My Dark Vanessa
A Novel
by Kate Elizabeth Russell
(William Morrow)

*A Lolita for the #MeToo era, it’s unsettling, but not necessarily for the reasons you might think. The narrative shifts from 2000, when Vanessa gains admission to an elite New England prep school, to 2017, where she tries to come to terms with her experience, her role in it, how it’s affecting her present, and the choices she faces to find resolution and move forward. For fans of Notes on a Scandal (Heller), Trust Exercise (Choi), and His Favorites (Walbert)."

—Michelle Sampson, York Public Library, York, ME

NoveList read-alike: The Coming Storm by Paul Elliott Russell

March 2020 - The top ten books published this month that librarians across the country love.

Darling Rose Gold
by Stephanie Wrobel
(Berkeley)

Terrific psychological suspense based on an actual case where a mother deliberately made her daughter sick for years. The story is told in alternating perspectives from the view of Rose Gold and her mother, Patty, complex characters who are masterfully drawn, seeming sympathetic at some points and unsympathetic in others. For readers who liked The Silent Patient and The Execution of Noa P Singleton.

—Alice Kober, Arapahoe Library District, Englewood, CO

NoveList read-alike: Mother, Mother by Karen Zallock

If I Never Met You
A Novel
by Mhairi McFarlane
(William Morrow Paperback)

“When Jamie and Laurie become trapped in an elevator, they conjure up a fake relationship in order to get what they want from work and make an ex jealous. They end up falling for each other...but can they trust it? An enjoyable romance with characters you care about. For readers who liked Not the Girl You Marry and The Flatshare.”

—Melissa Stumpe, Johnson County Public Library, Greenwood, IN

NoveList read-alike: The Betting vow by K.M. Jackson

The Glass Hotel
A Novel
by Emily St. John Mandel (Knopf)

“A gorgeously written, immersive book about how easy it is to cross lines into questionable moral territory. At its center is Vincent, who loses her mother when she’s 13 and as an adult makes her way into the heart of the Country of Money in New York City. Narrated by a number of well-drawn characters in a shifting timeline. For fans of A Visit from the Goon Squad and The Goldfinch.”

—Diana Armstrong, Multnomah County Library, Portland, OR

NoveList read-alike: The Luminous Heart of Jonah S. by Gina Barkhordar Nahai

The Return
by Rachel Harrison
(Berkeley)

“The story of a creepy hotel, a mysterious disappearance and reappearance, and the complexities of friendships. For fans of Stephen King and Thomas Harris.”

—Kate Currie, Hennepin County Library, Hennepin County, MN

NoveList read-alike: My Best Friend’s Exorcism by Grady Hendrix

The Two Lives of Lydia Bird
A Novel
by Josie Silver
(Ballantine Books)

“A beautifully written exploration of heartbreak and grief, that takes place over the course of 18 months after Lydia loses her fiancé Freddie in a tragic accident. For fans of Me Before You by Jojo Moyes and I Almost Forgot About You by Terry McMillan.”

—Ashley Giangregorio, Virginia Beach Public Library, Virginia Beach, VA

NoveList read-alike: Time of My Life by Allison Winn Scotch

A Good Neighborhood
by Therese Anne Fowler
(St. Martin’s Press)

“When a local businessman removes several old trees to build a mini-mansion, he isn’t seen favorably by his new neighbor Valerie, an ecology professor. When their teenagers begin to secretly date you know it’s not going to end well. Told from multiple viewpoints (including the neighborhood chorus), this heart-wrenching novel explores class, race, and what it means to be a good neighbor. For those who enjoyed Commonwealth, ‘The Hate U Give, and A Place for Us.”

—Alissa Williams, Morton Public Library, Morton, IL

NoveList read-alike: Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng

If I Never Met You
A Novel
by Mhairi McFarlane
(William Morrow Paperback)

“An ambitious young lawyer disregards a prophetic dream that doesn’t fit into her five-year plan until she meets the man of her dreams five years later. Love has a plan of its own. For readers who enjoyed Remember Me by Sophie Kinsella, You Were There Too by Colleen Oakley, and The Wedding Party by Jasmine Guillory.”

—Kristin Friberg, Princeton Public Library, Princeton, NJ

NoveList read-alike: One True Loves by Taylor Jenkins Red

In Five Years
by Rebecca Serle
(Atria Books)

“In Five Years, a young woman is transported back five years after a fateful week. For fans of the Ladies Travelers Guide series and the Amelia Peabody mysteries.”

—Stacy Tomaszewski, Alameda County Library, San Jose, CA

NoveList read-alike: The House at Baker Street by Michelle Barkby

A Murderous Relation
by Deanna Raybourn
(Berkley)

“Take one romance-reading hero, his bromance book club, and add a wickedly strong heroine. This one strikes the right balance of snark, heart, and humor. For fans of Alexa Martin and Julie James.”

—Jennifer Asimakopoulos, Indian Prairie Public Library, Darien, IL

NoveList read-alike: The Full Series by Janet Evanovich and Charlote Hughes

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Eight Perfect Murders
A Novel
by Peter Swanson
(William Morrow)

“Malcolm writes a blog post about eight crime novels featuring “perfect” murders. Years later, an FBI agent tells him a killer is mimicking the books on his list. In an homage to classic mysteries, Swanson creates an artful tale of murder.”

—Amy Whitfield, Cary Regional Library, Cary NC

Read-alikes: Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore by Matthew Sullivan
The Oxford Murders by Guillermo Martinez
Magpie Murders by Anthony Horovitz

The Honey-Don’t List
by Christina Lauren
(Gallery Books)

“Imagine a world in which two HGTV-style design gurus have a terrible marriage and their assistants have to keep everything from falling apart. This is a super-fun, fast, and easy read.”

—Maria Maia, River Forest Public Library, River Forest, IL

Read-alikes: Playing House by Ruby Lang
Fix Her Up by Tessa Bailey
Wedding Night by Sophie Kinsella

The Red Lotus
A Novel
by Chris Bohjalian
(Doubleday)

“In the aftermath of her boyfriend’s disappearance in contemporary Vietnam, a New York ER doctor discovers the shocking truth about his secret life. This is an exciting edge-of-your-seat thriller that will keep you reading well into the night.”

—Marion Sheehan, Canterbury Public Library, Canterbury, CT

Read-alikes: Outbreak by Robin Cook
The Escape Artist by Brad Meltzer
Life Support by Tess Gerritsen

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org