

If you like

JAN KARON

try these!

If you like Jan Karon's gentle *Mitford Years* series about the colorful inhabitants of a small North Carolina town with elements of humor, love and friendship try these:

A Fruitful Vine by Carrie Bender (BEN Mir V1)
Miriam is an Old Order Amish farmer's wife whose concerns include her family, community, and those who move away to the larger world abandoning the old ways forever.

Circle of Friends by Maeve Binchy (BIN)
Friends Benny and Eve, who grew up together in a small Irish village, leave to attend college in Dublin where their lives become entwined with the beautiful, ambitious Nan and Jack, the handsome son of a doctor, in this tale of family, friendship, and love.

The Quilter's Apprentice by Jennifer Chiaverini (CHI)
Sarah finds herself in a small Pennsylvania town where she has difficulty fitting in. She becomes the personal assistant to a cantankerous, lonely old woman who teaches her to quilt and to experience the love that can exist between friends.

Joshua by Joseph Girzone (GIR)
The gentle, almost childlike Joshua shows up in a small town full of conflict, and quietly demonstrates a simple, unifying gospel of love which transforms those he meets.

Home to Harmony by Philip Gulley (GUL)
Sam Gardner of Harmony, Indiana relates with humor his experiences with his new small town congregation in this first book in the *Harmony* series.

Dear James by Jon Hassler (HAS)
Elderly, sharp-tongued Agatha McGee travels to Italy from Minnesota where she meets James, the pen-pal she dropped upon discovering he was a Catholic priest. Back home, one of the town's small-minded residents discovers her letters from James and lays them out for all to see, something Agatha must deal with in this humorous, well-crafted story.

Hometown Legend by Jerry Jenkins (JEN)
Years after Athens City, Alabama, lost the state high-school football championship and suffered a devastating tragedy, the former coach returns to head up one final season, aided by a local who teaches him a lesson about love, reconciliation, and winning.

The Double Heart Diner by Annie Jones (JON)
The first in Jones's *Route 66* trilogy is a humorous comedy of errors that features Georgia Darling and Jett Murphy, a small town entrepreneur, who fall in love.

The Ladies of Covington Send their Love
by Joan Medlicott (MED)
Three very different women living in a retirement boardinghouse pool their resources and move to a dilapidated farmhouse in North Carolina where they rebuild not only their house, but their lives in this tale of friendship and new opportunities.

Love Comes Softly by Janette Oke (OKE Lov V1)
When a couple joins in a marriage of convenience, they discover that they have much in common in a story set on the Iowa prairie. There is suffering as well as the triumph of faith and married love in this tale, the first in the *Love Comes Softly* series.

The Shell Seekers by Rosamunde Pilcher (PIL)
Set in Cornwall, England, this family saga tells the story of Penelope Keeling, her three adult children and their disagreement over what to do with a newly in vogue painting by Penelope's father. The story moves back and forth in time as it explores the loves and lives of each family member.

Village School by Miss Read (REA)
The *Fairacre* series begins with this introduction to Miss Read and the students at her school. Fairacre is a small English village where everyone knows everything about everyone else. Miss Read provides a humorous, affectionate commentary on the lives of its colorful residents.

Miss Julia Speaks her Mind by Ann Ross (ROS)
Recently widowed and newly wealthy, Miss Julia is visited in her North Carolina home by a woman claiming that her son is the child of Julia's late husband. When left to care for the boy, Julia discovers that her pillar-of-the-community husband's indiscretion was nothing compared to the scandal that led to his death.

A Room of My Own by Ann Tatlock (TAT)
Virginia, the teenaged daughter of a prosperous doctor in Minnesota, learns to cope with adversity when the Depression hits and her uncle's family moves in.

Quite a Year for Plums by Bailey White (WHI)
This series of vignettes introduces the residents of a small, sleepy, Georgia town where a gaggle of ladies worry about the welfare and love life of Roger, a peanut virologist. White writes with humor in this charming tale about human relations and small-town life.



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