# The Wife Upstairs, A Novel

"Mild-mannered Jane cobbles together a living as a dog walker for the wealthy residents of Thornfield Estates, when an encounter with Eddie Rochester turns into a whirlwind romance. But plain Jane has a mysterious past...and so does everyone else in this upscale neighborhood. Loosely inspired by Jane Eyre, this domestic suspense novel features the twists and turns that fans of the genre expect. Perfect for fans of Liv Constantine and Louise Candlish."

> -Nanette Donohue, Champaign Public Library, Champaign, IL NoveList read-alike: The Winters by Lisa Gabriele

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

The Ex Talk



### The Children's Blizzard A Novel

by Melanie Benjamin (Delacorte Press)

"A deadly snowstorm roared through the Great Plains on January 12, 1888, at a time when many children were in school with teachers little older than themselves. Based on actual oral histories of survivors, and told from perspectives of teachers, students, and the media, this book is perfect for readers who eniov historical fiction by Ariel Lawhon and Marie Benedict."

-Wendy Paige, Shelby County Public Library, Shelbyville, KY NoveList read-alike: Answer Creek by Ashley E. Sweeney



#### Outlawed by Anna North (Bloomsbury)

"Bank robberies and women's health may not seem like natural companions, but North weaves them together seamlessly in this alternate history Western. Cast out of her hometown for failure to get pregnant after a year of marriage, Ada joins the notorious Hole in the Wall Gang and becomes an outlaw, all the while seeking real information about pregnancy and fertility. For fans of Inland and The Power."

—Emily Calkins, King County Library System, Issaquah, WA NoveList read-alike: *Upright Women Wanted* by Sarah Gailey



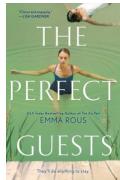
#### Remote Control by Nnedi Okorafor (Tordotcom)

"As a girl living in a future version of Ghana, Yatima was given an object from space that gave her the ability to emit a green light that brings death to all she touches. Now, as a young teen, she occasionally leaves death behind her as she searches for the alien object that was stolen from her. Afrofuturism, sci-fi, and magic. For readers who enjoyed The Fifth Season and Monstress!

—Katie Kalil, Sterling Library, Sterling, VA NoveList read-alike: The Deep by Rivers Solomon



–Jessica Werner, Seattle Public Library, Seattle, WA NoveList read-alike: Loathe at First Sight by Suzanne Park



#### The Perfect Guests by Emma Rous (Berkley)

"When down-on-her-luck Sadie is offered a lucrative weekend acting job at a sumptuous Raven Hall, as a guest in a period mystery event, she jumps at the chance. Before the weekend is over, Sadie and the other "perfect guests" will learn about Raven Hall's tragic past."

—Cynthia Hunt, Amarillo Public Library, Amarillo, TX NoveList read-alike: The Death of Mrs. Westaway by Ruth Ware



### Shipped by Angie Hockman

(Gallery Books) "Graeme and Henley are competing for the same job at their adventure cruise company. When their boss sends them on a familiarization trip of the company's cruise in the Galapagos the enemies to lovers' plot gets steamy. For readers who enjoyed A Sweet Mess (Lee) and The Unhoneymooners (Lauren)."

-Laura Bonds, Harris County Public Library, Houston, TX NoveList read-alike: Simmer Down by Sarah Smith

# HOUSE ON VESPER SANDS

#### The House on Vesper Sands

UPSTAIRS

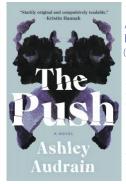
RACHEL

HAW

by Paraic O'Donnell (Tin House Books) "Three stories—a mysterious suicide, a wayward young man searching for his uncle, and a young journalist investigating the story behind several missing girls—unfold before finally converging. The dark mood ís palpable as Inspector Cutter, Gideon Bliss, and Octavia Hillingdon travel through Victorian London to fit the puzzle pieces together. Perfect for fans of The Night Circus and Jane Steele."

**TOP PICK** 

NoveList read-alike: The Essex Serpent by Sarah Perry



#### The Push A Novel

by Ashley Audrain (Pamela Dorman Books) "Blythe comes from a long line of women not cut out to be mothers. When she falls in love with a man who wants nothing more than a happy family she tells herself she can be a good mother. When her daughter is born however she finds that motherhood is just not that simple. For readers who enjoyed The Woman in the Window (Finn) or Baby Teeth (Stage.)"

–Linda Quinn, Fairfield Public Library, Fairfield, CT NoveList read-alike: The Unprotected by Kelly Sokol

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#### Siri, Who Am I? A Novel

by Sam Tschida (Quirk Books)

"Mia awakes in a hospital in a gold cocktail dress, a cape covered in her blood, a head wound and her cell phone, and no memory of who she is or how she got there. She uses her Instagram account to begin to piece together her life. For readers who enjoyed Surprise Me (Kinsella) and What Alice Forgot (Moriarty)."

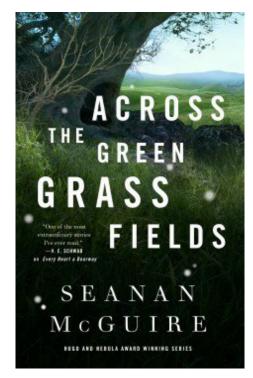
-Douglas Beatty, Baltimore County Public Library, Baltimore, MD NoveList read-alike: The One that Got Away by Leigh Himes

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org



# JANUARY 2021

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.



Across the Green Grass Fields by Seanan McGuire (Tordotcom)

"In under 200 pages, McGuire again perfectly creates a detailed and expansive fantasy world, this time in a lush tale of non-conformity and finding one's place in the world. For all the girls, teens, and women who've felt confined by labels placed on them by others--this one's for you."

—Annie Pruitt, West Georgia Regional Library Systems, Carrollton, GA

Read-alike: *Among Others* by Jo Walton Read-alike: *Silver in the Wood* by Emily Tesh Read-alike: *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman