decides to fight for what she believes in: love.

Barnholdt, Lauren. **The Secret Identity of Devon Delaney** (series). A seemingly harmless lie that she is popular and dating the most sought after guy in school sets off a chain reaction for Devon when she must find a way to live up to this popular image.

Becker, Erin. **Crushing It**. Tory has her whole life organized, but teammate and former friend Mel only has it together on the soccer field. The girls develop feelings for each other when they unknowingly meet anonymously online.

Bigelow, Lisa Jenn. **Drum Roll, Please**. Quiet Melly loves playing the drums—it's the only time she doesn't feel like a mouse. Now she is at music camp and finds herself unexpectedly falling for another girl. Will she be able to make music from all the noise in her heart?

Blake, Ashley Herring. **Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World**. Ivy Aberdeen's house is destroyed in a tornado, and in the aftermath of the storm, she begins to develop feelings for another girl at school.

Bowles, David. **They Call Her Fregona: A Border Kid's Poems** (series). Thirteen-year-old Güero and first girlfriend Joanna are navigating first kisses and family dinners, when he must stand by and support her after her father is deported.

Cartaya, Pablo. **The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamoya**. For Arturo, summertime means basketball, mango smoothies, and maybe a few shifts at Abuela's restaurant. This one also includes Carmen, and they discover the power of poetry and protest through untold family stories and the work of José Martí.

Cleary, Beverly. **Fifteen**. Much to Jane's surprise, the school's most popular boy has asked her out—is she ready?

Currie, Lindsay. **What Lives in the Woods**. Ginny is unhappy when her family moves to Michigan for the summer while her father restores a haunted 1930s mansion. Ginny, an aspiring mystery writer, plans to investigate with the help of Will, the cute older boy who lives nearby.

Day, Christine. **We Still Belong**. Wesley's hopeful plans for Indigenous Peoples' Day (and asking her crush to the dance) go all wrong—until she finds herself surrounded by the love of her Indigenous family and community at the intertribal powwow.

Dee, Barbara. **Starcrossed**. When Mattie is cast as Romeo in an eighth-grade play, she is confused to find herself increasingly attracted to Gemma, a new classmate who is playing Juliet, because she has also found herself crushing on a boy named Elijah. Is it possible to have a crush on both boys AND girls?

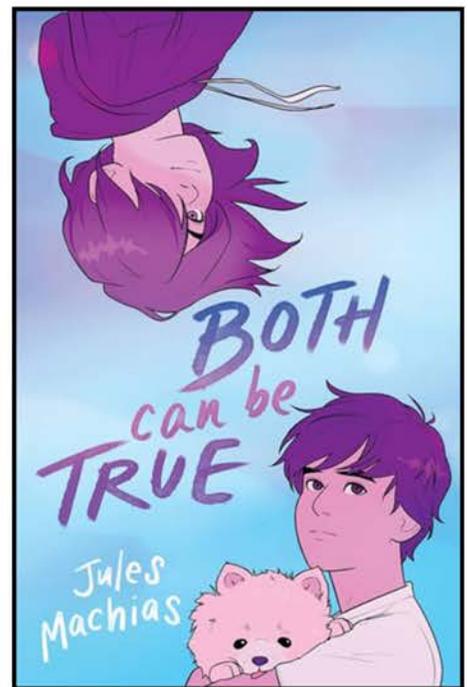
Ellen, Tom. **Never Evers**. Mouse has to go on her new school's ski trip basically knowing no one. Jack is going and can only think about how to successfully get his first kiss. When Jack catches Mouse's eye in the at the ski resort, he's smitten. Add a music star and a week in the snow is about to get complicated...

Florence, Debbi Michiko. **Just Be Cool, Jenna Sekai** (series). When Jenna gets dumped over winter break, she decides to be totally heartless this semester—no boys, just books. But then cute-but-incredibly-annoying Rin keeps showing up and Jenna is starting to realize that being a loner is kind of lonely. Letting people in might just be a risk worth taking.

Gerber, Alyson. **Taking Up Space**. Twelve-year old Sarah is used to being the star on her basketball team, but suddenly she finds that her body is changing, she can't keep up on the court, and her mom is getting weird about food. When her crush Benny offers to teach her how to cook and suggests she partners with him in a cooking competition, she starts to find a way to stand up for herself and change her life for the better.

