

## Bookstore Romance: Love Speaks Volumes

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*Bookstore Romance* collects diverse photographs and stories of couples who celebrated their engagements or weddings in a bookstore.

The snappy chapters open by introducing the couples in terms of how they met, why the bookstores they chose were important to them, and details from their proposals or nuptials. Each is illustrated with photographs taken on location. The sites range from the world's largest outdoor bookstore to a romance-only shop owned by two sisters.

Often, books were vital to the setup or decor of the events: There's a mock-up romance novel cover with the title "Will You Marry Me?"; there are paper flowers made from book pages. Sometimes, celebrities abetted the moments: Tom Hanks relayed a proposal at the Texas Book Festival, while novelist Ann Patchett transformed her Parnassus Books events director's engagement party into a surprise wedding. Complications because of COVID-19 restrictions are also named, including canceled destination weddings that had to be reorganized and brides and grooms wearing masks.

A bibliophile's time capsule and an enduring record of love and literary obsessions, *Bookstore Romance* is a swoonworthy coffee table book about couples who formalized their relationships in bookstores.

REBECCA FOSTER (January / February 2025)

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