

NOVEL LIBRARY



Publisher: Novel Publications, 4600 Diversey Ave., Chicago 41, IL: #s 1 - 2
Diversey Publishing Corp., [same address]: #s 3 - (7)
[same], 3001 Knox Ave., Chicago 41, IL: #s (9) – (29)
[same], 119 West 57th St., NY 19, NY: #s (31) - 46

Distributor: ANC

Format: short pb

Price: 25¢, see notes

Diversey was a secondary corporation of **Avon Books**, which was owned by Joseph Meyers. Avon's editorial offices were in New York; the Chicago addresses were undoubtedly the printer's, since 4600 Diversey Avenue was a common "publication address" for several magazine publishers.

None of the books seen has a cover price. At this point in time it was understood that all mass-market paperbacks were 25¢ unless otherwise marked. The 25¢ price is confirmed by the mail-order ads in the back of the books.

About half of this series was devoted to "Love Novels," a category of spicy romances pioneered by the Depression-era Lending Library publishers. Most of the remainder comprised sensational novels from the 1930's and 40's plus a few lurid "hardboiled" mysteries, all with the same sexy packaging that gives the imprint a uniform veneer of sleaziness. The inclusion of the canasta book is inexplicable.

While entire imprints were devoted to this kind of material in digest size, **Novel Library** was the only mass-market size imprint with this concentration. We will probably never know why Meyers decided to publish this kind of material, but the fact that he hid behind an unrecognizable name and address suggests that he was uncomfortable about it and was trying to shield Avon from financial or legal consequences. In keeping with Avon's variety of publishing formats, Diversey also issued several digest-size series, all with the same sexy format and even some of the same books; see *The Digest Index* for details. All reissues from previous digest series are noted in the Author Index. From 1950 to 1952, Avon reprinted several of these books in digest-size series, this time under their own name. With the exception of a couple of mysteries, none of these books ever reappeared in Avon's catalog.

Although the books were initially published sequentially, within a year the publication order had become random, although they seem to have mostly been issued in pairs. Two sources were used for the augmented dates. The bracketed dates with the © symbol were taken from the copyright registrations. Most of the Novel Library books were listed in the *Publishers' Weekly* forecasts from Fall 1949 to Spring 1950, all with the publisher given as "Avon." The remaining dates are taken from those forecasts. Several of the early books had multiple printings but none have been spotted after 1948, so one presumes that by 1949 they had adjusted their print runs to match demand. Among the books with multiple printings, three are known to have retouched covers on later printings.

The canasta book is the only original in this run; all the others were reprints. There were no collections or anthologies so there is no need for a "contents" index.

All 46 covers are displayed in the Bookscans database, plus one of the retouched covers. All but the canasta book have illustrated covers, almost none of them signed. As usual with Avon publications, a few of the copyright registrations identify the cover artists and one of them is contradicted by the cover's signature.