Gibbs, Stuart. **Whale Done** (series). While visiting his girlfriend Summer in Malibu, Teddy stumbles upon two mysteries involving a blown-up whale explosion and a string of beach sand thefts, but his investigation is sidetracked by a rumor that his girlfriend is dating a celebrity, leading him to question their relationship.

Going, K.L. **The Next Great Jane**. Jane, a budding writer and Jane Austen fan, discovers the true secret to writing when a famous author and her cute, but annoying, son come to her small coastal town and play seemingly unwitting roles affecting the custody battle between Jane's Hollywood mother and marine biologist father.



Greenwald, Lisa. **Sweet Treats and Secret Crushes**. When a snowstorm keeps thirteen-year old best friends Olivia, Kate, and Georgia inside their Brooklyn, New York, apartment building on Valentine's Day, they connect with their neighbors by distributing homemade fortune cookies and uncover one another's secrets along the way.

Heart, Lee. **Fun in the Sun**. Anna is excited to meet a cute boy during spring break at Grandma Gina's retirement complex, but the neighbor's grandkids are getting in the way. How can Anna figure out if Mason feels the same way she does if every time they're together, another boy keeps trying to get her attention?

Hitchcock, Shannon. **One True Way**. From the moment she met Samantha, star of the school basketball team, Allison Drake felt she had found a friend, something she needs badly. As their friendship grows, it begins to evolve into a deeper emotion, and in 1977 North Carolina, it is not easy to discover that you might be gay.

Ireland, Meredith. **Emma and the Love Spell**. Twelve-year-old Korean American adoptee Emma Davidson has a problem. Two problems. Okay, three: 1. She has a crush on her best friend, Avangelina, that she hasn't been able to share. 2. Avangelina now has to move out of their town because her parents are getting a divorce. 3. Oh, and Emma is a secret witch who can't really control her powers.

Jones, Nashae. **Courtesy of Cupid** (series). When thirteen-year-old Erin discovers she is the daughter of the love god Cupid, she uses her newfound ability to sabotage her rival Trevor by making him fall in love with her, but she soon realizes love has a funny way of complicating things.

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### Fiction, cont.

Kann, Claire. **Harmonies and Heartbreak** (series). Living in the penthouse suite of San Francisco's Hotel Coeur, matchmakers-in-training Rose and Cora learn how to use magic to bring about love connections and perfect their charms to pass a test that will determine their future.

Lee, Lyla. **Gigi Shan is Not a Nerd** (series). When creative Gigi learns about an elite art camp on the east coast, she's determined to go. She and her friends set up a tutoring club to earn the money, but when cute boy Paul signs up, Gigi's crush has her making mistakes and hurting her friends.

Levine, Gail Carson. **Fairest**. When Aza becomes lady-in-waiting to the new queen, a magic mirror, a charming prince, a jealous queen, palace intrigue, and an injured king twine into a maze that she must penetrate to save herself and her beloved kingdom.

Lovelace, Maud Hart. **Emily of Deep Valley**. After graduating from high school, Emily Webster longs to go off to college with everyone else, but she must stay home to take care of her grandfather. But it is at home that she discovers many new adventures, including love.

Machias, Jules. **Both Can Be True**. Daniel and Ash cross paths when sensitive Dan rescues an old dog and Ash offers to help. As the friendship deepens, Ash feels less and less able to be their full self—sometimes male and sometimes female—in front of Dan, not knowing that they both find themselves constantly at war with their non-conforming identities.

Medina, Meg. **Merci Suárez Can't Dance** (series). Merci Suárez has been assigned to co-manage the school store with Wilson Bellevue, a boy she barely knows, but whom she might actually like, and classmate Edna Santos is more obnoxious than ever now that she is in charge of the annual Heart Ball. One thing is for sure, though: Merci can't dance—not at the Heart Ball or anywhere else.

Montgomery, L.M. **The Blue Castle**. Valancy has never been in love, and it seems romance has passed her by. Until, for the first time in her life, Valancy does and says exactly what she wants and discovers a surprising new world, full of love and adventures far beyond her most secret dreams.

Morrison, Laurie. **Keeping Pace**. Determined to regain her sense of accomplishment after losing her top-class ranking to Jonah, Grace decides to compete against him in a Labor Day half-marathon, but as they train together, she learns valuable lessons about what truly matters.

Pancholy, Maulik. **Best at It**. Twelve-year-old Rahul Kapoor, an Indian-American boy growing up in small town Indiana, struggles to come to terms with his identity, including that he may be gay.

