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

The Candid Life of Meena Dave
by Molly Fader (Graydon House)
“Ms. Demeanor is a polio survivor whose father is an illusionist with a traveling circus. One day she rescues Jewish stowaway Alexandre. Growing to be more than friends with WWII looming, the two are torn apart when disaster strikes. A beautiful story mirroring the horrors of war with the innocence of young love, this is for fans of historical fiction and circus tales like Water for Elephants.”
—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, Austin, TX
NoveList read-alike: The Orphan’s Tale by Pam Jenoff

Chef’s Kiss by T.J. Alexander
“A Dash of Salt and Pepper
by Kosoko Jackson (Berkley)
"Moving back to his parents house after getting fired and dumped feels like failure to MBA graduate Xavier. He believes it is just a matter of time until he rebounds and gets his old life back. Then he meets Logan, chef, musician, father, utterly irresistible, and finds himself having to choose between love and his career dreams. You won’t be able to put down this charming small town romance.”
—Alicia Ahlers, Henrico County Public Library, Henrico, VA
NoveList read-alike: Chef’s Kiss by T.J. Alexander

The Sunshine Girls
by Molly Fader (Graydon House)
“The Sunshine Girls is a believable and tragic character study. She must learn to live differently. The depiction of climate change and its effects here are bone-chilling, but Wanda’s resilience is inspiring. For fans of All Her Little Secrets.”
—Mara Bandy Fass, Champaign Public Library, Champaign, IL
NoveList read-alike: The Girls in the Picture by Melanie Benjamin

The Other Black Girl by Zakiya Dalila Harris
“As the effects of climate change begin to overwhelm America, we meet Wanda, a girl born during and named after a devastating hurricane. With civilization faltering in the face of mounting challenges, she must learn to live differently. The depiction of climate change and its effects here are bone-chilling, but Wanda’s resilience is inspiring. For fans of All Her Little Secrets.”
—Lou Ann Shoultz, Mattoon Public Library, Mattoon, IL
NoveList read-alike: The Turnout by Megan Abbott

Queen of Myth and Monsters by Scarlett St. Clair (Bloom Books)
“Vampire King Adrian and his beloved Queen Isolde return in this searing erotic romance in which peril hides at every turn. St. Clair takes the reader on another high-stakes thrill ride as the couple works to establish their reign in a dark fantasy realm of mortals and immortals. Perfect for fans of Sarah J. Maas and Guild Hunters.”
—Janet Makouy, New City Library, New City, NY
NoveList read-alike: When the Stars Go Dark by Paula McClain

The Ingenue
by Rachel Kapelke-Dale (St. Martin’s Press)
“Former piano prodigy Saskia returns home after her mother’s death to find her family home has been bequeathed to someone else. Saskia is a believable and tragic figure as she searches for answers to questions that have been years in the making. What makes an ingénue and what destroys her? For fans of My Dark Vanessa.”
—Courtenay Reece, Millville Public Library, Millville, NJ
NoveList read-alike: The Turnout by Megan Abbott

The Light Pirate by Lily Brooks-Dalton (Grand Central Publishing)
“Someone Had To Do It
by Amber and Danielle Brown (Graydon House)
“An ambitious intern and a conniving rich girl clash in this riveting dual POV thriller set in the world of big New York fashion houses. A fun, fast-paced read with a villain who’s a ton of fun to root against! For fans of All Her Little Secrets.”
—James Ludy, New Canaan Library, New Canaan, CT
NoveList read-alike: Above the Elbow by Eric Barnes

The Widowmaker
by Hannah Morrissey (Minotaur Books)
“Witch Gonna Do?
by Avery Flynn (Berkley)
“This is a very light magical romance. When a witch with no powers curses her witch family, she must work with her hot nemesis to save her family – and the world from domination.”
—Alicia Ahlers, Henrico County Public Library, Henrico, VA
NoveList read-alike: The Girls in the Picture by Melanie Benjamin

The Circus Train
by Amita Parikh (G.P. Putnam’s Sons)
“Go Hex Yourself
byｵ Nakia Dalla Harris

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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.

**A Dangerous Business**
A Novel
by Jane Smiley
(Knopf)

“Delights with its dark, tautly constructed mystery...The novel’s charm lies in the evolving relationship between Eliza and her best friend, where the loneliness of sensory deprivation is laid bare in a way that opens the mind.”
—Jennifer Winberry, Hunterdon Public Library, Flemington, NJ

NoveList read-alike: Missy by Chris Hannan

**A Death in Tokyo**
A Mystery
by Keigo Higashino
(Minotaur Books)

“A man is stabbed but keeps walking past a police station to die in the middle of a nearby bridge. Later an accident victim is found with the victim’s wallet on him. Looking beyond the logical connection, Detective Kaga keeps digging to determine what really happened. A deliciously puzzling mystery that will be perfect for fans of Sherlock Holmes.”
—Vicki Nesting, St. Charles Parish Library, Destrehan, LA

NoveList read-alike: Inspector Chen Cao series by Xiaolong Qiu

**A Hard Day for a Hangover**
A Novel
by Darynda Jones
(St. Martin’s Press)

“Though her rebellious daughter survived a murder attempt just last week, Sheriff Sunshine Vicram is back on the job. Meanwhile, drama with her longtime crush Levi Ravinder is distracting her from solving a series of crimes involving women going missing in their small town.”
—Seanean Shanahan, Douglas County Libraries, Parker, CO

NoveList read-alike: Detective Betty novels by Kathleen Kent

**Well Traveled**
by Jen DeLuca
(Berkley)

“Fed up with her demanding boss, lawyer Louisa “Lulu” Malone quits her job while visiting a Renaissance Faire. She continues traveling with the Faire, which means spending time with Dex MacLean of the Dueling Kilts musical troupe, who can’t believe Lulu is immune to his charms. Readers will have a hard time putting this rom-com down!”
—Brenda O’Brien, Woodridge Public Library, Woodridge, IL

NoveList read-alike: Spoiler Alert series by Olivia Dade