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NUMERICAL LISTING

1	Woodford, Jack	Three Gorgeous Hussies	[© J. Biernacki]	[© 4/30] 1948
2	Woodford, Jack	Ecstasy Girl	[© Perlowen]	[© 4/30] 1948
3	Woodford, Jack	Free Lovers	[© D. Teager-Phillips]	[© 8/3] 1948
4	Woodford, Jack	Passionate Princess, The	DB	[© 8/3] 1948
5	Leblanc, Maurice	Wanton Venus		1948
6	Woodford, Jack	Peeping Tom		[© 10/11] 1948
7	Woodford, Jack	Grounds for Divorce		[© 10/11] 1948
8	Clarke, Donald Henderson	Regenerate Lover, The		[© 12/27] 1948
9	Dekobra, Maurice	Street of Painted Lips, The		[© 2/23] 1949
10	Williams, Roswell	Woman Without Love		[© 2/23] 1949
11	Chase, James Hadley	Villain and the Virgin, The		[© 1/25] 1949
12	Wilson, Dana	Uneasy Virtue		[© 3/25] 1949
13	Keating, E. P.	Good Time Man, A		[© 1/25] 1949
14	Bull, Lois	Gold Diggers		[© 5/10] 1949
15	Putnam, J. Wesley	Playthings of Desire		[© 3/29] 1949
16	Drago, Sinclair	Women to Love		[© 5/10] 1949
17	Crane, Clarkson	Frisco Gal		[© 8/9] 1949
18	Dekobra, Maurice	Bedroom Eyes	(Peter Driben)	[© 6/7] 1949
19	Clarke, Donald Henderson	Louis Beretti		[© 6/7] 1949
20	Collison, Wilson	One Night with Nancy		1949
21	Anonymous	Love Toy, The		[© 7/26] 1949
22	Caren, Ellen	Mirabelle: Woman of Passion		[© 8/2] 1949
23	Bull, Lois	Broadway Virgin		1949
24	Weigall, Arthur	Infidelity		1949
25	Dekobra, Maurice	Venus on Wheels		[10/20] 1949
26	Browne, Eleanore	Immodest Maidens, The		[© 10/18] 1949
27	Scott, Anthony	Ladies of Chance		[© 11/1] 1949
28	Dekobra, Maurice	Love Clinic, The		[© 9/7] 1949
29	Trent, Timothy	All Dames Are Dynamite		[© 9/7] 1949
30	Collison, Wilson	Diary of Death		[© 10/4] 1949
31	Roberts, Colette	Millions for Love		[© 10/4] 1949
32	Collison, Wilson	Dishonorable Darling		[© 11/17] 1949
33	Nash, Eleanor Arnett	Women in His Life, The		[11/1] 1950
34	Longstreet, Stephen	Crystal Girl, The		[© 11/15] 1949
35	Martin, George Victor	Lady Said Yes, The		[12/24] 1949
36	Woodford, Jack	Male and Female		Jan [1] 1950
37	Chase, James Hadley	12 Chinamen and a Woman		[1/27] 1950
38	Bodenheim, Maxwell	Sixty Seconds		[1/27] 1950
39	Lewton, Val	No Bed of Her Own		[1/27] 1950
40	Lief, Max	Wild Parties		1950
41	Stone, Thomas	Help Wanted--Male		[2/15] 1950
42	Schultz, Alan (Brener?)	Lady for Love		[2/15] 1950
43	Frey, Richard L.	How to Play Canasta		[© 1/4] 1950
44	Woodford, Jack	Teach Me to Love		[4/20] 1950
45	Holland, Marty	Blonde Baggage		[3/16] 1950
46	Bodenheim, Maxwell	Naked on Roller Skates		[3/16] 1950



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AUTHOR INDEX

Anonymous

by Harry Sinclair Drago, q.v.

The Love Toy (Macaulay, 1925) Novel Library 21 1949

Atkinson, F. M.

translator

The Love Clinic by Maurice Dekobra (Payson & Clarke, 1929, c&u) Novel Library 28 1949

Bodenheim, Maxwell, [né Bodenheimer] (1893-1954) US

Naked on Roller Skates (Liveright, 1931 [rev], reissue of Diversey Popular Novel 2)
Novel Library 46 1950

Sixty Seconds (Liveright, 1929, rev) Novel Library 38 1950

Browne, Eleanore ps of H[enry] L[eyford] Gates (1880-1937) US

The Immodest Maidens (*Make Me Yours*, Macaulay, 1934, c&u) Novel Library 26 1949

Bull, Lois (1900-1971)

Broadway Virgin (Macaulay, 1931, c&u, reissue of Diversey Popular Novel 1)
Novel Library 23 1949

Gold Diggers (*Collect*, Macaulay, 1931, c&u) Novel Library 14 1949

Caren, Ellen ps of Elenore Schoenberner, née Nerac German/US

Mirabelle: Woman of Passion (*Mirabelle*, Greenberg, 1948, rev) Novel Library 22 1949

Chase, James Hadley ps of René Brabazon Raymond (1906-1985) UK

series: Dave Fenner

12 Chinamen and a Woman [Fenner] (*12 Chinks and a Woman*, Howell, Soskin, 1941, rev,
reissue of Avon Monthly Novel 7) Novel Library 37 1950

The Villain and the Virgin [Fenner] (*No Orchids for Miss Blandish*, Howell, Soskin, 1942, rev)
Novel Library 11 1949

Clarke, Donald Henderson (1887-1958) US

Louis Beretti (Vanguard, 1929, c&u) Novel Library 19 1949

The Regenerate Lover (*Young and Healthy*, Vanguard, 1931, rev,
reissue of Avon Monthly Novel 3) Novel Library 8 1949

