

### ***Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* by Fannie Flagg**

Folksy and fresh, endearing and affecting, *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* is a now-classic novel about two women: Evelyn, who's in the sad slump of middle age, and gray-headed Mrs. Threadgoode, who's telling her life story. Her tale includes two more women—the irrepressibly daredevilish tomboy Idgie and her friend Ruth—who back in the thirties ran a little place in Whistle Stop, Alabama, offering good coffee, southern barbecue, and all kinds of love and laughter—even an occasional murder. And as the past unfolds, the present will never be quite the same again.

### ***Rubyfruit Jungle* by Rita Mae Brown**

A landmark coming-of-age novel that launched the career of one of this country's most distinctive voices, *Rubyfruit Jungle* remains a transformative work more than forty years after its original publication. In bawdy, moving prose, Rita Mae Brown tells the story of Molly Bolt, the adoptive daughter of a dirt-poor Southern couple who boldly forges her own path in America. With her startling beauty and crackling wit, Molly finds that women are drawn to her wherever she goes—and she refuses to apologize for loving them back. This literary milestone continues to resonate with its message about being true to yourself and, against the odds, living happily ever after.

### ***The Front Runner* by Patricia Nell Warren**

Harlan Brown is a tough, conservative track coach hiding from his past at a small college. Billy Sive is a brilliant young runner who is homosexual and doesn't mind who knows it. When they fall in love, they enter a race against hate and prejudice which takes them to the '76 Olympics and a shattering, shocking conclusion. With 10 million copies in 7 languages, this landmark classic is the most popular gay love story of all time.

### ***The Hours* by Michael Cunningham**

In *The Hours*, Michael Cunningham, widely praised as one of the most gifted writers of his generation, draws inventively on the life and work of Virginia Woolf to tell the story of a group of contemporary characters struggling with the conflicting claims of love and inheritance, hope and despair. The narrative of Woolf's last days before her suicide early in World War II counterpoints the fictional stories of Samuel, a famous poet whose life has been shadowed by his talented and troubled mother, and his lifelong friend Clarissa, who strives to forge a balanced and rewarding life in spite of the demands of friends, lovers, and family.

### ***In One Person* by John Irving**

A *New York Times* bestselling novel of desire, secrecy, and sexual identity, *In One Person* is a story of unfulfilled love—tormented, funny, and affecting—and an impassioned embrace of our sexual differences. Billy, the bisexual narrator and main character of *In One Person*, tells the tragicomic story (lasting more than half a century) of his life as a "sexual suspect," a phrase first used by John Irving in 1978 in his landmark novel of "terminal cases," *The World According to Garp*. *In One Person* is a poignant tribute to Billy's friends and lovers—a theatrical cast of characters who defy category and convention. Not least, *In One Person* is an intimate and unforgettable portrait of the solitariness of a bisexual man who is dedicated to making himself "worthwhile."

### ***Carol* by Patricia Highsmith**

Patricia Highsmith's story of romantic obsession may be one of the most important, but still largely unrecognized, novels of the twentieth century. First published in 1952 and touted as "the novel of a love that society forbids," the book soon became a cult classic. Based on a true story plucked from Highsmith's own life, *The Price of Salt* (or *Carol*) tells the riveting drama of Therese Belivet, a stage designer trapped in a department-store day job, whose routine is forever shattered by a gorgeous epiphany—the appearance of Carol Aird, a customer who comes in to buy her daughter a Christmas toy. Therese begins to gravitate toward the alluring suburban housewife, who is trapped in a marriage as stultifying as Therese's job. They fall in love and set out across the United States, ensnared by society's confines and the imminent disapproval of others, yet propelled by their infatuation. *The Price of Salt* is a brilliantly written story that may surprise Highsmith fans and will delight those discovering her work.