

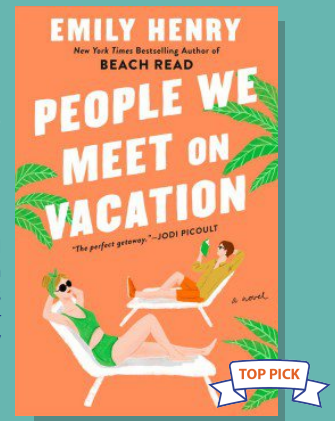


## People We Meet On Vacation by Emily Henry

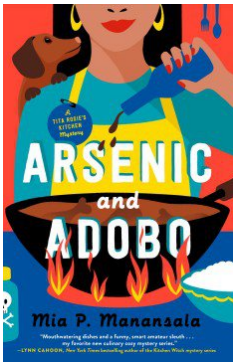
(Berkley Jove)

"An aching slow-burn romance focused on chaotic sprite Poppy and buttoned up Alex and their twelve years of summer vacations. Set in present day Palm Springs and interspersed with flashbacks from the previous vacations, this story is full of yearning, friendship, and discussions of what it means to find a home. For fans of *This Time Next Year*, *One Day in December*, and *Waiting for Tom Hanks*."

—Elizabeth Gabriel, Milwaukee Public Library, Milwaukee, WI  
NovelList read-alike: *Josh and Hazel's Guide to Not Dating* by Christina Lauren



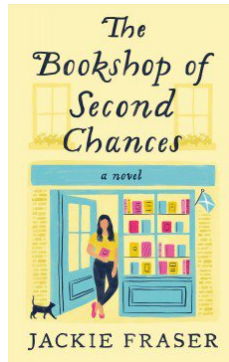
## May 2021 - The top ten books published this month that library staff across the country love.



### *Arsenic and Adobo* by Mia P. Manansala (Berkley Prime Crime)

"This fast-paced, cozy mystery with a diverse and colorful cast will make you laugh, cringe, and salivate. Lila has returned home to help with the family's failing Filipino restaurant, which is repeatedly panned by her food blogger ex. When he comes to lunch and ends up face down in his dessert, Lila becomes the prime murder suspect. For readers who enjoyed *Dial A for Aunties* and *Mimi Lee Gets a Clue*."

—Laura Eckert, Clermont County Public Library, Milford, OH  
NovelList read-alike: *A Deadly Inside Scoop* by Abby Collette



### *The Bookshop of Second Chances* A Novel by Jackie Fraser

(Ballantine Books)  
"Nothing like turning a page in an upended life to find a surprising plot twist leading to a satisfying ending. That's what readers will find in this charming novel. The power of books to soothe will attract bibliophiles, but stay for the lively banter of the romantic leads, the quirky local residents, and the brisk Scottish countryside. Perfect for fans of *Evvie Drake Starts Over* and *The Bookish Life of Nina Hill*."

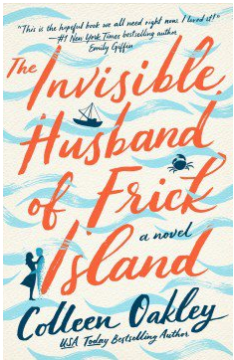
—Kaite Stover, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, MO  
NovelList read-alike: *How to Find Love in a Bookshop* by Veronica Henry



### *The Guncle* by Steven Rowley (G.P. Putnam's Sons)

"Gay Uncle Patrick," a reclusive TV star, takes in his niece and nephew for the summer after the death of their mother, his dear friend. As the three navigate their grief together, Patrick finds he needs the kids as much as they need him. By turns funny and poignant, this heartwarming story is great for fans of actor (and Instagram fave) Leslie Jordan and for readers who like Fredrik Backman."

