July 2022 - The top ten books published this month that library staff across the country love.

**Bet On It**
A Novel by Jodie Slaughter
(St. Martin’s Griffin)

“Aja meets a handsome stranger while having a panic attack. Walker’s not looking for a relationship, especially in his hometown, the source of his PTSD and anxiety. But Aja is beautiful, understands him, and kisses like a dream. The bingo hall setting, the senior characters, the body-positive and steamy sex scenes—so much to love in this fun, interracial romance. For fans of Talia Hibbert and Gail Honeyman.”

—Elizabeth Gabriel, Milwaukee Public Library, Milwaukee, WI
NoveList read-alike: Getting His Game Back by Gia De Cadenet

**Grace Under Fire**
by Julie Garwood
(Berkley)

“Romantic suspense at its best. A beautiful woman who is a talented songwriter and a great listener is at her sister-in-law’s awaiting a trip to Scotland. During a brief walk around the block, her whole world changes. Of course, a handsome man helps her save the day. Loads of fast-paced fun. For fans of Catherine Coulter and Karen Robards.”

—Susan Willis, Chanute Public Library, Chanute, KS
NoveList read-alike: Reluctant Heroes series by Suzanne Brockman

**A Prayer for the Crown-Shy**
A Monk and Robot Book by Becky Chambers
(Tordotcom)

“The second volume of this series returns to a world which is both post-apocalyptic and hopepunk, focusing on the ways that both the Monk and Robot have to deal with other people now that they’ve re-entered society after their travels together. For those who enjoyed The Murderbot Diaries and the more hopeful aspects of Station Eleven.”

—Monica Shn, Boston Public Library, Boston, MA
NoveList read-alike: Rampart Trilogy by M.R. Carey

**What Moves the Dead**
by T. Kingfisher
(Tor Nightfire)

“A retelling of The Fall of the House of Usher, Kingfisher’s latest adds the creepiest of flesh to the bare-bones tale by Poe. Complete with a scary, isolated mansion and eerie behaviors of the residents, this version not only makes perfect sense within the original narrative, but adds a depth of understanding that suddenly makes all the pieces fall into place. For fans of Mexican Gothic, The Haunting of Hill House, and The Night Stranger.”

—Sheri Stanley, Gulfport Library, Gulfport, FL
NoveList read-alike: The Little Stranger by Sarah Waters

**Big Girl**
A Novel by Mecca Jamilah Sullivan
(Liveright)

“For eight-year-old Malaya who must attend weekly Weight Watchers meetings with her mother, enough of anything... especially food... is never enough. This beautifully written, heart-breaking, hopeful story follows Malaya as she navigates middle and high school, her family, and her burgeoning sexuality, told with compassion and honesty. For fans of Queenie and Dominican.”

—Jennifer Winberry, Hunterdon County Library, Flemington, NJ
NoveList read-alike: What the Fireflies Knew by Kae Harris

**A Lady’s Guide to Fortune-Hunting**
A Novel by Sophie Irwin
(Pamela Dorman Books)

“In Regency London, recently orphaned Kitty Talbot’s interest is in finding a wealthy husband who will settle the family’s debts and allow her sisters to remain in their home. Kitty is nuanced and layered, a well-developed heroine amid a cast of interesting characters. This enthralling novel is a must-read for Bridgerton and Jane Austen fans.”

—Janet Schneider, Peninsula Public Library, Lawrence, NY
NoveList read-alike: Regency Vows series by Martha Waters

**Rampart Trilogy**
by M.R. Carey

“With the Monk and Robot focusing on the ways that both the Monk and Robot have to deal with other people now that they’ve re-entered society after their travels together. For those who enjoyed The Murderbot Diaries and the more hopeful aspects of Station Eleven.”

