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

Battle Royal
A Novel
by Lucy Parker
(Avon)
“Sylvie and Dominic met during a baking competition when her unicorn cake kicked him in the face. Now they’re both in the running to bake the royal wedding cake. A slow burn, enemies-to-lovers romance with witty banter and fantastic secondary characters. For fans of 99 Percent Mine and The Ex Talk.”

—Laura Eckert, Clermont County Public Library, Milford, OH
NoveList read-alike: Rosaline Palmer Takes the Cake by Alexis Hall

Mrs. March
A Novel
by Virginia Feito
(Liveright)
“Mrs. March has a lovely apartment, a famous author husband, and a life of luxury. Her husband’s new novel features an unlikeable, sordid woman. Mrs. March is horrified when people assume the character is based on her. Her stability fractures, and the reader is caught between paranoia and reality. An excellent character study for fans of Tangerine and The Other Typist.”

—Sandra Heitzman, Forest Park Public Library, Forest Park, IL
NoveList read-alike: The Wife by Santa Ana

The Royals Next Door
By Karina Halle
(Berkley Jove)
“After a prince and princess move to her British Columbia town, a local teacher falls for their grumpy bodyguard. This charming romantic comedy is unexpectedly moving and features deep and layered characters. Perfect for fans of The Royal We and Royal Holiday.”

—Janet Schneider, Peninsula Public Library, Lawrence, NY
NoveList read-alike: Incense and Sensibility by Riley Sager

My Heart is a Chainsaw
by Stephen Graham Jones
(Gallery/Saga Press)
“Jade’s convinced her passion for slasher films is not obsession, but preparation. When strange things start occurring in town, she’s sure a massacre is imminent—and she’s ready to play her role to perfection. A highly stylized delight for horror movie buffs and fans of The Final Girl Support Group.”

—Sharon Layburn, South Huntington Public Library, Huntington Station, NY
NoveList read-alike: Final Girl by Riley Sager

Dark Roads
A Novel
by Chevy Stevens
(St. Martin’s Press)
“Stevens often writes about the outdoors, but this one is really steeped in survival. Vanishing travelers and serial murders along a wilderness highway bring the sister of one victim to town for a memorial. There are the requisite fast-paced thrills, and a small town packed with secrets and fear. For fans of The River and A Gathering of Secrets.”

—Cari Dubiel, Twinsburg Public Library, Twinsburg, OH
NoveList read-alike: Survive the Night by Riley Sager

A Slow Fire Burning
A Novel
by Paula Hawkins
(Riverhead Books)
“A brutal crime is committed on a London houseboat, and numerous friends, family, neighbors, and lovers seem to have a motive for the fatal stabbing. As the number of suspects grows, the lies begin to unravel in what promises to be a hit summer read. For fans of Shari Lapena and Mary Kubica.”

—KC Davis, Fairfield Woods Library, Fairfield, CT
NoveList read-alike: Dark Tide by Elizabeth Haynes

The Last Chance Library
by Freya Sampson
(Berkley)
“June is stuck. After her mom dies, she continues to live quietly in her mother’s house and work in the library where her mother worked. When the library is threatened, she finds a new purpose, saving it and finding so much more. This is full of heart, humor, and love of literature. For fans of The Authenticity Project and How To Find Love in a Bookshop.”

—Shari Suarez, Genesee District Library-Johnson Branch, Genesee, MI
NoveList read-alike: A Million Pieces by Shari Lapena

The Reading List
A Novel
by Sara Nisha Adams
(William Morrow)
“A list of recommended classics helps a widower spark a friendship with a teen librarian dealing with overwhelming family issues. An uplifting tearjerker about libraries and the books that touch our soul. For fans of Ellie and the Harpmaker and Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine.”

—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Public Library, Austin, TX
NoveList read-alike: The Reading List by coworker

If the Shoe Fits
A Meant To Be Novel
by Julie Murphy
(Hyperion Avenue)
“Low on job prospects, fashion school grad Cindy moves in with her stepmom, a reality show producer. When a spot opens up in the Bachelor-style series, Cindy seizes the chance to get nationwide exposure for her designs. The last thing she expects is to find love: A Cinderella-inspired romance with a plus-sized heroine and a multicultural cast. For fans of Red, White, & Royal Blue, The Hating Game, and Dumplin”

—Eva Thompson, Metropolitan Library System, Oklahoma City, OK
NoveList read-alike: One to Watch by Kate Stayman-London

Yours Cheerfully
A Novel
by AJ Pearce
(Scribner)
“Fans of Dear Mrs. Bird will cheer Emmy Lake’s return as a young advice columnist in wartime London. A chance meeting leads to Emmy visiting a munitions factory where she learns about the struggles of the women working there. A wonderful, well-told story for fans of Lisa Evans and Jojo Moyes.”

—Brenda O’Brien, Woodridge Public Library, Woodridge, IL
NoveList read-alike: The Chilbury Ladies’ Choir by Jennifer L. Ryan

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org