Collison, Wilson (1893-1941) US

Diary of Death (McBride, 1930, c&u) Novel Library 30 1949

Dishonorable Darling (*Farewell to Women*, McBride, 1932, c&u) Novel Library 32 1949

One Night with Nancy (Macaulay, 1933, c&u, reissue of Love Book Monthly 2)
Novel Library 20 1949

Crane, Clarkson (1894-1971) US

Frisco Gal (*Naomi Martin*, Harcourt, Brace, 1947, rev) Novel Library 17 1949

Dekobra, Maurice ps of Ernst Maurice Tessier (1885-1973) French

translated by F. M. Atkinson

The Love Clinic (Payson & Clarke, 1929, c&u) Novel Library 28 1949

translated by Maverick Terrell

Bedroom Eyes (Macaulay, 1935, [c&u], reissue of Love Book Monthly 1)
Novel Library 18 1949

translated by Neal Wainwright

The Street of Painted Lips (Macaulay, 1934, c&u) Novel Library 9 1949

translator unknown

Venus on Wheels (Macaulay, 1930, c&u, reissue of Broadway Novel Monthly 2)
Novel Library 25 1949

Drago, [Harry] Sinclair (1888-1979) US, see also anonymous

Women to Love (Amour Press, 1931, c&u) Novel Library 16 1949



Frey, Richard L. (1905-1988) US				
	<i>How to Play Canasta</i>	(non-fiction, original)	Novel Library	43 1950
Holland, Marty ps of Mary Holland				
	<i>Blonde Baggage</i>	(<i>Fallen Angel</i> , Dutton, 1945, rev)	Novel Library	45 1950
Keating, E[va] P[earl] [Murphy] (1887-)				
	<i>A Good Time Man</i>	(Macaulay, 1932, c&u)	Novel Library	13 1949
Leblanc, Maurice [Marie] [Emile] (1864-1941) French				
	[translated by Patience Ross]			
	<i>Wanton Venus</i>	(Macaulay, 1935)	Novel Library	5 1948
Lewton, Val , [né Vladimir Ivan Leventon] (1904-1951) Russian/US				
	<i>No Bed of Her Own</i>	(Vanguard, 1932, c&u)	Novel Library	39 1950
Lief, Max (1899-)				
	<i>Wild Parties</i>	(<i>Hangover</i> , Liveright, 1929, rev)	Novel Library	40 1950
Longstreet, Stephen , [né Chauncey Weiner] (1907-2002) US				
	<i>The Crystal Girl</i>	(Messner, 1948, rev)	Novel Library	34 1949
Martin, George Victor (1900-) US				
	<i>The Lady Said Yes</i>	(<i>Mark It with a Stone</i> , Fell, 1947, rev, reissue of Avon Monthly Novel 10)	Novel Library	35 1949
Nash, Eleanor Arnett				
	<i>The Women in His Life</i>	(<i>Bachelors Are Made</i> , Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1946, c&u)	Novel Library	33 1950
Putnam, J[ohn] Wesley				
	<i>Playthings of Desire</i>	(Macaulay, 1924, c&u)	Novel Library	15 1949
Roberts, Colette				
	<i>Millions for Love</i>	(Covici, Friede, 1932, c&u)	Novel Library	31 1949
Ross, Patience				
	uncredited translator			
	<i>Wanton Venus</i> by Maurice Leblanc	(Macaulay, 1935)	Novel Library	5 1948
Schultz, Alan Brener				
	<i>Lady for Love</i>	(Liveright, 1931, rev)	Novel Library	42 1950
Scott, Anthony ps of Davis Dresser (1904-1977) US				
	<i>Ladies of Chance</i>	(Godwin, 1936, c&u)	Novel Library	27 1949
Stone, Thomas ps of Florence Stonebraker (1896-1977) US				
	<i>Help Wanted—Male</i>	(Phoenix, 1937, c&u)	Novel Library	41 1950
Terrell, Maverick US				
	translator			
	<i>Bedroom Eyes</i> by Maurice Dekobra	(Macaulay, 1935, [c&u], reissue of Love Book Monthly 1)	Novel Library	18 1949
Trent, Timothy ps of Carl Malmberg (1904-1979) US				
	<i>All Dames Are Dynamite</i>	(Godwin, 1935, rev)	Novel Library	29 1949
Wainwright, Neal				
	translator			
	<i>The Street of Painted Lips</i> by Maurice Dekobra	(Macaulay, 1934, c&u)	Novel Library	9 1949
Weigall, Arthur [Edward] [Pearse] [Brome] (1880-1934)				
	<i>Infidelity</i>	(Brentano's, 1928, c&u, reissue of Avon Monthly Novel 10)	Novel Library	24 1949
Williams, Roswell ps of Frank Owen (1893-1968) US				
	<i>Woman Without Love</i>	(Watt, 1933)	Novel Library	10 1949
Wilson, Dana [née Natol] (1922-2004) US				
	<i>Uneasy Virtue</i>	(<i>Make with the Brains, Pierre</i> , Messner, 1946, c&u, reissue of Avon Monthly Novel 5)	Novel Library	12 1949