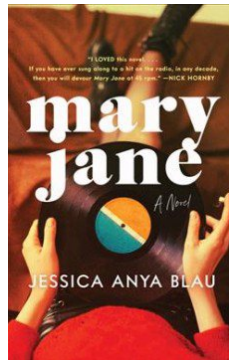
—Heather Bistyga, Anderson County Library, Anderson, SC  
NovelList read-alike: *The Family Man* by Elinor Lipman



### *The Invisible Husband of Frick Island* by Colleen Oakley (Berkley)

"Anders, a journalist, is sent to Frick Island to cover a Cake Walk, where he meets Piper, a widow who behaves as if her husband had never died. The strangest thing is, the entire island goes along with this delusion, and Anders, who is smitten with Piper, is determined to find out why. For fans of *The Story of Arthur Truluv* and *The Garden of Small Beginnings*."

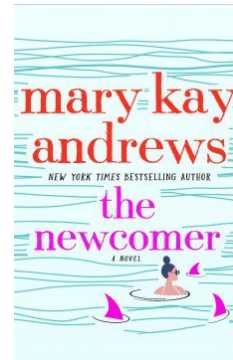
—Aubrey Parker, Montgomery County Memorial Library, Conroe, TX  
NovelList read-alike: *One True Loves* by Taylor Jenkins Reid



### *Mary Jane* A Novel by Jessica Anya Blau (Custom House)

"It's 1975 and Mary Jane takes a job babysitting while all her friends are away at summer camp. The job comes with exposure to a celebrity and her addicted rock star husband and Mary Jane experiences a world very different than her own. For readers who enjoyed *Be Frank with Me*, *Nothing to See Here*, and *This Tender Land*."

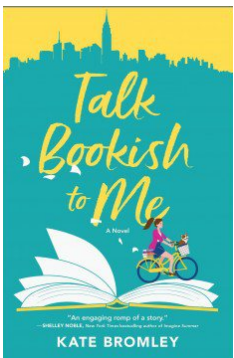
—Jan Fisher, Fairfield Public Library, Fairfield, CT  
NovelList read-alike: *About a Boy* by Nick Hornby



### *The Newcomer* A Novel by Mary Kay Andrews (St. Martin's Press)

"Letty is on the run with her four-year-old niece, afraid she will be accused of her sister's murder. She ends up at a beach front motel in Florida full of interesting and entertaining characters. Murder, fugitives, romance, and a great cast of characters. A perfect beach read. For readers who enjoy books by Elin Hildendbrand and Janet Evanovich."

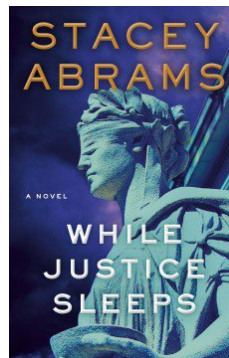
—Sandy Ruhmann, Allen Park Public Library, Allen Park, MI  
NovelList read-alike: *Finlay Donovan is Killing It* by Elle Cosimano



### *Talk Bookish to Me* A Novel by Kate Bromley (Graydon House)

"A must-read romance novel, this enemies to lovers contemporary romance has enough tension and sizzle to satisfy any romance reader. Bonus, the lead character is a romance writer and readers get a romance novel within a romance novel. For readers who loved *Much Ado About You* and *The Invitation*."

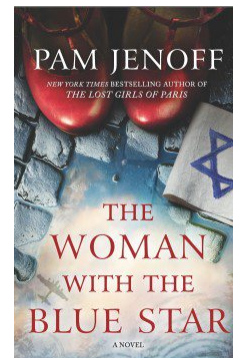
—Hannah Spratt, New York Public Library, New York, NY  
NovelList read-alike: *The Things We Leave Unfinished* by Rebecca Yarros



### *While Justice Sleeps* A Novel by Stacey Abrams (Doubleday)

"Avery's boss is a Supreme Court Justice and he is currently in a coma after naming Avery (instead of his wife) as his guardian. This situation is further complicated by the fact that the judge is a swing vote in a very important decision before the court. How well Avery knows her boss will determine the fate of both of them. For readers of John Grisham and Robert Dugoni."

—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Public Library, Austin, TX  
NovelList read-alike: *Paper Gods* by Goldie Taylor



### *The Woman with the Blue Star* A Novel by Pam Jenoff (Park Row)

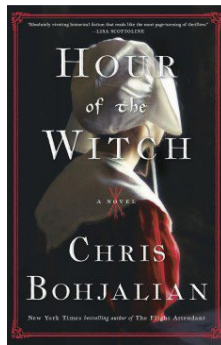
"Based on the true stories of Jewish families who utilized the sewers to escape persecution during WWII. Sadie struggles to come to terms with loss. Ella struggles to figure out where she fits in amidst the chaos. Their friendship brings them hope and purpose. For readers who enjoyed *The Rose Code*, *Our Darkest Night*."

