

If you need additional assistance with this resource please contact the Information Services/Reference Desk at 847-428-3661 ext. 308.

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## Novelist Database:

Don't know what to read next? Novelist is the database for you. Whether you're an avid reader who's exhausted all the works by your favorite author or a casual reader looking to find a spy thriller to pique your interest, Novelist can help you find your next read. Novelist is a database that includes records for over 250,000 titles and has book recommendations for readers of all ages.

Other uses for Novelist include:

- Finding a list of all the books in a series in order.
- Finding out the name of a book if you remember the plot or a character, but not the name of the author or the title.
- Finding novels set in a particular time or place (i.e. Renaissance Italy, New York City), or featuring a particular topic (i.e. World War I, pickpockets).
- Finding good choices of books for a genre you aren't familiar with (i.e. Gothic Fiction, Chick Lit, Bio-thrillers).

## **Novelist's Browsing Features:**

- **Author Read-alikes:** These guides are a great starting point for readers looking for authors similar to their favorites. Featured authors range from the classic (Jane Austen) to popular contemporary (Danielle Steel, Lee Child). The read-alike profile of each author features a biography of the author's work, including their appeal, as well as suggestions and descriptions of similar authors.

- **Award Winners:** Everyone is pressed for time, Novelists helps you find the best of the best by listing notable and award winning books. This section includes award winning books in other countries (such as Canada and Australia) and genre literature (i.e. graphic novels, mysteries, science fiction) also.
- **Book Discussion Guides:** Are you picking out a book for a discussion book? This section will help you prepare for group discussions by giving you questions and further reading suggestions.
- **Feature Articles:** If you are exploring new genres, sub genres, or topics, this section is for you. Articles on books range from alien encounters in science fiction to time traveling romances or pleasingly plump heroines. Each article gives a summary of the genre, including the history of the genre and what to expect from the book in regards to its characters, setting and tone, as well as a listing of significant books from this genre.
- **Recommended Reads:** For readers all ready familiar with a genre or just looking for a book that interests them, this section provides a list of recommended books by genre.
- **What we're reading:** Find out what the well-read authors of Novelist's genre articles and author read-alikes enjoy reading in their spare time.

### Searching in Novelist:

Besides browsing, users can search for a particular author, title, or series if they'd like to find similar books. Additionally, users can search by plot if they are interested in a particular subject or setting, or if they simply can't remember the author or title of their favorite book. Users can limit their searches by age group: adults (ages 19 and up), teens (ages 13-18), older kids (ages 9-12), and younger kids (ages 0-8) or by selecting whether or not they are interested in fiction or non-fiction titles.

To search for books, first decide what kind of search you want to do. Novelist gives users five options: all, author, title, series title, or describe a plot. What kind of search you choose will depend on the information you know (do you know the name of the author, the title, a series' name, etc.?) and what you would like to find. For example, if you really like a particular author and want to find books that are similar reads to that author, then you should select to do an author search. On the other hand, if you have just read a great book and want to find books that similar in tone or subject, then you should search by title.

The screenshot shows the Novelist search interface. At the top, there is a yellow header with the word "Search" and two links: "Search History/Alerts" and "Search Other Databases". Below the header is a search box containing the text "meno, joe". To the right of the search box are two buttons: "Search" and "Clear", along with a question mark icon. Below the search box is a section titled "Additional Search Criteria". This section contains a "Search" label followed by five radio button options: "All", "Author", "Title", "Series Title", and "Describe A Plot". The "Author" option is selected. Below these options is a "Limit To" section with four checkboxes: "Adults", "Teens", "Older Kids", and "Younger Kids", all of which are currently unchecked. To the right of these checkboxes is a dropdown menu labeled "In" with "All" selected.


Once you know what kind of search you'd like to do, select the circle next to the type of search you'd like to do in the "Additional Search Criteria" box. For this sample search, I'm doing an author search for Joe Meno. As you can see, I've typed in the author's name in the search box and selected to do an author search. If you are uncertain of what kind of search to do, or you want to search multiple criteria (i.e. title and author), then you can choose to search "all" criteria.

Once you hit the search button, you will find a listing of brief records for different books that meet your criteria. Since I did an author search, the listing of books I received is all the books written by Joe Meno.

Books


Refine Search [Add search to folder](#) [Display link to search](#) [Create alert for this search](#)

Results: 1-7 of 7 for AU  
meno, joe AND Automatically "And" search L...  
Page: 1 Sort by: Relevance [Quick Print](#) [Add \(1-7\)](#)

- 1. [Tender as hellfire](#)**  


**Author:** [Meno, Joe](#) **Adults**  
**Publisher:** St. Martin's Press **Fiction**  
**Pub Date:** 1999 **ISBN:** 9780312200510  
**Popularity:** ★★☆☆☆

**Summary:** A poignant and insightful portrait of life on America's social and economic fringe follows Dough and Pill, two brothers growing up in a seedy trailer park, who struggle to make some positive sense out of their difficult lives.

