October 2020 - The top ten books published this month that library staff across the country love.

**Black Sun**
by Rebecca Roanhorse
(Gallery/Saga Press)
“Fans of epic fantasy looking for something new will surely love the amazing world-building and strong characters in this pre-Columbian America story about prophecy, destiny, politics, and revenge, all with a healthy dose of magic. For fans of Gods of Jade and Shadow and the Broken Earth series.”
—Dan Brooks, Wake County Public Libraries, Raleigh, NC
Novelist read-alike: The Winds of Khalakovo by Bradley Beaulieu

**Confessions on the 7:45**
A Novel
by Lisa Unger
(Park Row)
“Serena finds out that her husband is sleeping with the nanny, and then confides in a mysterious woman she meets on the train. The woman continues to contact Serena as her world implodes. Who is this strange woman, and is she responsible for the mess Serena finds herself in? Full of twists, turns, and many POVs, this page turner is perfect for those who like Gillian Flynn and Paula Hawkins.”
—Shari Suarez, Genesee District Library, Goodrich, MI
Novelist read-alike: The Kind Worth Killing by Peter Swanson

**Leave the World Behind**
A Novel
by Rumaan Alam
(Ecco)
“What appears on the surface to be a simple story of a family on vacation morphs into a narrative about humanity, shared fear, misconceptions of people, and more. Amanda, Clay, and their two children rent an Airbnb. Then homeowners Ruth and G.H. appear on the doorstep in a panic, and suddenly nothing is normal. For readers who enjoyed Station Eleven and The Children’s Bible.”
—Marika Zemke, Commerce Township Library, Commerce Township, MI
Novelist read-alike: Do Not Become Alarmed by Maile Meloy

**The Once and Future Witches**
by Alix E. Harrow
(Redhook)
“In a world where women and magic have been burned and bound, three sisters set about to bring power and rights back to women and in doing so, find their way back to each other. For fans of Uprooted and Circe.”
—Melanie Liechty, Logan Library, Logan, UT
Novelist read-alike: A Discovery of Witches by Deborah Harkness

**Ring Shout**
by P. Djèlí Clark
(Tordotcom)
“Set in 1920s Georgia, this fantastical horror story follows Maruye Boudreaux, a bootlegger seeking revenge for the killing of her family who joins a motley group of soldiers in a battle against the Ku Klux Klan. For fans of Friday Black.”
—Anna Mickelsen, Springfield City Library, Springfield, MA
Novelist read-alike: Lovecraft Country by Matt Ruff

**The Wonder Boy of Whistle Stop**
by Fannie Flagg
(Random House)
“Revisits the small town of Whistle Stop, Alabama. Dot, the postmistress, sends out a yearly Christmas letter and brings the former residents up to speed with one another. Each chapter focuses on a different year, from the 1930s through the present day, tied together with Dot’s annual letter. For readers who enjoyed Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe.”
—Sharon Hutchinson, Keytesville Library, Keytesville, MO
Novelist read-alike: The Supremes Sing the Happy Heartache Blues by Edward Kelsey Moore

**Goodnight Beautiful**
A Novel
by Aimee Molloy
(Harper)
“Dr. Statler, a psychologist, reformed womanizer, and new husband, is staring down his demons and trying to be a better man. Sam and Annie relocate to upstate New York to try that hand at a simpler life and care for his dementia-ridden mother. One night Sam leaves his office and never makes it home. For fans of The Last Mrs. Parrish and The Silent Patient.”
—Vanessa Phillips, Pelion Branch Library, Pelion, SC
Novelist read-alike: You Should Have Known by Jean Hanff Korelitz

**Plain Bad Heroines**
A Novel
by emily m. danforth
(William Morrow)
“A horror-comedy centered around a New England boarding school, follows characters across four different time periods exploring themes of sexuality, female agency, authenticity, and self-worth. For readers who enjoyed Bunny.”
—Alicea Porterfield-Block, New York Public Library, New York, NY
Novelist read-alike: The Remaking by Clay McLeod Chapman

**The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue**
by V. E. Schwab
(Tor Books)
“Addie is an adventurer and not ready to settle for village life, so she makes a deal with the devil. Instead of relinquishing her soul, however, she becomes immortal, and also completely forgotten by anyone who meets her. Then, after a lonely 300 years, she meets Henry. For fans of the Shades of Magic series, The Time Traveler’s Wife, and Life after Life.”
—Patti Lang, Pima County Public Library, Tucson, AZ
Novelist read-alike: The Sudden Appearance of Hope by Claire North

