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

How to Fail at Flirting
by Denise Williams
(Berkley Jove)

"Naya, a straight-laced professor, meets charismatic Jake at a bar. He might check off one item on Naya’s boundary-pushing-to-do list—if only he wasn’t in charge of defunding her department at the university. How can they balance a relationship and a professional career? For fans of The Kiss Quotient, The Wedding Date, and The Hating Game."

—Kari Bingham-Gutierrez, Olathe Public Library, Olathe, KS
NoveList read-alike: The Trouble with Hating You by Sajni Patel

The Arctic Fury
A Novel by Greer Macallister
(Sourcebooks Landmark)

"Virginia Reeve is a take-no-prisoners adventurer and trail guide when she’s asked by a mysterious benefactor to lead a group of 12 women to find the lost captain of the shipwrecked vessel “The Franklin.” Not for the squeamish or easily offended, this thrilling read is recommended for those who enjoyed Into the Wild and in the Kingdom of Ice.”

—Joy Matteson, Downers Grove Public Library, Downers Grove, IL
NoveList read-alike: The North Water by Ian McGuire

Pretty Little Wife
by Darby Kane
(William Morrow Paperbacks)

“When Aaron doesn’t show up for work and no one hears from him, an unofficial investigation begins. What secrets is Lila, his beautiful wife, keeping? The more the police discover, the more questions they have. A thriller for fans of Gone Girl and The Last Mrs. Parrish.”

—Chris Markley, Kingsport Public Library, Kingsport, TN
NoveList read-alike: No One Knows by Amy Stewart

How to Catch a Queen
Runaway Royals by Alyssa Cole
(Avon)

"Shanti and Sanyu are in an arranged marriage, thrown together as his father the King lays dying. As they begin to work together to better the kingdom, they grow closer. Cole weaves humor into the storyline in a way that does not undercut the themes of political action, equity, and adaptation. And as always, Cole’s female characters are driven, smart, sexy, and savvy. For fans of Talaib Hibbert and Alexa Martin.”

—Sarah Skrobis, Staunton Public Library, Staunton, VA
NoveList read-alike: The Betting Vow by K.M. Jackson

Take It Back
A Novel by Kia Abdullah
(St. Martin’s Press)

"Jodie, a teen with facial deformities, accuses four Muslim boys of raping her after a party. Jodie’s mom, her best friend, and her classmates don’t believe her. The only one who believes her is Zara Kaleel, a former high powered attorney who now works as a sexual assault advocate. For fans of The Holdout and Night Swim.”

—Yvonne Selander, Somerset County Public Library, Bridgewater, NJ
NoveList read-alike: Miracle Creek by Angie Kim

Ten Things I Hate About the Duke
A Difficult Dukes Novel by Loretta Chase
(Avon)

"In the second book of the Difficult Dukes series, Cassandra Pomfret has a reputation for having strong opinions and not keeping them to herself. Lucas, the Duke of Ashmont, is a devastatingly handsome trouble maker. Let the battle of wills begin. For readers who enjoyed The Rules of Scoundrels series or the Bow Street Bachelors series.”

—Jessica McGee, Red Wing Public Library, Red Wing, MN
NoveList read-alike: The Untamed Earl by Valerie Bowman

This Time Next Year
by Sophie Cousens
(Putnam)

"Winnie Cooper and Quinn Hamilton were born in the same hospital on January 1, 1990. After a series of missed connections, they are about to meet again on New Year’s Day 2020. This Time Next Year hits the perfect note for readers who enjoyed Bridget Jones’ Diary and the original Shopaholic.”

—Janet Schneider, Peninsula Public Library, Lawrence, NY
NoveList read-alike: One Day in December by Josie Silver

The Wrong Family
A Thriller by Tarryn Fisher
(Graydon House)

"The Crouchess—Winnie, Nigel, and their teenage son Samuel—are perfect on the outside. In reality, Winnie is controlling, Nigel is turned out, and confused. Samuel is trying to forge his own identity. Juno, a former therapist who has become attracted to the Crocke, gets caught up in their family drama and takes the story in a surprising direction. For fans of Ruth Ware and B. A. Paris.”

—Connie Laing, Great River Regional Library, St. Cloud, MN
NoveList read-alike: Goodnight Beautiful by Arnee Molloy

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The LibraryReads Hall of Fame designation honors authors who have had multiple titles appear on the monthly LibraryReads list since 2013. When their third title places on the list via library staff votes, the author moves into the Hall of Fame.

**The Dark Archive**
by Genevieve Cogman
(Ace)

“Time-traveling librarian/spy Irene Winters is having a week: dodging assassins, training a Fae intern, and contending with her dragon lover’s meddling brother. Colorful characters, a lightning pace, and a surprising revelation will please fans of Cogman’s *Invisible Library* series.”

—Lucy Lockley, St. Charles City County Library, St. Peters, MO

Read-alike: *A Darker Shade of Magic* by V.E. Schwab
Read-alike: *The Library of the Unwritten* by A.J. Hackwith
Read-alike: *Ex Libris: Stories of Librarians, Libraries, and Lore* edited by Paula Guran

**The Mystery of Mrs. Christie**
by Marie Benedict
(Sourcebooks Landmark)

“Taking the 11 days that Agatha Christie went missing in the 1920s and adding a fictional twist, Benedict produces this gem of a historical novel with psychological thriller overtones. This novel appeals on so many levels; there is much to love and discuss here.”

—Douglas Beatty, Baltimore County Public Library, Baltimore, MD

Read-alike: *The Lions of Fifth Avenue* by Fiona Davis
Read-alike: *The Satapur Moonstone* by Sujata Massey
Read-alike: *And Now She’s Gone* by Rachel Howzell Hall

**Perestroika in Paris**
by Jane Smiley
(Knopf)

“Smiley writes the perfect book to help you escape. Like *Charlotte’s Web* for grown-ups (but no spiders die!). Lovable, charming animals—an adventurous racehorse, a lonely dog, a know-it-all raven, a pair of ducks—interact with one another and with the compassionate humans they encounter in the City of Lights.”

—Nancy Wiseman, Carmel Clay Public Library, Carmel, IN

Read-alike: *The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel
Read-alike: *Sirius* by Jonathan Crown
Read-alike: *A Dog’s Life* by Peter Mayle