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CONNECT *Dream* **DISCOVER**
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A dozen books guaranteed to make you laugh

Take that remote control, click it to “off” and stop those itty-bitty people from screaming at you and each other from inside your television, whoever they are. Seriously, the health benefits of laughter are proven. The depressive effects of anger are also proven. I’m not going to cite a bunch of sources on that. We know from our own experience that it’s true.

But, you are saying, where are all the funny books? At the library, of course, either on the shelves or through MeL. (Stay tuned for a future update on MeL.) Here’s a dozen to start. Just so you aren’t stuck with only my idea of what’s funny (although I know funny when I see it), I put out a call and – while I can only personally speak to nine of these – they have all been nominated by a diverse bunch of others.

Anything by Carl Hiaasen was nominated by several. I suggest you start with the Skink series opener, **Double Whammy**, which I believe hits its zenith in hilarity with the fourth, **Sick Puppy**. We only think we know how strange Florida is. Hiaasen, a writer for the Miami Herald, knows his Florida weirdos and shares them generously in his fiction.

Letters from a Nut by Ted L. Nancy (recommended, oddly, by a psychologist professor friend) is a non-fiction collection of Nancy’s ridiculous letters to and serious responses from politicians, the famous, and corporations. One example? A Greyhound executive responds, “On behalf of Greyhound, there should be no problem traveling in your Butter Costume.” This book has floated to the top of my list (because butter costume). This is also why bus travel has a bad name.

The next two I’m lumping together. Try Richard Russo’s **Straight Man** and Julie Schumacher’s **Dear Committee Members**. Although I would have recommended them anyway, you should know they were nominated by a few others. Both are hilarious and spot on looks at university teaching and life. If you’ve taught anything or ever gone to college, you’ll be laughing.

Janet Evanovich’s Stephanie Plum series, starting with **One for the Money** and now up to **Look Alive Twenty-Five** are the coziest of mysteries. Two attractive men in her life to balance, old school family, Grandma Mazur who attends and makes a scene at every funeral, and inept bad guys form the basis of the fun in the Plum series.

We have a canonical entry – Mark Twain’s **The Innocents Abroad**. Anyone could easily have made it through school without reading this, but it is worth picking up. It’s a compilation

of Twain's articles traveling through Europe and the Holy Land. Expect it to be more complex than light reading, but very funny in his take on old world stuffiness and his search for America's place in the mix. Twain's humor has aged well.

Here are two entries in the non-fiction memoir type books. David Sedaris's **Me Talk Pretty One Day** compiles a number of his extensive journals and manages to take normal life and relationships and show them in all their hilarity. Tina Fey's **Bossypants** shows her life on the way up in the show biz world as a woman. As she says, "You're no one til someone calls you bossy." (And I'm throwing in, to make a Baker's Dozen, Trevor Noah's **Born a Crime** because I never knew anyone could make me laugh so hard about the absurdities of apartheid and life in general.)

One entry came in under children's literature, Roald Dahl's **The Twits**, about a couple of little tiny people who make others so miserable that they take their revenge.

The last two are novels. **Elinor Oliphant Is Completely Fine** by Gail Honeyman and **Things My Girlfriend and I have Argued About** by Mil Millington. I'm in the middle of this last one and yes, I am laughing every page. Our protagonist works at a library as tech support.

If these don't sound funny enough, stop in. We won't give up until you're laughing.
See you at the library!

Upcoming Events: Please stop at the Friends of the Library Book Sale this week, which continues through Saturday, and walk out with a plastic bag full of books for \$2 and a paper bag full for \$4. Bags supplied. Follow us on FB and Twitter to keep up on all events.