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

THE TRESPASSER
A Novel by Tana French (Viking)

"Aislin Murray is beautiful, lives in a picture-perfect cottage, and has a boy she’s crazy about. Antoinette Conway is a tough member of the Dublin Murder Squad who knows no one likes her and says she doesn’t care. When Aislin is murdered, Conway and her partner Steve Moran take the case and start listening to all the stories about Aislin. Which ones are true? Was she in love and with whom? Are the stories we tell ourselves and others anywhere near the truth? Great read from Tana French."

—Kathryn Layburn, Chester County Library, Exton, PA

THE OTHER EINSTEIN
A Novel by Marie Benedict (Sourcebooks Landmark)

"Einstei. Just hearing that name likely brings a smile to your face, as you picture the mischievous wild-haired scientist with the twinkle in his eye. In The Other Einstein, readers get a view of the woman behind the genius, his first wife Mileva Maric, a strong willed and brilliant physics student who refused to let society dictate her life’s path, but who lost her way when love and troubles came on the scene. Benedict has penned an engaging tale that will likely inspire readers to investigate the true story behind Maric’s genius and her personal and professional relationship with Einstein."

—Sharon Layburn, South Huntington Public Library, Huntington, ST, NY

ALL THE LITTLE LIARS
An Aurora Teagarden Mystery by Charlaine Harris (Minotaur Books)

"The narrative of Aurora Teagarden was thought to be over. In a surprising, but welcome return, All The Little Liars picks up right where we left off with Roe. Newly remarried, Roe is dealing with a plethora of issues. With a missing brother and troublesome father in town, Roe is searching for answers. Pregnancy, family problems, and more make for a suspenseful, fast, and comforting read. Harris’ writing shines best when she portrays the minutiae of small-town lives and the inner workings of families, friends, and relationships. I can’t wait for the next book."

—Hei Ling Thomas, Rochester Hills Public Library, Rochester, MI

SMOKE AND MIRRORS
by Elly Griffiths (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

"Thrilled for another opportunity to enjoy DI Stephens and Max Mephisto joining forces against crime and intrigue. It may appear light hearted with its theatrical/magician twist, but these detective stories are full of dark happenings. Solving the gruesome murder of two local children dampens the holiday spirit in this small town. The lead characters are very enjoyable and the theatre setting so unique. I enjoyed the love interest/overprotected daughter storyline as well! Very much looking forward to the next installment."

—Carol Ward, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Solon, OH

THE MOTION OF PUPPETS
A Novel by Keith Donohue (Picador)

"A young couple find themselves caught in a web of magic and horror. Kay is an acrobat and goes missing. Her husband cannot believe Kay’s disappearance and searches the city in vain all the while not guessing that she has been spirited away by a puppet master in the toy shop that fascinated her during their walks. Kay begins life anew as a puppet and soon begins to befriend the other puppets at night when they come to life. Will the evil that has charmed Kay be stronger than her husband’s love? Donohue writes a frightening account reminiscent of Grimm’s fairy tales and it will keep you up reading til dawn."

—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, Austin, TX

TOO HOT TO HANDLE
by Sharon Sala (St. Martin’s Press)

"Roe. Newly remarried, Roe is searching for answers. Pregnancy, family problems, and more make for a suspenseful, fast, and comforting read. Harris’ writing shines best when she portrays the minutiae of small-town lives and the inner workings of families, friends, and relationships. I can’t wait for the next book."

—Beth Mills, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY

THE MOTHERS
A Novel by Brit Bennett (Riverhead Books)

"In a contemporary Black community in California, the story begins with a secret. Nadia is a high school senior, mourning her mother’s recent death, and smitten with the local pastor’s son, Luke. It’s not a serious romance, but it takes a turn when a pregnancy (and subsequent cover-up) happen. The impact sends ripples through the community. The Mothers asks us to contemplate how our decisions shape our lives. The collective voice of the Mothers in the community is a voice unto itself, narrating and guiding the reader through the story."

—Jennifer O’Harek, St. Louis Public Library, St. Louis, MO

TODAY WILL BE DIFFERENT
by Maria Semple (Little, Brown and Company)

"I went into Today Will Be Different expecting the mockery of Seattle’s ridiculous idiosyncrasies. What I got was different, but just as good. Eleanor is sympathetic and the story revolves around family conflicts and disappointments, as well as Eleanor’s awareness of the inevitability of aging and its effects on herself and marriage. Her relationships with those closest to her are also the ones with the most secrets, and with the potential for the most harm and the most hope. I'd recommend this to readers who love family-centric women’s fiction with a sharp eye for the quirks of marriage and parenting."

—Jessica Werner, The Seattle Public Library, Seattle, WA

SMALL GREAT THINGS
A Novel by Jodi Picoult (Ballantine Books)

"A black neonatal nurse is charged with causing the death of a white supremacist’s newborn baby. The story is told from the points of view of the nurse, her attorney, and the baby’s heartbroken father. As always, Picoult’s attention to legal, organizational, and medical minutiae of small-town lives and the inner work details help the tale ring true. What sets this book apart, though, are the uncomfortable points it makes about racism. The novel is both absorbing and thought-provoking, and will surely spark conversations among friends, families and book clubs."

—Laurie Van Court, Douglas County Libraries, Castle Rock, CO

CROSSTALK
by Connie Willis (Del Rey)

"Crosstalk is the perfect comedic for the digital age. Briddey works for a cell phone provider that is constantly searching for the next way to help people “connect” - nevermind that she is already inundated by calls, texts, social media, and unannounced visits from her colleagues, friends, and nosy family. When she undergoes a procedure to telepathically sense the emotions of her seemingly perfect boyfriend, things go awry and she ends up connected to the wrong person. A perfect screwball comedy from a master writer!"

—Patricia Kline-Millard, Bedford Public Library, Bedford, NH

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