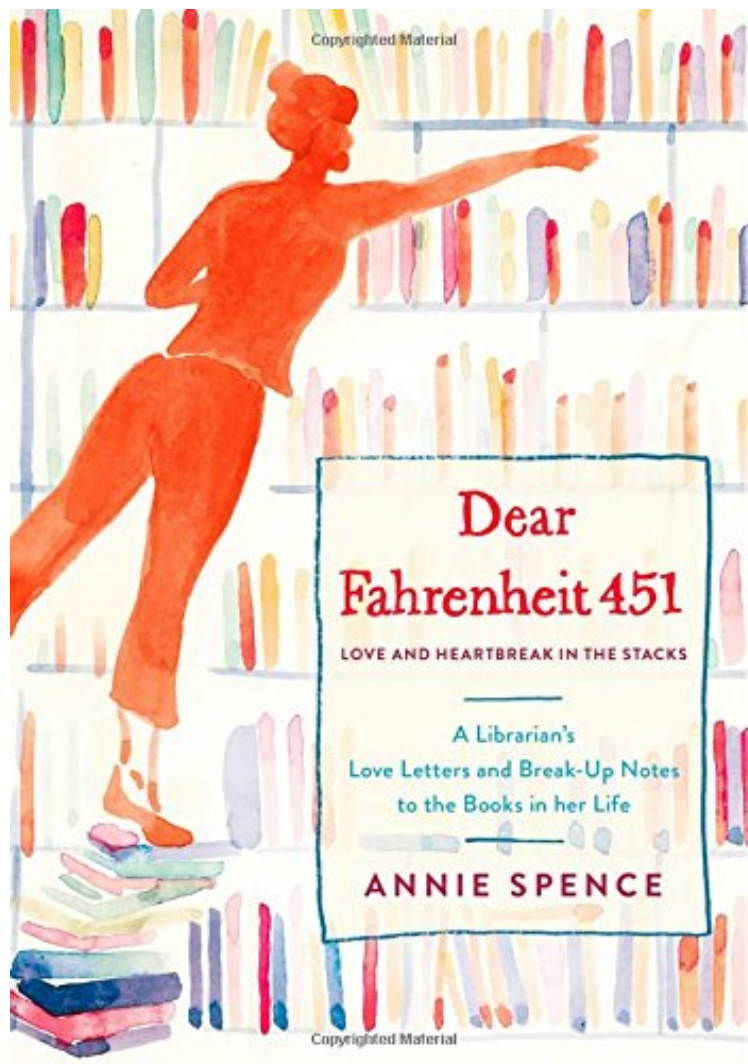


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Dear Fahrenheit 451: Love and Heartbreak in the Stacks: A Librarian's Love Letters and Breakup Notes to the Books in Her Life

