Voter Favorites 2020 - The top ten books published this year that library staff across the country love.

**Anxious People**
A Novel
by Fredrik Backman (Atria Books)

“What happens when a group of house hunters is taken hostage by an incompetent bank robber? Not what you expect. Filled with quirky, troubled characters, Backman’s latest shows us what most people need is kindness, understanding, and one another.”

—Janine Walsh, East Meadow Public Library, East Meadow, NY
Novelist read-alike: Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman

**Caste**
The Origins of Our Discontents
by Isabel Wilkerson (Random House)

“A magisterial overview of how caste has been implemented in three different places. This is an important look at how the U.S., Nazi Germany, and India implemented caste and how it affects each country. Don’t think that this is a dry academic read; Wilkerson is a genius with words and incorporates her own experiences throughout the book. For readers of Stamped and The New Jim Crow.”

—Jennifer Schultz, Faulkner County Public Library, Warrenton, VA
Novelist read-alike: White Trash by Nancy Isenberg

**Dear Edward**
A Novel
by Ann Napolitano (The Dial Press)

“A dear, dear wondrous novel. Edward is The Miracle Boy, the only survivor of a plane crash. As he struggles to navigate the landscape of his new life, we hear the voices of those who didn’t make it. Napolitano is an amazing writer who deserves a wider audience. For fans of Did You Ever Have a Family (Clegg), The Grief of Others (Cohen), and The Friend (Nunez).”

—Jennifer Dayton, Fairfield Public Library, Fairfield, CT
Novelist read-alike: The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt

**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

**Mexican Gothic**
by Silvia Moreno-Garcia (Del Rey)

“A perfect gothic mystery. Noemí is a Mexico City socialite in the 1950s. When her father receives a letter from his niece, he sends Noemí to check on her cousin at the remote house where she is living—a rotting English-style mansion, built by the colonial eugenicist family she has married into. Lush descriptions and the creepy atmosphere make this a good choice for readers who liked The Witch Elm, The Little Stranger, or The Haunting of Hill House.”

—Lorena Neal, Evanston Public Library, Evanston, IL
Novelist read-alike: The Supernatural Enhancements by Edgar Cantero

**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 a prep school, to 2017, when 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 (Choe).”

—Michelle Sampson, York Public Library, York, ME
Novelist read-alike: The Coming Storm by Paul Elliott Russell

**The Splendid and the Vile**
A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz
by Erik Larson (Crown)

“Once again Larson’s new book is nonfiction that is as hard to put down as the best fiction. The book recounts the early days of Churchill as prime minister when France fell to Germany and the British Empire stood alone against Hitler. For readers who like The Great Influenza (Barry) and Death in the City of Light (King).”

—Celia Morse, Berkley Public Library, Berkley, MI
Novelist read-alike: Their Finest Hour by Winston Churchill

**Transcendent Kingdom**
A Novel
by Yaa Gyasi (Knopf)

“Gyasi is a force of a writer and in her new novel, Gifty is a Ph.D student of neuroscience fueled by the need to understand her brother’s addiction and mother’s depression. For fans of Imagine Me Gone (Hassel) and Chemistry (Wang).”

—Kari Bingham-Gutierrez, Olathe Public Library, Olathe, KS
Novelist read-alike: A Particular Kind of Black Man by Tope Folarin

**The Vanishing Half**
A Novel
by Brit Bennett (Riverhead Books)

“Centering on two twin light-skinned black girls who grew up in a strange town in the Jim Crow south, this book explores racism, colorism, sexism, and familial relationships through the interweaving storylines of vivid and complicated characters. For fans of Red at the Bone (Woodson).”

—Pamela Gardner, Medfield Public Library, Medfield, MA
Novelist read-alike: A Kind of Freedom by Margaret Wilkerson Sexton

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org