Woodford, Jack	ps of Josiah Pitts Woolfolk (1894-1971) US			
	<i>Ecstasy Girl</i>	(as by Gordon Sayre, Godwin, 1937, rev)	Novel Library	2 1948
	<i>Free Lovers</i>	(<i>Fiddler's Fee</i> by Gordon Sayre, Godwin, 1934, rev)	Novel Library	3 1948
	<i>Grounds for Divorce</i>	(<i>Love at Last</i> , Godwin, 1937, rev)	Novel Library	7 1948
	<i>Male and Female</i>	(Woodford, 1946, rev)	Novel Library	36 1950
	<i>The Passionate Princess</i>	(<i>Proxy Princess</i> by Howard Kennedy, Godwin, 1937, rev)	Novel Library	4 1948
	<i>Peeping Tom</i>	(<i>Come into My Parlor</i> by Howard Kennedy, Godwin, 1936, rev)	Novel Library	6 1948
	<i>Teach Me to Love</i>	(<i>Strangers in Love</i> , Godwin, 1934, rev, reissue of Avon Love Book Monthly 3)	Novel Library	44 1950
	<i>Three Gorgeous Hussies</i>	(as by Gordon Sayre, Godwin, 1936, rev)	Novel Library	1 1948

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ARTIST INDEX

DB

Novel Library 4 *The Passionate Princess* by Jack Woodford
[credited to Ann Cantor in © registration]

Biernacki, J. [per ©]

Novel Library 1 *Three Gorgeous Hussies* by Jack Woodford

Cantor, Ann

see DB, above

Driben, Peter (1903-1968) US

Novel Library 18 *Bedroom Eyes* by Maurice Dekobra
(rep from Love Book Monthly 1, same novel)

Perlowen [per ©]

Novel Library 2 *Ecstasy Girl* by Jack Woodford

Teager-Phillips, T. [per ©]

Novel Library 3 *Free Lovers* by Jack Woodford
(Cover comes in two variants with different colored backgrounds.)

Unidentified:



Novel Library 31 *Millions for Love* by Colette Roberts

One book had a photographic cover:

Novel Library 35 *The Lady Said Yes* by George Martin
(rep from Avon Monthly Novel 10, same novel, colored over)

One book had no cover art:

Novel Library 43 *How to Play Canasta* by Richard L. Frey

unidentified covers that were also reprints:

Novel Library 20 *One Night with Nancy* by Wilson Collison
(rep from Love Book Monthly 2, same novel)

Novel Library 24 *Infidelity* by Arthur Weigall
(rep from Broadway Novel Monthly 1, same novel)

Novel Library 25 *Venus on Wheels* by Maurice Dekobra
(rep from Broadway Novel Monthly 2, same novel)

Novel Library 46 *Naked on Roller Skates* by Maxwell Bodenheim
(rep from Diversey Prize Novels 2, same novel)

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Wanton Venus	Maurice Leblanc
Wild Parties	Max Lief
Woman Without Love	Roswell Williams
Women in His Life	Eleanor Arnett Nash
Women to Love	Sinclair Drago

original titles not used on Novel Library editions

12 Chinks and a Woman	James Hadley Chase
Bachelors Are Made	Eleanor Arnett Nash
Collect	Lois Bull
Come into My Parlor, by Howard Kennedy	Jack Woodford
Fallen Angel	Marty Holland
Farewell to Women	Wilson Collison
Fiddler's Fee, by Gordon Sayre	Jack Woodford
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