April 2021 - The top ten books published this month that library staff across the country love.

Broken (in the best possible way) by Jenny Lawson (Henry Holt & Co.)

"Lawson is a hot mess of depression and anxiety. She is also funny as hell. In this book she lays herself open. She celebrates all those awkward and difficult parts of herself and invites you to celebrate your own. She will make you laugh until you cry, and then she wraps up the episode with some profound truth that catches you unawares. For readers who like David Sedaris and Ali Wong."

—Beth Morrill, Canton Public Library, Canton, CT
NoveList read-alike: That's Mental: Painfully Funny Things That Drive Me Crazy About Being Mentally Ill by Amanda Rosenberg

Malice A Novel by Heather Walter (Del Rey)

"Alyce is the sole Dark Grace in Briar, a kingdom whose people love their Graces (the magical ladies who give them special elixirs). But Briar has a problem with their princesses: they die at 21 unless they kiss their one true love. Princess Aurora doesn’t seem to be interested in any of them! And the new princess dethroned by her has a problem with her own elixirs. But Beekeeper Alice is an older widow who is working to save her small town from big corporate greed. She forms an alliance with two young adults who both find unexpected joy in nature. For those who enjoyed Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine."

—Carrie Minthorne, Cedar Mill Library, Portland, OR
NoveList read-alike: Tangleweed and Brine by Deirdre Sullivan

The Intimacy Experiment by Rosie Danan (Berkeley)

"Having built the Shameless platform to teach people how to find their own pleasure, Naomi wants to take that sex positivity to a lecture circuit, but no one will hire her. Enter Ethan, a young, handsome rabbi with a struggling synagogue. A seminar series on modern intimacy seems like a good way to build a sense of community and attract a younger congregation. What happens is their own lesson in intimacy, as two people passionate about their work and trying to make the world a better place suzise with chemistry. Give to fans of The Roommate, The Kiss Quotient, and Meet Cute."
—Hebah Amin-Headley, Johnson County Public Library, Overland, KS
NoveList read-alike: How To Fail at Flirting by Denise Williams

The Music of Bees A Novel by Eileen Garvin (Dutton)

"Beekeeper Alice is an older widow who is working to save her small town from big corporate greed. She forms an alliance with two young adults who both find unexpected joy in nature. For those who enjoyed Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine."

—Paulette Brooks, Elm Grove Public Library, Elm Grove, WI
NoveList read-alike: The Love Story of Missy Carmichael by Beth Morrey

To Love and To Loathe A Novel by Martha Waters (Atria Books)

"This enemies-to-lovers Regency romance takes Diana, Lady Templeton, and Jeremy, Marquess of Willingham, from engaging in a no-strings-attached affair to their happily ever after. For readers who love Tessa Dare, Sarah MacLean, Jennifer Crusie (contemporary, but witty dialogue and hilarious hijinks)"

—Kathleen Fais, New York Public Library, New York, NY
NoveList read-alike: One Good Earl Deserves A Lover by Sarah MacLean

Life’s Too Short by Abby Jimenez (Forever)

"Jimenez hits it out of the park again. She combines real-world issues with the get-the-girl, lose-the-girl dynamics of a romance. In this case, Adrian has a good chance of losing Vanessa to Alex. They both have multiple family issues including a hoarding father, an abandoning parent, a sister with addiction issues, and a baby niece that needs attention. Give to fans of Mia Sosa and Josie Silver."

—Maggie Holmes, Richards Memorial Library, North Attleboro, MA
NoveList read-alike: Love Walked In by Maria de los Santos

Second First Impressions A Novel by Sally Thorne (William Morrow Paperbacks)

"Ruthie Mildina, twenty-something, works in a retirement community and feels like she fits in more with the residents than with her peers. Enter an attractive tattooed man assistant hired by the eccentric 90-year-old Parloni Sisters. This romance is filled with heart and laughter. For readers of Helen Hoang and Jasmine Guillory."

—Melissa Stumpf, Johnson County Public Library, Franklin, IN
NoveList read-alike: Act Your Age, Eve Brown by Talia Hibbert

You Love Me A You Novel by Caroline Kepnes (Random House)

"In this, the third installment in the “You” series, Joe Goldberg moves to the cozy island of Bainbridge in the outskirts of Seattle and sets his sights on the town librarian, who becomes his new obsession. For fans of Behind Her Eyes and The Silent Patient."

—Joann Im, Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles, CA
NoveList read-alike: Creep by Jennifer Hiller
The waters of Bradenburg Springs are said to have miraculous curative properties, but rumor has it that the healing always comes with a price. When Jax’s sister drowns in a pool filled with the spring’s water, she must discover the truth behind the legends. This is a great, creepy supernatural thriller.

The Drowning Kind
by Jennifer McMahon
(Gallery/Scout Press)

“The waters of Bradenburg Springs are said to have miraculous curative properties, but rumor has it that the healing always comes with a price. When Jan’s sister drowns in a pool filled with the spring’s water, she must discover the truth behind the legends. This is a great, creepy supernatural thriller.”

—Mara Bandy Fass, Champaign Public Library, Champaign, IL

Read-alike: The Broken Girls by Simone St. James
Read-alike: The Good House by Tananarive Due

The Good Sister
A Novel
by Sally Hepworth
(St. Martin’s Press)

“Rose and Fern have a strong sisterly bond, but their dark secrets may bind them more strongly than they think. How far would you go to protect your sister? Dark and compelling, this psychological suspense story has a taut pace and plenty of twists to keep readers guessing.”

—Jen Ozhourk, St. Louis Public Library, St. Louis, MO

Read-alike: The Girl in the Mirror by Rose Carlyle
Read-alike: The End of Her by Shari Lapena

Mother May I
A Novel
by Joshilyn Jackson
(William Morrow)

“Bree is a suburban mom with a lot on her plate. Her life changes when her baby is kidnapped and she has to complete a series of tasks to get her child back. This is the perfect kind of psychological thriller, a scorching page-turner featuring a rocking plot and intense character development.”

—Cari Dubiel, Twinsburg Public Library, Twinsburg, OH

Read-alike: I’ll Be Gone in the Dark by Michelle McNamara
Read-alike: The Sleepwalker by Chris Bohjalian

When the Stars Go Dark
by Paula McLain
(Ballantine Books)

“In 1993, troubled detective Anna returns to her hometown, where a girl has gone missing. As Anna helps search for the girl, both their pasts are revealed. A beautifully written, haunting thriller offering a fascinating look at how missing cases were handled pre-Internet.”

—Alissa Williams, Morton Public Library, Morton, IL

Read-alike: And Now She’s Gone by Rachel Howzell Hall
Read-alike: The Wife Upstairs by Rachel Hawkins