


# Celebrate National Book Month With These 5 Fun Facts For Romance Bookworms

## Happy National Book Month, romance fans!

Today is [National Book Lovers Day](#), which is a perfect opportunity to expand our love of reading and all things books!

To celebrate, we want to remind you all of these fun facts we shared during National Book Month. Whether you're looking to ace your next trivia night or want to impress the other readers in your life, here are must-know facts romance bookworms will love! We promise these amazing book facts will make you love reading even more than you already do.


# 5 Facts About Books for National Book Month



1

## The New York Public Library lions are called Patience and Fortitude


The famous lion statues were placed outside the New York Public Library in 1911, but didn't get their names until the Great Depression, when mayor Fiorello La Guardia named them after the traits New Yorkers would need to get through the challenging times.



2

## Hercule Poirot is the only fictional character to have an obituary in the NYT


Are you excited for the HAUNTING IN VENICE movie? Well, the famous detective is the only fictional character to get an obituary in the NEW YORK TIMES, after Agatha Christie's publisher confirmed this would be the last novel featuring the character.



3

## Reading can help improve your memory


According to geriatric psychiatrist and memory expert Dr. Gary Small, reading can help improve your memory: "Reading activates neural circuits controlling vision, language, and learning and can lead to improved memory, thinking and mood."



4

## There was a library book that was returned... 119 years late!

No matter how bad you are at returning library books, you will never be this bad. The New Bedford Free Public Library in Massachusetts had to wait 119 for its copy of AN ELEMENTARY TREATISE ON ELECTRICITY to return to its shelves after it was checked out in 1904.




5

## bell hooks read 2 Harlequin novels per day

"I would credit Harlequin Romances as much as I would credit Emily Dickinson as being a factor in my enchantment with words" said feminist author bell hooks, who also felt they offered "a moment of restoration" for the reader.

Links: [nypl.org](http://nypl.org) | [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com)  
[newsweek.com](http://newsweek.com) | [mymodernmet.com](http://mymodernmet.com)  
[washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com)



## **Fact 1: The New York Public Library lions are called Patience and Fortitude**

Book lovers all over the world are familiar with the famous lion statues outside the New York Public Library. They were placed there in 1911, but didn't get their names until the Great Depression, when mayor Fiorello La Guardia named them after the traits New Yorkers would need to get through the challenging times.

Patience and Fortitude have become symbols of the huge wealth of knowledge within the New York Public library, and have been featured in countless works of fiction.

Book lovers can spot the library or its lions in all sorts of great reads, including Stephen King's FIRESTARTER. Film buffs will also recognize them from such blockbusters as GHOSTBUSTERS and THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, among many others.

## **Fact 2: Hercule Poirot is the only fictional character to have a *NEW YORK TIMES* obituary**

Have you been enjoying Kenneth Branagh's Hercule Poirot movies? Well, the famous detective is the only fictional character to get an obituary in the NEW YORK TIMES, after Agatha Christie's publisher confirmed the release of the final novel featuring the character.

[via GIPHY](#)

Originally published in 1975 and can be read in its original context [on their website](#), and if you didn't know any better, it could take you a while to realize that Poirot is not a real person! Definitely a must-read for the bookworms out there.

## **Fact 3: Reading can help improve your memory**

According to geriatric psychiatrist and memory expert Dr. Gary Small, reading can help improve your memory: "Reading activates neural circuits controlling vision, language, and learning and can lead to improved memory, thinking and mood."

[via GIPHY](#)

Specifically reading romance books has plenty of benefits as well, offering hope and inspiration to readers around the world. You can learn more about what the world of romance novels has to offer their fans [in this round up from Writer's Digest](#).

## **Fact 4: There was a library book that was returned...119 years late!**

Speaking of improving your memory...no matter how bad you are at returning library books, you will never forget to return one quite as late as this next example! The New Bedford Free Public Library in Massachusetts had to wait 119 for its copy of AN ELEMENTARY TREATISE ON ELECTRICITY to return to its shelves after it was checked out in 1904.

[via GIPHY](#)

The book was eventually found by a curator of rare books in West Virginia, who was sorting through donations. Stewart Plein reached out to the library in New Bedford, where it was finally returned to its rightful place. Apparently it would have been subjected to a fine of \$2,100! Fortunately, it doesn't seem like anyone had to pay up.

## **Fact 5: bell hooks said she read 2 Harlequin novels per day**

"I would credit Harlequin Romances as much as I would credit Emily Dickinson as being a factor in my enchantment with words" said feminist author bell hooks, who also felt they offered "a moment of restoration" for the reader. Romance bookworms can relate!

[via GIPHY](#)

Fans of romance novels can often become writers of romance novels, and if you are an aspiring Harlequin author, definitely head over to [WriteForHarlequin.com](https://www.writeforharlequin.com) to learn more about how to get started! It is full of advise for those looking to write more in the romance genre.

## **Share your favorite facts with fellow book lovers!**

Do you have any fun book facts you'd like to share with fellow readers? Head down to the comments section below and show off your knowledge with other romance bookworms just like you!