

A Touch Ticklish

The books chosen for this list are linked by a certain ticklishness – but that's where the similarity ends. Humour nowadays is often 'in your face' and a number of the titles on this list are pretty rude as well as laugh-aloud funny. However, if you're not keen on swearing and gags about sex and bodily functions, you'll find a more gentle type of comedy here, too – and one or two that might touch a raw nerve.

Use this list to lighten up your reading life. Introduce your sense of humour to something new. Outrageously funny, light and witty, subtly comic – they're all here for the taking.

Read the introductions to each book and decide for yourself. Be generous, be daring – you can always swap the book for something else if it's not your cup of tea. But if you don't try... you'll never know!

Three to Get Deadly by Janet Evanovich

Meet Stephanie Plum, bounty hunter extraordinaire; paid to bring in losers who jump bail – the bad guys. So how come she's after 'uncle' Mo Bedemier, Trenton's answer to Mr Softy? Has she finally flipped? Her parents certainly think so; and, what's worse, that 'too sexy for his own good' cop, Joe Morelli, is enjoying every minute of it. If you like your crime sassy, streetwise and hilarious, Janet Evanovich is simply the best.



Whistling for Elephants by Sandi Toksvig

Ten-year-old Dorothy is alone in the world. Her parents seem to inhabit another planet, and the local kids think she's weird. She passes the time mooching around the neighbourhood until one day she discovers a small, run-down zoo. Sandi Toksvig is well known for her radio and TV comedy; here she proves she can do it on paper too. Expect bizarre characters, hilarious one-liners, but also some serious issues simmering beneath the surface.

Round Ireland with a Fridge by Tony Hawks

Anyone who could contemplate hitch-hiking around Ireland with a fridge in tow must be good for a laugh – or very drunk when he agreed to do it! The result is a very silly, but extremely funny, adventure. Read it as an alternative view (albeit restricted by the dimensions of the fridge) to the usual stuff generated by the tourist industry about the 'Emerald Isle'. Much more fun than a travel guide.



Horse Heaven by Jane Smiley

This is a book set in the US, amongst the racing fraternity, where the dogs and horses vie with the humans for 'personality of the year'. (Watch out for Eileen – a Jack Russell with attitude.) Jane Smiley manipulates a massive cast of characters with remarkable dexterity; her ready wit and abundance of goodwill keeping her well on course. The story flows effortlessly – it's relaxed, informal and very funny. Even if you hate horses – take a gamble. This one's a dead cert!



A Touch of... Get a sneak preview of ten great reads

Stuck for what to read next? Maybe you fancy trying something new but don't know where to start. **A Touch of** is a great way for readers who use large print, Braille or audio books to find that good read everyone is looking for. Whether you're choosing for yourself or for someone else who can't get to the library, **A Touch of** gives you a sneak preview of tempting possibilities. There are ten different booklists in the series, including A Touch of Terror, A Touch of Mischief, A Tender Touch and Touching Infinity.

A Touch Ticklish features books available in large print and tells you which ones you can get in audio and Braille as well. If you prefer to start from what's available in audio or Braille, please ask for the ten **A Touch of** samplers which give you friendly introductions and a short extract from each book to listen to or touch read.

RNIB Available from RNIB Talking Book Service

NLB Available from NLB in Braille

Calibre Available from Calibre Cassette Library

Available in audio through public libraries

If you would like more information about the services to readers offered by these organisations please ask a member of library staff. If you have internet access, you can check out www.nlbuk.org



Lip Reading by Maureen Lipman

You probably know Maureen Lipman as a very funny actress (remember that brilliant Jewish momma in the phone adverts?) Lip Reading is her latest collection of autobiographical snippets relayed in such a witty and gossipy style that you'll feel like you've known the author and her family for years. Her comic timing is second to none. Dip in and expect to laugh – a lot.



Dulcie Goes Native by Sue Limb

Dulcie Domum first appeared in a weekly newspaper column called 'Bad Housekeeping'. This book offers you the chance to catch up with three whole years in the consistently chaotic Domum household. Dulcie's self-deprecating humour is delicious and her observations of family life – spouse, kids and Great Aunt Elspeth – will have you snorting with laughter. If you find you can't live without Dulcie, you can get a regular update on her adventures online at www.suelimb.com

Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard by Kiran Desai

Sampath Chawla runs away from his post office job and takes refuge in a guava tree. Using the secrets he's learned from reading other people's mail, he is soon perceived as some sort of holy man. This is a delicious take on small-town culture – irreverent, witty and full of comic dialogue. You'll recognise and sympathise with all the characters – dad's obsessed with money, mum's obsessed with food, sister's obsessed with the Hungry Hop Kwality Ice Cream boy. And that's all before the problem of alcoholic monkeys hits the town



Adrian Mole: The Cappuccino Years by Sue Townsend

Love him or hate him, there's no escaping the fact that Adrian Mole is one of the best-known diary writers in Britain today. Here, Adrian is older, but not much wiser, than the spotty adolescent who poured heart and soul into his teenage scribblings. He's over 30, and a single father to boot, but his hang-ups are as entertaining as ever. He's still full of literary pretension; unrequited passion (for Pandora) and embarrassment – at the behaviour of his parents.

RNIB **NLB** **Colibre**

Happy Birthday Shakespeare by Mark Wallington

Will Green has a dream – to buy a run-down tearoom in the shadow of Anne Hathaway's cottage at Stratford-upon-Avon. As he drives coachloads of wealthy tourists around Britain's beauty spots, he fantasises about making that dream come true. This is a comedy about a man with a mid-life crisis. It's funny, poignant and many readers (particularly men) will identify with the highs and lows of Will's daily existence. Scores high on the feelgood factor too.



Down Under by Bill Bryson

Bill Bryson is now famous for his frank and often outrageous travelogues. Not one to curry favour with his hosts, Bryson's observations are often downright rude! Politically correct he will never be, but that's what makes him so very funny. Here he turns his attention to Australia – the landscape, the weather, the flora and fauna (many of them deadly) and the unique Aussie culture. Prepare yourself for a treat, Cobber!



A Touch of...

A Touch Ticklish

A Touch Ticklish offers you ten very different books, guaranteed to put a smile on your face. You may be looking for some light-hearted fun or maybe you're game for a (belly) laugh. Either way, this selection will tickle your funny bone...

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