Paulsen, Gary. **Liar, Liar: The Theory, Practice, and Destructive Properties of Deception** (series). Kevin Spencer has a history of big ideas going completely awry. Mostly things he's done to impress Tina Zabinski, the World's Most Beautiful Girl.

Plonsky, Ami. **Spin with Me**. Thirteen-year-old Essie is glum needing to start a new school. Then she meets Ollie: delicate, blue eyes, short hair, easy smile, not a boy or a girl, but gender non-binary. Meanwhile, Ollie is experiencing a crush of their own... on Essie.

Shang, Wendy Wan Long. **Bubble Trouble**. Chloe loves musicals and is desperate to go on the class trip to Broadway, so she and her best friend decide to earn money by making and selling boba tea. Now Chloe will have to contend with the complications of running her own business and maybe the messiness of admitting that she actually... like-likes someone?

Staniszewski, Anna. **I'm with Cupid**. When Marcus, a supernatural matchmaker, and Lena Perris, a soul collector, kiss at a party on a dare, they soon realize their powers have swapped. Now logical-minded Lena finds herself with the love touch, and ultra-emotional Marcus has death at his fingertips—and setting things right has become a matter of love and death.

Taylor, Jazz. **Meow or Never**. Avery Williams can sing, but likes to stay backstage. Her crush, Nic, overhears her singing to the stray kitten she found and ropes Avery into auditioning for the school's musical. Can Nic and the kitty help her through her stage fright when she gets the lead?

Taylor, Will. **The Language of Seabirds**. Jeremy is not excited about the prospect of spending the summer with his dad and his uncle in Oregon, but on his first day takes a walk on the beach and finds himself intrigued by a boy his age running by. Eventually, he and Evan meet—and what starts out as friendship blooms into something neither boy is expecting...but what both have been secretly hoping for.

Vail, Rachel. **Well, That was Awkward**. There are unexpected consequences when Gracie sends texts to A.J., pretending to be her bashful best friend, Sienna, and their friend Emmett starts texting back pretending to be shy A.J.

Yun, Erin. **Crush at First Sight** (series). Pippa Park is trying to balance basketball, school, family, friends, and Eliot, the cutest boy at school, who is finally paying attention to her. Pippa sets out to host a party, find the perfect dress, pick the right boy, and stay true to her real self.

### Graphic Novels

Chmakova, Svetlana. **Crush** (series). When the group dynamic among Jorge's friends starts to shift, he must learn to balance what his friends expect of him and what he really wants.

Galligan, Gail. **Boy Crazy Stacey** (series). The Pike family is taking a vacation to the beach: two weeks of sun, sand, and the cutest lifeguard Stacey has ever seen! Mary Anne says that Scott is way too old for Stacey, and she shouldn't be ignoring the Pike kids to spend time with a boy. But Stacey is in love. What could possibly be more important than following her heart?

Gros, Kathleen. **Anne: An Adaptation of Anne of Green Gables (Sort Of)**. Anne moves into the Avon-Lea with new foster family the Cuthberts and meets kindred spirit Diana Barry...who she starts to develop more-than-friends feelings for. A new foster home, a new school, and a first-time crush—it's a lot all at once!

Gros, Kathleen. **Jo: An Adaptation of Little Women (Sort Of)**. Eighth grader Jo March decides it's time to get serious about her writing and joins the school newspaper with new friend Freddie cheering her on. Things get complicated when the new boy next door tells Jo he has feelings for her. Feelings that Jo doesn't have for him, but might have for Freddie.

O'Neill, Katie. **Princess Princess Ever After**. When the heroic princess Amira rescues the kind-hearted princess Sadie from her tower prison, neither expects to find a true friend in the bargain.

Ormsbee, Kathryn. **Turning Twelve** (series). Turning twelve means big changes for Katie: first bra, first time babysitting, and a first crush that she knows not everyone will approve of. She might not be ready to tell anyone yet, and that's fine...but can Katie stay true to herself and embrace the person she's growing up to be?

Ostertag, Molly Knox. **The Girl From the Sea**. Morgan has a secret: she can't wait to escape the perfect little island where she lives. Until she is saved from drowning by a mysterious girl named Keltie, who has some secrets of her own. As the girls start to fall in love, everything they're each trying to hide will find its way to the surface...whether Morgan is ready or not.

Telgemeier, Raina. **Drama**. Callie is determined to create a set worthy of Broadway on a middle-school budget. But how can she, when she doesn't know much about carpentry, ticket sales are down, and the crew members are having trouble working together? When two cute brothers enter the picture, things get even more confusing!