The top ten books this month that library staff across the country love:

**Beasts of a Little Land**
A Novel by Juhea Kim
(Ecco)
“Hauntingly tragic and beautifully tender, the story of Jade Ann is interwoven with the fate of Korea in the early 20th century. Jade is apprenticed to a courtesan at a young age, and her friendships there form an unbreakable bond that leads them through multiple tragedies and loves. Recommended for fans of Min Jin Lee and Amy Tan.”
—Joy Matteson, Downers Grove Public Library, Downers Grove, IL
Novelist read-alike: *If You Leave Me* by Crystal Hana Kim

**Bright Burning Things**
A Novel by Lisa Harding
(harperVia)
“A searing portrait of addiction and recovery, told in the voice of Sonya, a former actress, raging alcoholic, and mother to four-year-old Tommy. When she almost sets the house on fire, her father forces her to rehab, if not for her sake, then for Tommy’s. Sonya travels the difficult road to reintegrate into society and reclaim her beloved son. For fans of *Shuggie Bain* and *All Fall Down.*”
—Lisa Burris, Bear Public Library, Bear, DE
Novelist read-alike: *Catch Us When We Fall* by Megan Abbott

**The Love Con**
by Seressia Glass
(Berkley Jove)
“Engineer Kenya is a finalist in the reality show Cosplay or No Way, but to win she needs pal Cam to pretend he’s her boyfriend. This is a fun friends-to-lovers, fake dating romance that will best suit folks into cosplay, cons, or geeky pursuits. For fans of *Ten Deluca and Sara Desai*”
—Alextandra Troiani, Sno-Isle Libraries, Marysville, WA
Novelist read-alike: *Conventionally Yours* by Annabeth Albert

**The Replacement Wife**
by Darby Kane
(William Morrow Paperbacks)
“Elisa’s best friend, fiancée to her brother-in-law Josh, has disappeared and no one else seems worried. Will anyone believe her before it’s too late? For readers of *The Girl on the Train* and other unreliable-narrator thrillers.”
—Chris Markley, Kingsport Public Library, Kingsport, TN
Novelist read-alike: *The Wife Upstairs* by Rachel Hawkins

**The Ballerinas**
A Novel by Rachel Kapelke-Dale
(St. Martin’s Press)
“Delphine is returning to Paris to choreograph her own ballet. Here she meets up with her lifelong friends and fellow dancers Margaux and Lindsay. This absorbing and thrilling character-driven novel explores the world of ballet and its mysteries and secrets. Give to fans of *Luster*, *Trust Exercise*, and *My Dark Vanessa*”
—Terri Smith, Cornelia Library, Mt. Airy, GA
Novelist read-alike: *The Turn-Out* by Megan Abbott

**Murder Under Her Skin**
A Pentecost and Parker Mystery by Stephen Spotswood
(Doubleday)
“These fun throwback hard-boiled mysteries feature two female sleuths in the post-war 1940s—Lillian Pentecost, an unsophisticated Brooklyn detective, and her unlikely partner, circus runaway Will Parker. Their second case involves a murder at Will’s former circus, and is perfect for readers of Rex Stout and Agatha Christie.”
—Patti Cheney, Pima County Public Library, Tucson, AZ
Novelist read-alike: *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Yoshikazu Kawaguchi

**True Crime Story**
A Novel by Joseph Knox
(Sourcebooks Landmark)
“What happened to Zoe Nolan? She walked out of her dorm room and hasn’t been seen since. Knox weaves together interviews, emails, and police reports into an immersive missing persons case that will leave readers gasping for breath up until the last page. For fans of *The Word Is Murder* and the Six Stories series.”
—Carol Ann Tack, Merrick Library, Merrick, NY
Novelist read-alike: *Chasing the Baggageman* by Richard Chizmar

**My Darling Husband**
A Novel by Kimberly Belle
(Park Row)
“Atlanta restaurateur Cam Lasky seemingly has it all, until a fire at his eatery and a terrifying home invasion threaten to destroy all he holds dear. With multiple perspectives adding to the mystery, this is another clever, fast-paced thriller from Belle. For readers of Lisa Gardner and Chevy Stevens.”
—Jayme Oldham, Highland Park Public Library, Highland Park, IL
Novelist read-alike: *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave

**The Cat Who Saved Books**
A Novel by Sosuke Natsukawa
(harperVia)
“A used bookstore, a grieving teen with an appreciation of reading, and a talking cat! What more could you ask of a fantasy? Throw in a mission to free lost and damaged books and a bit of readers’ advisory, and you have a thoughtful exploration of the truths behind the pleasures of reading. For fans of author Roselle Lim and *The Little Paris Bookshop.*”
—Lucy Lockley, St. Charles City-County Library, St. Peters, MO
Novelist read-alike: *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Yoshikazu Kawaguchi

**The Cat Who Saat Books**
A Novel by Roselle Lim and Paris Bookshop.
(William Morrow Paperbacks)
“Made in LibraryAware • www.LibraryAware.com

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org

December 2021 - The top ten books published this month that library staff across the country love.
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 Midnight Hour**
by Elly Griffiths
(Mariner Books)

“When retired theater impresario Bert is fatally poisoned in 1960s England, his wife—the prime suspect—hires the detective duo of former police woman Emma Holmes and Sam Collins to investigate. Griffiths is always excellent at plotting and character development, and this sixth Brighton mystery is no exception. Give this to fans of Louise Penny.”

—Linda Tilden, Mount Laurel Public Library, Mount Laurel Township, NJ

NovelList read-alike: Constable Twitten mysteries by Lynne Truss

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org