[Add](#)
- 2. [How the hula girl sings: a novel](#)**  


**Author:** [Meno, Joe](#) **Adults**  
**Publisher:** ReganBooks **Fiction**  
**Pub Date:** 2001 **ISBN:** 9780060394332  
**Popularity:** ★★☆☆☆

**Summary:** Plumbs the cruelty and horror at the bottom rung of the American dream by following ex-con Luce LeMay on a mostly unsuccessful return to his extremely cold and unforgiving hometown.

[Table of Contents](#) [Add](#)

These brief listings give you a brief summary of the book, the title, the popularity, the audience (adult, teen, etc.), tell whether the book is fiction or non-fiction, and a picture of the cover (when available). Sometimes these listings will have links under the summary of the books. These links usually indicate if the book is an award winner, or has an associated book discussion guide, if the author has a read-alike profile, or if the first chapter of the book is on Novelist for you to sample.

- 2. [Wonder boys](#)**  


**Author:** [Chabon, Michael](#) **Adults**  
**Publisher:** Villard Books **Fiction**  
**Pub Date:** 1995 **ISBN:** 9780679415886  
**Popularity:** ★★★★★ *Novelist Best*

**Summary:** In a story exploring the theme of the artist's isolation, Grady Tripp, an obese, aging writer who has lost his way, and debauched editor Terry Crabtree struggle to rekindle their friendship, a sense of adventure, and purpose in their lives.


**Links:** [Author Read-alikes](#) [Book Discussion Guides](#) [Add](#)

If one of the book appeals to you, click on the title and you'll get more information about the book including topics covered by the book and reviews. If the book looks appealing, you can click the "Find Similar Books" link next to heading for the Topics section.

5 of 7 | [Result List](#) | [Refine Search](#)

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>The boy detective fails</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Joe Meno</b>
<b>Summary:</b>	As children Billy Argo and his sister Caroline solve a series of mysteries using a detective kit, but as an adult, Billy faces an uncertain future after his sister commits suicide and he finds himself trying to connect with the world again after a stay in the mental hospital.
<b>Related Information:</b>	<a href="#">Award Winners</a>
<b>Publication Information:</b>	Brooklyn, NY: Akashic Books 2006. 320 p.
<b>Reading Level:</b>	Adults
<b>ISBN:</b>	9781933354101 1933354100
<b>Fiction/Nonfiction:</b>	Fiction
<b>Author Information:</b>	All books by: <a href="#">Meno, Joe</a>



★★★★☆  
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<b>Topics</b>	<a href="#">Find Similar Books</a>
<b>Subject Headings:</b>	<a href="#">Ex-detectives</a> <a href="#">Sisters -- Death</a> <a href="#">Gifted children</a>

Searching for a series title is a little bit different than searching by author, title, or plot. If you type in the name of your favorite series (for example, Meg Cabot's *Queen of Babble* series), you'll get a record that looks like this:

[Citation](#) [Print](#) [E-mail](#) [Save](#) [Add to folder](#)

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Queen of babble novels</b>
<b>Summary:</b>	<a href="#">Link to all book records in this series.</a> <a href="#">Author Information</a> (First book in <i>series</i> ) Lizzie Nichols discovers that her inability to keep her mouth shut has landed her in hot water when she aggravates her unfaithful boyfriend, is stranded in London, and takes a job as a bartender for a catered wedding at a French chateau.
<b>Volumes:</b>	1. <a href="#">Queen of babble</a> (c2006) 2. <a href="#">Queen of babble in the big city</a> (c2007) 3. <a href="#">Queen of babble gets hitched</a> (c2008)
<b>Series Author:</b>	<a href="#">Cabot, Meg</a>
<b>Reading Level:</b>	Adults
<b>Fiction/Nonfiction:</b>	Fiction
<b>Author Information:</b>	All books by: <a href="#">Cabot, Meg</a>

<b>Topics</b>	<a href="#">Find Similar Books</a>
<b>Genres:</b>	<a href="#">Love stories (Comedy)</a>
<b>Subject Headings:</b>	<a href="#">Nichols, Lizzie</a> <a href="#">Misadventures</a>

**Credits**

Here you see a summary of the series, the author, and complete listing of books in the series (volumes) in order. If you want to find out more about one of the books, simply click on its name. Similar to the records for books, there is an option to “Find Similar Books.”

## Additional Features:

Become an expert Novelist user; Novelist has training information for using their database under the “Reader’s Advisory” heading on their homepage (on the right hand side, under the “My Novelist” section).



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