

## 26 Books Sure to Make You Laugh

Need some laughs to get you through the winter? Here is a list of books developed by Southern Living Magazine. Many of them blend the dramatic, heartfelt, and comic to great effect. Others are pure comedy. All of them promise entertainment thanks to the authors' bold voices and memorable comedic prose. There are several comedians on this list—from Tina Fey and Trevor Noah to Issa Rae and Nick Offerman—and their books are joyful reads! We have memoir, fiction, essays, short stories.....**We're happy to reserve titles that are not in the BML collection!**

**1 of 26 I Remember Nothing: And Other Reflections by Nora Ephron** Nora Ephron penned some of your favorite movies—*When Harry Met Sally* and *Sleepless in Seattle*. Once you've finished this book, which is packed with prose in her signature comedic style, read *I Feel Bad about My Neck*, another Ephron classic, as well as *Crazy Salad and Scribble Scribble*.

**2 of 26 Bossypants by Tina Fey**

Tina Fey, comedian/writer/producer extraordinaire, tells the story of her life's hilarious and heartfelt moments in this great book, leaving readers with plenty of laughs and good advice too.

**3 of 26 I Am Not Sidney Poitier by Percival Everett**

This hilarious novel follows a young man named Not Sidney Poitier—yes, that's his name—through the tumult of his life in the South, tackling huge themes of race, class, and identity through Percival Everett's signature comedic precision.

**4 of 26 A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail by Bill Bryson**

If you've ever taken a long walk, you'll appreciate this uproarious travelogue by Bill Bryson, about his half-baked attempt to hike the Appalachian Trail with a long-lost friend. Once you're hooked on Bryson's rollicking stories, read his novels *Notes from a Small Island* and *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*.

**5 of 26 Less by Andrew Sean Greer**

Greer's prose is as funny as it is smart. When failed novelist Arthur Less receives a wedding invitation for his ex-boyfriend's imminent nuptials, Less scrambles to find a conflict, and accepts every invitation he can find. Skipping town to miss the wedding, he travels the world, tumbling through fantastic adventures along the way.

**6 of 26 You'll Grow Out of It by Jessi Klein**

Writer/comedian Jessi Klein writes just like she speaks. Her book is hilarious and heartfelt and shares the stories of her life- about love, dating, womanhood, and what happens when a tomboy grows up.

**7 of 26 The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl by Issa Rae**

Film maker & actress Issa Rae writes about everything—love, work, race, introversion, friendship, comedy, awkwardness—with a zeal that is infectious, heartfelt, & unendingly funny.

**8 of 26 In Such Good Company: Eleven Years of Laughter, Mayhem, and Fun in the Sandbox by Carol Burnett**

Look back on *The Carol Burnett Show* alongside Carol Burnett in this incredibly funny behind-the-scenes glimpse of a TV juggernaut.

**9 of 26 Standard Deviation by Katherine Heiny**

Louise Erdrich called this book “Both heart-piercing and, crucially, very funny.” It’s the perfect blend in a story about the messiness, lingering questions, and unexpected turns of married life.

**10 of 26 Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris**

If you’re looking for humor, you’ve probably already found David Sedaris. The humorist’s 2001 book will delight you, make you laugh and think. Then read *Let’s Explore Diabetes With Owls*, Sedaris’ equally funny (and smart) 2013 collection of essays and stories.

**11 of 26 Egghead or, You Can’t Survive on Ideas Alone by Bo Burnham**

Comedian Bo Burnham’s collection *Egghead* is impossible to classify, genre-wise. It’s full of poems, prose, illustrations, and plenty of Burnham’s brilliant comedic turns to.

**12 of 26 Of Mess and Moxie: Wrangling Delight Out of This Wild and Glorious Life by Jen Hatmaker**

Author Jen Hatmaker encourages us all to live our messes and rediscover our moxie by sharing stories of her own mistakes, victories, and, of course, the hilarious moments in between.

**13 of 26 Yes, Please by Amy Poehler**

Dive into this comedic memoir by *SNL* and *Parks and Recreation* alum Amy Poehler—you’ll won’t be able to put down this dynamic life story, which is told in Poehler’s irresistibly hilarious voice (with an assist or two by friends, parents, and loved ones).

**14 of 26 Let’s Pretend This Never Happened (A Mostly True Memoir) by Jenny Lawson**

Jenny Lawson finds humor where the difficult and tragic meets the hysterical and surprising. You’ll find more laughs—as well as a moving exploration of severe depression—in Lawson’s book *Furiously Happy: A Funny Book About Horrible Things*.

**15 of 26 If You Ask Me (And of Course You Won’t) by Betty White**

You can never have enough Betty White, so pick up this funny book about her life in show business, which is packed with plenty of witty observations and out-loud laughs.

**16 of 26 American Housewife: Stories by Helen Ellis**

These stories are populated with housewives (12 to be precise), all brought to life by Helen Ellis’ wicked sense of humor.

**17 of 26 Rich People Problems by Kevin Kwan**

The family conflicts, inheritance battles, and jealous rages of one riotous, privileged family populate this rollicking novel. It’s the latest in Kwan’s best-selling satirical series: *Crazy Rich Asians* and *China Rich Girlfriend*.

**18 of 26 Then We Came to the End by Joshua Ferris**

Joshua Ferris turns his pen to “life at the office” in this lauded novel, describing precisely (and hilariously) the unending days of coffee breaks, meetings, & coworkers, while bringing to life the mundane & the strange. (After this read his short story collection, *The Dinner Party*.)

**19 of 26 Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me? (And Other Concerns) by Mindy Kaling**

Pick up Mindy Kaling’s first book and find yourself utterly charmed by her voice, the stories of her life, work, comedy, and, through it all, her candor.

**20 of 26 Paddle Your Own Canoe by Nick Offerman**

Fans of *Parks and Recreation*'s stalwart Ron Swanson must pick up this book by the man who brought him to life. Nick Offerman waxes poetic on many topics in this funny book, including: grilling, moustaches, woodworking, and his childhood in Minooka, Illinois.

**21 of 26 The Princess Diarist by Carrie Fisher**

While filming the *Star Wars* saga, actress and writer Carrie Fisher kept journals. Those journals surfaced decades later as this book, a candid (and often humorous) glimpse behind the scenes and into the life of a young woman embarking on an astonishing life.

**22 of 26 I Was Told There'd Be Cake by Sloane Crosley**

These funny and complex essays will leave you hooked on the witty observations and zany situations within—read the rest of Crosley's work in the essay collection *How Did You Get This Number* and novel *The Clasp*.

**23 of 26 Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah**

Comedian and talk show host Trevor Noah tells the story of his childhood spent growing up in apartheid-era South Africa. His story is at turns heartbreaking and hilarious, a moving account of love, life, and family as told through Noah's utterly unique and wonderfully wry perspective.

**24 of 26 Little Victories: A Sportswriter's Notes on Winning at Life by Jason Gay**

This *Wall Street Journal* writer makes his debut with this funny book, a retelling of the important moments of his life from which readers glean insight and more than a few belly laughs.

**25 of 26 A Confederacy of Dunces by John Kennedy Toole**

This comic classic is an epic following Ignatius J. Reilly, a so-called Don Quixote of New Orleans' French Quarter. Toole's novel is packed with high-flying hijinks and so many laughs.

**26 of 26 The Princess Bride by William Goldman**

You've seen the movie; now it's time to read the book that inspired it all. Expect plenty of laughs from Westley, Buttercup, Fezzick, Inigo Montoya, and the rest of the gang.