Annie Spence

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. CALLING ALL BOOK LOVERS!!!!By MichelleThis book was amazing! Full of witty letters to books that the author both loves and loathes, along with a little look into the world of being a public librarian. I finished the book with a long list of books to read and a greater love for the public library system. I cannot wait to see what Annie Spence has for us next!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. PERFECT gift for book lovers!By L. WilliamsA copy of Dear Fahrenheit 451 was provided to me by Flatiron Books in exchange for my honest review. But if I'm honest, I should also tell you that I practically begged them to send it because I wanted to read this book so much.The premise of Dear Fahrenheit 451 by Annie Spence is fairly simple. The book is a collection of letters that Annie, a librarian, has written to various books. Some of those books are ones she has chosen to remove from the library's collection, others are books on her bookshelves at home, and a couple of them are books she imagines that others own. The premise itself is enough to hook book-loving readers, but from the very first letter, readers already know that this little book is so much more. In short, Dear Fahrenheit 451 is an absolute treasure.From reading her letters to books, I can already tell that Annie Spence and I would absolutely be best friends, were we to know one another in real life. Not only does she have fantastic taste in books, but her sense of humor had me rolling with laughter throughout her darling book. Whether making wisecracks or profound statements about the books she selected to include, Spence's writing is beautiful and drew me in to the point that I found myself halfway through this book when I had meant to only read the first few letters. While many of the letters are written to books she did not love, just as many are written to books she holds in high regard. In a letter to *The Fledgling*, Spence says, "When people say books are full of wonder, we don't take it seriously enough. You are over thirty-five years old. You smell like old paper and smudged fingertips. You've lain dusty and untouched for decades. And you're magic."Meanwhile, she also uses terms such as "buttclencher" when addressing *Misery* and tells *The Virgin Suicides*, "you feel like the first time I heard 'Against the Wind' by Bob Seger." Every single letter throughout the book includes moments worthy of highlighting, if you believe in desecrating the pages of your books in such a way (I do), and even the subject headings at the beginnings of each letter are utilized to increase the wittiness quotient of this book.One of my favorite features of Dear Fahrenheit 451 is the unexpected book guide in the last 1/4 or so of the book. After the letters, Spence includes a handy guide for excuses for staying in to read and book recommendations, organized in ways such as book pairings, book recommendations for your significant other who doesn't love reading as much, and books about librarians, to name just a few. I enjoyed reading her recommendations almost as much as the letters themselves, and I have already added several of her suggestions to my list of book to read.I really and truly cannot say enough about how delightful Dear Fahrenheit 451 was to read. My only wish was that I had read every single book she addressed in order to understand all the letters fully, but even the letters to books I had never read captured my attention and made me love this adorable book. I definitely see Dear Fahrenheit 451 as the perfect gift for every book lover in my life, and in fact, I pre-ordered a copy to gift to my local public librarian before I even finished reading it.Definitely give this one a read. Not only will you enjoy it immensely, but you might even discover a new favorite book as a result of Annie Spence's letters and suggestions.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. My favorite read of 2017!By Cindy B. (ThoughtsFromAPage)I. LOVED. THIS. BOOK. The entire time I was reading it those words were running through my head over and over and over. Most of the book is letters written by Annie Spence to various books, many on the shelves of libraries where she has worked, or book-related items she has encountered. The last fifth or so of Dear Fahrenheit 451 contains books recommendations, excuses for staying home so you can read, books about librarians, and her all-time favorite reads.Upon finishing the book, my first impression was how well-read Spence is. It's truly impressive the range of books she covers in this gem. My second thought is that I wish she was my local librarian. Her humor, quality of character, thoughts on various books, open-mindedness, and her absolute love of reading shone through on each and every page. In addition, she references things like *The Cutting Edge* (one of my all-time favorite movies), loves *Frog and Toad* and does not like *Nicholas Sparks* or *Twilight*. There are places we diverge: I love *To Kill a Mockingbird* (she does not), and I am not sure her all-time favorite book, *The Virgin Suicides*, would be for me. But those are minor details.Dear Fahrenheit 451 is clever in so many ways. First and foremost, the format is of the book is ingenious. Next, Spence signs each letter to her respective subject with a closing word or more frequently phrase that directly ties in with her letter. Writing to a book on popcorn that was written in 1976 and is headed to the library book sale, she signs off with "Stay A-Maize-ing". Ending a letter to a book from the 1980's about finding your color palette, she ends with "Stay Golden (unless you're supposed to wear silver tones)". Last, the top of each new letter contains the broad subject matter and author of the book (if the letter is written to a book) and then includes a witty reference or two for the more specific subject matter. In the letter written to the *Twilight* Series, the second description says "Me, Bite" and in her letter to a *Cathy Cartoon Collection*, the description is "Chocolate and Feminism, Aack!". I didn't pick up on how clever those were originally, and I had to go back and re-read the ones that I missed.Dear Fahrenheit 451 ranks at the top of my list for 2017 reads, and I plan to re-read it again very soon. When I do so, I am sure I will pick up on references that I missed the first time around. The beauty of the format is that it is easy to go back and re-read certain letters when there is not time to read the entire book. I cannot recommend this book highly enough; it is a sheer joy to read. Thanks Flatiron Books for providing me with a copy of Dear Fahrenheit 451. All opinions are my own.

A librarian's laugh-out-loud funny, deeply moving collection of love letters and breakup notes to the books in her life. If you love to read, and presumably you do since you've picked up this book (!), you know that some books affect you so profoundly they forever change the way you think about the world. Some books, on the other hand, disappoint you so much you want to throw them against the wall. Either way, it's clear that a book can be your new soul mate or the bad relationship you need to end. In *Dear Fahrenheit 451*, librarian Annie Spence has crafted love letters and breakup notes to the iconic and eclectic books she has encountered over the years. From breaking up with *The Giving Tree* (a dysfunctional relationship book if ever there was one), to her love letter to *The Time Traveler's Wife* (a novel less about time travel and more about the life of a marriage, with all of its ups and downs), Spence will make you think of old favorites in a new way. Filled with suggested reading lists, Spence's take on classic and contemporary books is very much like the best of literature—sometimes laugh-out-loud funny, sometimes surprisingly poignant, and filled with universal truths. A celebration of reading, *Dear Fahrenheit 451* is for anyone who loves nothing more than curling up with a good book...and another, and another, and another!

“Perfect for any bibliophile and terrifically funny.” *Library Journal*, starred “A librarian delivers a charming epistolary volume that begs to be read with pencil in hand.... A smart, funny, forthright librarian in book form.” *Kirkus* “Dear Dear Fahrenheit 451, thanks for the lovely reminder of the ways we find ourselves in books.” *Booklist*, starred review “The truest testament to the quality of *Dear Fahrenheit 451*...is that my enjoyment of it was, in the end, great enough to outweigh my fury that someone other than me had written it....She has a unique ability to capture the thoughts and feelings of book lovers, both professional and otherwise, on the page.” *NPR* “Readers (and librarians especially) will appreciate the sly stabs or ‘roasting’ that the author makes to point out fine and not-so-fine moments of key books that she is contemplating removing from her shelf. She weaves in stories from her life inside a library (which is fodder for chuckles in itself). Perfect for fans of Jenny Lawson.” *LibraryReads*, “The top ten books published this month that librarians across the country love” About the Author Annie Spence can read while doing almost anything else: walking, cooking breakfast, pretending to be interested in a conversation. She has spent the last decade as a librarian at public libraries in the Midwest and lives in Detroit with her husband and son. *Dear Fahrenheit 451* is her first book.