—Jamie Bink, Harford County Public Library, Whiteford, MD
NoveList read-alike: The Recipe Box by Viola Shipman

**Booked on a Feeling**
A Novel by Jayci Lee
(St. Martin’s Griffin)

“After experiencing a panic attack during her first trial, lawyer Lizzy Chung decides to take a leave of absence and visit her childhood friend Jack. They team up to help a struggling bookstore. It brings them closer, but will their anxieties and insecurities doom their relationship? A sweet romance that deals with some serious topics. For fans of Ten Rules for Faking It and Girl Gone Viral.”

—Shari Suarez, Geneseo District Library, Flint, MI
NoveList read-alike: A Lot Like Adios by Alexis Dina

**The Pallbearers Club**
A Novel by Paul Tremblay
(William Morrow)

“Tremblay always knows how to tap into the deepest of emotions, and this dual-narration horror thriller is both unrelentingly creepy and filled with the bittersweet pathos of a formative, toxic, unforgettable friendship in which one participant may or may not be a vampire. For fans of Stephen Graham Jones and Samanta Schweblin.”

—Kate Currie, Hennepin County Library, Minneapolis, MN
NoveList read-alike: Jawbone by Monica Ojeda

**Sugar and Salt**
A Novel by Susan Wiggs
(William Morrow)

“Margot Salton, a Texas BBQ master, sets up a new restaurant in San Francisco, sharing a kitchen with Jerome’s bakery. She has been running from a huge secret that eventually catches up to her. An intriguing story that addresses heavy topics of date rape and racism but is also full of hope and love. For fans of Aosa Walser’s Tame the Cake and Recipe For Persuasion.”

—Jamie Bink, Harford County Public Library, Whiteford, MD
NoveList read-alike: The Essential Dykes to Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

**Wash Day Diaries**
by Jamila Rowser and Robyn Smith
(Chronicle Books)

“At its core, this graphic novel is a story about four beautiful, strong black women and their friendship. Within the framework of hair work, Robyn and Jamila explore the character dealing with her own issues, from work and relationships to mental health struggles. For readers of Another Brooklyn and Queenie.”

—Ayrn O’Connor, Cabarrus County Library, Concord, NC
NoveList read-alike: The Essential Dykes to Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

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**JULY 2022**

**The Bodyguard**
A Novel
by Katherine Center
(St. Martin’s Press)

“Hannah, a bodyguard with an elite firm, is hired to protect Jack, a celebrity who has a crazy stalker. Predictably, their pretend relationship develops into a real one, but the twists and turns make it fun and interesting. A heartwarming story for fans of The Unhoneymooners and The Hating Game.”

—Sandy Ruhmann, Allen Park Public Library, Allen Park, MI

NoveList read-alike: All the Feel by Olivia Dade

**The Daughter of Doctor Moreau**
by Silvia Moreno-Garcia
(Del Rey)

“Carlota Moreau is the daughter of a scientist who runs morally ambiguous experiments on his jungle estate on the Yucatán peninsula. Though she lives in luxury, she has questions about her father’s secrets. Her story is revealed through hallucinatory episodes from alternating perspectives. The surreal setting is infused with historical realism that conveys the opulence enjoyed by the Moreau family and their patrons. This genre blend of horror and adventure is in the spirit of the HG Wells classic that inspired it. For fans of Chapelwaite.”

—Jeff Corber, Montgomery County Public Libraries, Rockville, MD

NoveList read-alike: The Album of Dr. Moreau by Daryl Gregory

**The Hidden One**
A Novel of Suspense
by Linda Castillo
(Minotaur Books)

“When the skeletal remains of an Amish bishop missing for twenty years are found, Police Chief Kate Burkholder is asked by local elders of Belleville, Pennsylvania to consult on the case. Most troubling for Kate is that the prime suspect is her childhood friend and first love Jonas Bowman, charged with first-degree murder. Fourteenth in the series that just keeps getting better!”

