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

THE WOMEN IN THE CASTLE
A Novel
by Jessica Shattuck
(William Morrow)

“Three German women’s lives are abruptly changed when their husbands are executed for their part in an attempt to assassinate Hitler. They band together in a crumbling estate to raise their children and keep each other standing. Rich in character development, this book is narrated by each of the Women, giving us a clear understanding of their sense of loss, inner strength and the love they have for each other. This story examines the human side of war where the lines are blurred between hero and victim.”

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

THE HEARTS OF MEN
A Novel
by Nickolas Butler
(Ecco)

“In the summer of 1962, we are introduced to popular Jonathan and social outcast, Nelson, aka ‘The Bugler’. The only thing the two seem to have in common is that they both spend a few weeks of one summer at Camp Chipewa in the woods of Wisconsin. Yet, over the course of decades, their lives and the lives of those they love the most are intertwined. This wonderful novel peels back the layers of male friendship and shows what loyalty, compassion and selflessness looks like.”

—Jennifer Dayton, Darien Library, Darien CT

EGGSHELLS
by Caitriona Lally
(Melville House)

“Whimsical and different, this novel’s humor hooked me. Vivian is an eccentric, living in Dublin and searching for a place where she can feel she belongs. How can you help but love a character who checks every wardrobe for Narnia and every yellow road for an Emerald City? This novel movingly explores the outcasts and the different among us, showing that they are only hoping to find and find a friend.”

—Linda Quinn, Fairfield Public Library, Fairfield, CT

THE STRANGER IN THE WOODS
THE EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF THE LAST TRUE HERMIT
by Michael Finkel
(Putnam)

“There are three types of hermits in the world, according to Finkel: protesters, pilgrims, and pursuers. But Christopher Knight doesn’t seem to fit any of these categories. So why, at the age of 20, did he drive into a forest in Maine and disappear for 27 years, his only human interaction a single ‘hi’ with a passing hiker? This book uses the incredible but true story of Knight, “the last true hermit,” to explore themes of solitude, introversion and the meaning of life.”

—Megan Tristao, San Jose Public Library, San Jose, CA

THE TEA GIRL OF HUMMINGBIRD LANE
by Lisa See
(Scribner)

“Li-Yan and her family, devote their lives to farming tea. Like her mother, she is being groomed to become a midwife in her Chinese village. She yearns for more and is allowed to pursue her schooling. The arrival of outsiders seeking the Pu-er tea of Yunnan brings the modern world into this isolated village. When Li-Yan finds herself alone and pregnant, she leaves her child, wrapped with a tea cake, at an orphanage. Her daughter is adopted by a couple from California, and is drawn to the study of tea. A sweeping historical novel that juxtaposes ancient China with its modern incarnation.”

—Catherine Ceyne, Mansfield Public Library, Mansfield, MA

THE TWELVE LIVES OF SAMUEL HAWLEY
A Novel
by Hannah Tinti
(The Dial Press)

“Meet Samuel Hawley, a man in a constant struggle with his violent past, doing the best he can to raise his daughter. Meet Lou, his daughter, a girl with an obscure past and an uncertain future, on the cusp of adulthood. And meet Lily, the dead woman who connects them both. In this finely woven novel, the past and the present gradually illuminate the story of a man’s life through the bullet wounds he carries with him and makes readers consider what it is to be both good and evil.”

—Dawn Terrizzi, Denton Public Library, Denton, TX

THE BONE WITCH
by Rin Chupeco
(Sourcebooks Fire)

“Fifteen-year-old Tea discovers that she has a power that sets her apart from the other witches in her village and family and a hatred. She is a “bone witch” who can raise the dead. Aware that a darkness is coming, Tea agrees to leave her home and family so she can learn to save the very people who hate her. As her training, outlined in rich and fascinating detail, includes the courtly arts of singing and dancing and as well as classes in fighting. In short chapters, Tea reflects on her life, revealing how she becomes a courageous warrior. Although written for young adults, this will equally appeal to adults. The cliff-hanger ending will make readers eager for the promised sequel!”

—Trisha Perry, Oldham County Public Library, Lagrange, KY

SAY NOTHING
A Novel
by Brad Parks
(Dutton)

“Fans of crime fiction and fans of domestic drama will find much to love in Parks’ genre-blending thriller. Judge Scott Sampson is a devoted, respected jurist thrown into every parent’s worst nightmare: his 6-year-old twins are kidnapped, and the kidnappers blackmail Scott into increasingly immoral legal decisions. Cue marital meltdown, ethical dilemmas, paranoia, and a thrill ride that suspense lovers will race through to learn what happens next. It’s a departure from the author’s lightly snarky Carter Ross series, but a welcome one for readers of Harlan Coben and Gregg Hurwitz.”

—Donna Matturri, Pickerington Public Library, Pickerington, OH

IF NOT FOR YOU
A Novel
by Debbie Macomber
(Ballantine Books)

“High school music teacher, Beth, and tattooed auto mechanic, Sam, are set up by mutual friends, but neither sees a relationship developing. Their mutual disinterest quickly turns into friendship and then develops into much more. Just as their romantic relationship truly begins, Beth’s controlling mother and Sam’s hidden past get in the way and threaten to break them apart. As fans have grown to expect from Macomber, this tale tugs the heartstrings in every direction but is ultimately uplifting. It’s impossible not to fall in love with her characters.”

—Jenna Friebel, Oak Park Public Library, Oak Park, IL

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