December 2019 - The top ten books published this month that librarians across the country love.

Africaville
A Novel
by Jeffrey Colvin
(Amistad)
"Africaville is a settlement of Jamaican people run out of their homes by the British and dumped in cold foreign Canada. Colvin weaves the story of Kath Ela and her family through decades of ongoing racial prejudice and injustice, portraying the love among characters and the tenacity of some determined to find happiness. For readers who enjoyed Homegoing and The Underground Railroad."
—Lisa Casper, Highlands Ranch Library, Highlands Ranch, CO
Novelist read-alike: Dominon by Calvin Baker

The Dead Girls Club
A Novel
by Damien Angelica Walters
(Crooked Lane Books)
"An engaging story, full of twists and turns. Chapters alternate from Heather’s childhood experiences to her present to form the whole story. More creepy than scary, pick this up if you want a story full of dread, suspense, childhood memories, death, and plenty of surprises. For fans of The Turn of the Key and The Silent Patient."
—Rebecca Kelley, Richland Library, Columbia, SC
Novelist read-alike: The Last Time I Lied by Riley Sager

A Madness of Sunshine
by Nalini Singh
(Berkley)
"With a well-drawn cast of characters and a vivid New Zealand setting, this book slowly draws you in, picks up speed, and takes you on a dark, twisty ride. For fans of Gossip Girl and Big Little Lies."
—Suzanne Christensen, Spanish Fork Public Library, Spanish Fork, UT
Novelist read-alike: The Garden of Small Beginnings by Abbi Waxman

Husband Material
by Emily Belden
(Graydon House)
"Charlotte, a young widow, is thrown for a loop when her husband’s ashes appear at her door. As a coder for social media influencers, she develops an app to help find a mate but uses it to keep potential dates away. And then a secret from her husband’s past threatens to destroy the tenuous ties of friendship and love she has found. A fun read for fans of Christina Higgins and Sophie Kinsella."
—Suzanne Christensen, Spanish Fork Public Library, Spanish Fork, UT
Novelist read-alike: The Permanence of a Moment by Abigail Roslin

The Wives
A Novel
by Tarryn Fisher
(Graydon House)
"Fisher has a knack for telling you a story where there’s no anticipating the twists and turns, and The Wives was no exception. A psychological thriller so immersive that I consumed it in a single sitting. For fans of The Wife Between Us and The Silent Wife."
—Aryssa Damron, DC Public Library, Washington, DC
Novelist read-alike: Just Between Us by Rebecca Drake

The Secret Place
by Elizabeth Wetmore
(Putnam)
"This book is a page-turner elevates the thriller genre with descriptive writing and well-drawn characters. Ash arrives at the Goode School with secrets of her own. Following an honor code is difficult enough (no lies allowed), but throw in secret societies and overly privileged students, and the scene is set for murder. For readers who liked The Secret History and Watching You."
—Douglas Beatty, Baltimore County Public Library, Baltimore, MD
Novelist read-alike: The Secret Place by Tara French

The Spring Girls
by Sara Shepard
(G.P. Putnam’s Sons)
"Shepherd writes a book that is a page-turner as well as a murder mystery. For fans of Gossip Girl and Big Little Lies."
—Brie Hopkins, Newport Public Library, Newport, RI
Novelist read-alike: The Last Mrs. Parish by Liv Constantine

Meg and Jo
by Virginia Kantra
(Berkley)
"Little Women’s March family is brought into the present day. Here Marmee is a North Carolina goat farmer, Mr. March an idealistic and often absent Army chaplain, and Jo a NYC food blogger and frustrated writer. For readers who loved A Thousand Acres by Jane Smiley."
—Beth Mills, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY
Novelist read-alike: The Spring Girls by Anna Todd

Such A Fun Age
by Kiley Reid
(G.P. Putnam’s Sons)
"Full of nuanced characters and a very current plot about race and privilege, Such a Fun Age will keep you slightly off-balance and questioning how you would react. Emira is a character that you’ll love for her feistiness and strength of character. Perfect for fans of Americanah, Red at the Bone, and An American Marriage."
—Linda Quinn, Fairfield Public Library, Fairfield, CT
Novelist read-alike: That Kind of Mother by Rumaan Alam

Good Girls Lie
by J. T. Ellison
(MIRA)
"Sinister and atmospheric, this page-turner elevates the thriller genre with descriptive writing and well-drawn characters. Ash arrives at the Goode School with secrets of her own. Following an honor code is difficult enough (no lies allowed), but throw in secret societies and overly privileged students, and the scene is set for murder. For readers who liked The Secret History and Watching You."
—Douglas Beatty, Baltimore County Public Library, Baltimore, MD
Novelist read-alike: The Secret Place by Tara French

Would Like To Meet
by Rachel Winters
(G.P. Putnam’s Sons)
"Evie recreates famous movie meet-cutes as a way to inspire a jerk client to write a screenplay, and learns a lot about herself in the process. For fans of Meg Cabot and Jennifer Crusie."
—Kassie Ettefagh, High Point Public Library, High Point, NC
Novelist read-alike: Waiting for Tom Hanks by Kerry Winfrey

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