—Evelyn Janoch, Rocky River Public Library, Rocky River, OH

NoveList read-alike: Bell Elkins mysteries by Julia Keller

**The It Girl**
by Ruth Ware
(Gallery/Scout Press)

“Four college friends must revisit the murder of their friend/roommate after the convicted murderer dies claiming his innocence. Hannah, the victim’s roommate, searches to find what really happened. The multiple time periods keep a high level of suspense. There is an Agatha Christie feel with several suspects and a brilliant ending. Ware has given readers of psychological fiction a real treat!”

—Cyndi Larsen, Avon Free Public Library, Avon, CT

NoveList read-alike: The Girls are All So Nice Here by Laurie Elizabeth Flynn

**Just Like Home**
by Sarah Gailey
(Tor Books)

“After years of being away, Vera returns to the home her father built to take care of her dying mother. Except her father was a serial killer, and the house has its own secrets. This book is a horror genre blend of serial killer/true crime meets haunted house. What makes the novel work is how it centers on family dynamics and the relationship we have with our parents changes when we get older.”

—Cal Rydzinski, Acom Public Library, Oak Forest, IL

NoveList read-alike: Beneath Cruel Waters by Jon Bassoff

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### JULY 2022

**The Last to Vanish**
A Novel by Megan Miranda
(Scribner / Marysue Rucci Books)

"Visitors keep vanishing from Cutter’s Pass in the North Carolina mountains. Abby thinks it’s a coincidence, but when the brother of the last person to disappear checks in at the inn where she has been working for 10 years, she starts to wonder if there’s more to it. A good page-turner with slightly creepy vibes."

—Heidi Sandiford, Hillsdale Free Public Library, Hillsdale, NJ

Novelista read-alike: The Sun Down Motel by Simone St. James

**Storm Echo**
by Nalini Singh
(Berkley)

"Scarred in the womb by his mother’s Jax usage, Merchant family security specialist Ivan has an abnormal brain and knows he might need to be caged in the future. When he meets Soleil, a healer shifter, he finds hope for a better future. As these two characters learn what it means to be mated, the PsyNet is assaulted, and only Ivan can access the cutoff area. Amazing addition to this series!"

—Susana Goldman, Alamance County Public Libraries, Burlington, NC

Novelista read-alike: BeWere My Heart series by MaryJanice Davidson

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**Things We Do In The Dark**
A Novel by Jennifer Hillier
(Minotaur Books)

"Famous comedian Jimmy-Pesalita is found dead, and his wife Paris, covered in blood at the crime scene, is arrested. In the second part, Drew Malcolm, a reporter with a popular podcast, is chasing the story of Ruby Reyes, the infamous Ice Queen, who stomped her lover to death with an ice skate. As these two people become connected, the reader is drawn into a web of lies and compelling characters. For fans of These Toxic Things and Blood Will Tell."

—Carl Dubiel, Twinsburg Public Library, Twinsburg, OH

Novelista read-alike: Conviction by Denise Mina

**Tomorrow, And Tomorrow, And Tomorrow**
A Novel by Gabrielle Zevin
(Knopf)

"Sam and Sadie were childhood friends, but now reunited as adults, they decide to form a company designing video games. A sprawling look at friends who love each other but not as lovers and lovers who try to be friends and fail, the human need for connection, and searching for perfection. A must for fans of Ready Player One who want a deeper connection to the emotional lives of the characters."

—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, Austin, TX

Novelista read-alike: The Animators by Kayla Rae Whitaker

**Upgrade**
A Novel by Blake Crouch
(Ballantine Books)

"In Crouch’s newest sci-fi thriller Logan Ramsay works for the Gene Protection Agency and is exposed to an unknown compound. After he’s released from the hospital, Logan’s mind is working faster than ever before, his memory continues to improve, and he’s faster and stronger too. But who could have caused these genetic upgrades in Logan and why? For fans of The Paradox Hotel, Six Wakes, and Altered Carbon."

—Dan Brooks, Wake County Public Libraries, Raleigh, NC

Novelista read-alike: Noor by Nnedi Okorafor

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