**The Last Mrs. Parrish**
by Liv Ullmann
(Avon)
“A drama that is both a mystery and a psychological thriller, as three women are drawn into the lives of a wealthy suburbanite and her husband, is staring down his demons and trying to be a better man. Sam and Annie relocate to upstate New York to try that hand at a simpler life and care for his dementia-ridden mother. One night Sam leaves his office and never makes it home. For fans of The Last Mrs. Parrish and The Silent Patient.”
—Christi Hawn, Naperville Public Library, Naperville, IL
Novelist read-alike: Well Played by Jen DeLuca

**Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe**
by Fannie Flagg
(Random House)
“Revisits the small town of Whistle Stop, Alabama. Dot, the postmistress, sends out a yearly Christmas letter and brings the former residents up to speed with one another. Each chapter focuses on a different year, from the 1930s through the present day, tied together with Dot’s annual letter. For readers who enjoyed Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe.”
—Sharon Hutchinson, Keytesville Library, Keytesville, MO
Novelist read-alike: The Supremes Sing the Happy Heartache Blues by Edward Kelsey Moore

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**October 2020**

**Crazy Stupid Bromance**
by Lyssa Kay Adams
(Berkeley Jove)

“Another enjoyable addition to the Bromance Book Club series. One of the elements I like about this series is how the author uses the book club as a tool to analyze various themes within the romance genre. This one was particularly good because it dealt with abandonment and forgiveness.”
—Erica Naranjo, Sacramento Public Library, Sacramento, CA

Read-alike: The Hating Game by Sally Thorne
Read-alike: Bet Me by Jennifer Crusie

**In a Holidaze**
by Christina Lauren
(Gallery Books)

“Mae and Andrew’s families always vacation together at Christmas. This year’s no different, except Mae keeps experiencing the same days over and over, à la Groundhog Day. Can she get out of the loop long enough to tell Andrew she’s in love with him? Christina Lauren doesn’t disappoint!”
—Michelle Magnotta, Greenburgh Public Library, Elmsford, NY

Read-alike: Moonlight Over Manhattan by Sarah Morgan
Read-alike: The Friend Zone by Abby Jimenez

**Invisible Girl**
A Novel
by Lisa Jewell
(Atria Books)

“A teenage girl disappears. A loner living where she was last seen is taken into custody. Case closed? Nothing is this book is that simple. Jewell is a master at complex characters and plots that keep the reader constantly guessing.”
—Linda Quinn, Fairfield Public Library, Fairfield, CT

Read-alike: The Party by Robyn Harding
Read-alike: The Perfect Neighbors by Sarah Pekkanen

**Love Your Life**
A Novel
by Sophie Kinsella
(The Dial Press)

“Ava and Matt’s whirlwind romance at a writers’ retreat turns upside down when they return to London and really get to know one another. Kinsella delivers another charming rom-com full of quirky characters and lighthearted humor.”
—Annabelle Mortensen, Skokie Public Library, Skokie, IL

Read-alike: Would Like to Meet by Rachel Winters
Read-alike: Boyfriend Material by Alexis Hall

**Magic Lessons**
The Prequel to Practical Magic
by Alice Hoffman
(Simon and Schuster)

“In the 1600s, witch/healer Hannah Owens finds a baby girl abandoned in a basket guarded by a crow. The resulting tale provides the backstory to the ‘Owens curse’ central to Hoffman’s 1995 novel. Those who’ve read Practical Magic will want a re-read after devouing this prequel!”
—Donna Ballard, East Meadow Public Library, East Meadow, NY

Read-alike: Once Upon a River by Diane Setterfield
Read-alike: The Lace Reader by Brunonia Barry

**The Searcher**
A Novel
by Tana French
(Viking)

“Cal is an ex-Chicago cop now living in a small Irish town. His hopes for a quiet retirement are dashed when he’s drawn into local intrigue. With intricate plotting and an atmosphere thick as fog, this standalone combines the attitude of the Dublin Murder Squad with the politics of small town life.”
—Caitlin Loving, Bedford Public Library, Bedford, NH

Read-alike: Winter’s Bone by Daniel Woodrell
Read-alike: Sharp Objects by Gillian Flynn

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