—Kate Eminhizer, Pamunkey Regional Library, Hanover, VA  
NovelList read-alike: *Clika's Journey* by Heather Morris



MAY 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.

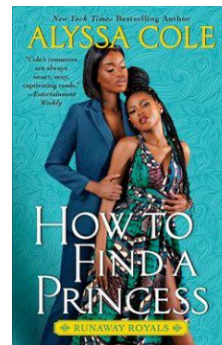


*Hour of the Witch*  
by Chris Bohjalian  
(Doubleday)

"In Puritan New England, Mary Deerfield is trapped in a marriage with a violent man. She has the audacity to file for divorce in a time where women were accused of witchcraft for any perceived slight or behavior. This book is filled with strong women and speaks to the witch hunts of today."

—Lisa Casper, Douglas County Libraries, Highlands Ranch, CO

Read-alike: *The Fifth Petal* by Brunonia Berry  
Read-alike: *The Witches* by Stacy Schiff

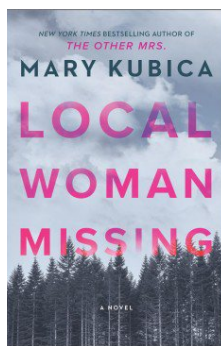


*How to Find a Princess*  
Runaway Royals  
by Alyssa Cole  
(Avon)

"Billed as a queer retelling of Anastasia, a long-lost princess falls for the investigator who tracks her down. This full-length f/f romance from Cole, the latest in her delightful Runaway Royals series, makes for a fun read."

—Annabelle Mortensen, Skokie Public Library, Skokie, IL

Read-alike: *Red, White and Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston  
Read-alike: *Royal Holiday* by Jasmine Guillory

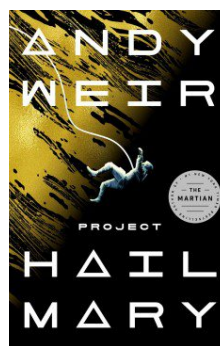


*Local Woman Missing*  
A Novel  
by Mary Kubica  
(Park Row)

"A kidnapped child, two dead women, affairs, secrets, and a malpractice suit seem like a lot to pack into one book, but Kubica skillfully weaves the plot to create a perfect level of intrigue in this twisty suspense tale."

—Sandra Woodbury, Burlington Public Library, Burlington MA

Read-alike: *Dear Child* by Romy Housmann  
Read-alike: *The Wrong Family* by Tarryn Fisher

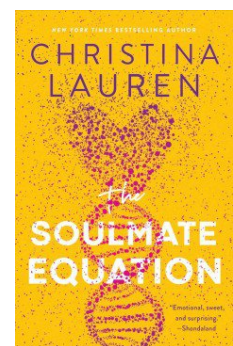


*Project Hail Mary*  
A Novel  
by Andy Weir  
(Ballantine Books)

"Ryland Grace wakes up alone on a spaceship with amnesia. Gradually he remembers being on a one-way journey to save Earth from a dying sun. Then he encounters Rocky, an engineer on a similar mission. Hard to put down and impossible to forget, this is ingenious science fiction to celebrate and share."

—Brenda O'Brien, Woodridge Public Library, Woodridge, IL

Read-alike: *Aurora* by Kim Stanley Robinson  
Read-alike: *The Relentless Moon* by Mary Robinette Kowal



*The Soulmate Equation*  
by Christina Lauren  
(Gallery Books)

"A statistician and geneticist are an unlikely match in a DNA-based dating app in this latest breezy romance from Lauren. What follows is sure to pull on readers' heartstrings and even get them interested in the science of genetics."

—Melissa Stumpe, Johnson County Public Library, Franklin, IN

Read-alike: *The Right Swipe* by Alisha Rai  
Read-alike: *The Ex Talk* by Rachel Lynn Solomon

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