April 2023 - The top ten books published this month that library staff across the country love.

**Dirty Laundry: A Novel**
*by Disha Bose (Ballantine Books)*

“Ciara is a perfect mom and influencer who knows what to do, buy, and promote in her small Irish town. Ciara also is an irresistible woman who plays friends against each other, eats up and spits out all the town husbands, and seals her own fate with her reprehensible behavior. An Orient Express-like cast shines in this twisty domestic thriller about secrets and lies.”

—Donna Ballard, East Meadow Public Library, East Meadow, NY
*NoveList read-alike: Regrets Only* by Kieran Scott

**The Haunting of Alejandra: A Novel**
*by V. Castro (Del Rey)*

“Alejandra is a stay-at-home mother. Depressed because her life isn’t what she thought it’d be, she consults a curandero: a folk healer and licensed therapist. She soon discovers the visions she’s been having are tied to her ancestors’ experiences. Castro has an innate ability to get into the head of her characters, while weaving together multiple plotlines and time periods.”

—Chloe Waryan, Chicago Public Library, Chicago, IL
*NoveList read-alike: The Family Fang* by Nathan Hill

**Mastering the Art of French Murder**
*by Colleen Cambridge (Kensington)*

“In Paris after WWII, Julia Child, her husband Paul, sister Dort, and Tabitha, a half French American ex-pat, are all recent arrivals. The romance, sights, sounds, and food of the city are delightful enough; add a murder committed with one of Julia’s knives, and a wonderful examination of genes, family secrets, and City of Light.”

—Jennifer Winberry, Hunterdon County Library, Flemington, NJ
*NoveList read-alike: Pen in Paris* by Rhys Bowen

**Moorewood Family Rules**
*by HelenKay Dimon (Avon)*

“Jillian Moorewood is out of jail after covering for the crimes of her grifting family. She heads home to the family mansion to take back control of the business and force them into legitimate jobs, but none of her extended family wants to change. Quirky characters, a hot bodyguard, attempts on her life, and a battle worthy of Succession keeps readers engaged to the end.”

—Linda Quinn, Fairfield Public Library, Fairfield, CT
*NoveList read-alike: The Family Fang* by Kevin Wilson

**Natural Beauty: A Novel**
*by Ling Ling Huang (Dutton)*

“This hauntingly beautiful and chilling novel showcases the otherworldly experience the main character goes through at the expense of her health and beauty. How damaging it can be. It was bleak, but atmospheric and luminous in a weird way. The descriptions were interesting and drew me in further and further. A mind-bender that readers will plow through in a day or two!”

—Erin McLaughlin, Librarian in Austin, TX
*NoveList read-alike: Natural Beauty* by HelenKay Dimon

**The Scourge Between Stars**
*by Ness Brown (Tor Nightfire)*

“Jacklyn ‘Jack’ Albright is first mate of the ship Calypso, en route back to earth after a failed attempt to colonize another planet. Jack is the captain, but he sealed himself in private quarters weeks ago as things are breaking down. The pacing and growing insidious dread in this novella are awesome. The gripping fear of the unknown makes for a delicious read.”

—KatieLee Sliger, Boise Public Library, Boise, ID
*NoveList read-alike: Screaming From the Void* by Helen Tibbets

**Sisters of the Lost Nation: A Novel**
*by Nick Medina (Berkeley)*

“Anna Horn wants to know why young girls are disappearing on the reservation. When Anna’s sister Grace goes missing, Anna and the tribe seek answers to the disappearances and discover that the tribe’s difficulties are linked to the past. This mix of mythology and honor that deals with unsolved disappearances of Indigenous girls and tribal lore is a gripping read.”

—Joan Hipp, Florham Park Public Library, Florham Park, NJ
*NoveList read-alike: Sing Her Name* by Rosalyn M. Story

**Symphony of Secrets: A Novel**
*by Brendan Slocumb (Anchoir Books)*

“In 1920s NYC, Fred Delaney is about to be kicked out of his jazz combo when he meets Josephine Reed, who helps him improve. In the present day, Bern Hendricks, an expert on composer Delaney, is asked to look over a manuscript of a lost symphony. However, questions about attribution arise. This is a suspenseful book that will be fantastic for discussion.”

—Theresa Coleman, Indianapolis Public Library, Indianapolis, IN
*NoveList read-alike: Highway of Tears* by Jessica McDiarmid

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“In The Lives of Puppets”
*by TJ Klune (Tor Book)*

“Clearly if you need a book about a robot that’s guaranteed to have you break out into heaving sobs, this is the novel for you. Klune’s masterful retelling of Pinocchio—a little bit science fiction, a little bit dystopian, and a little bit book-clubby—is a sure-fire winner with so much appeal on so many levels it should prompt readers of all genres to step into something new and original. For fans of ‘The Maker of Swans’ and ‘The Night Circus’.”

—Douglas Beatty, Baltimore County Public Library, Baltimore, MD
*NoveList read-alike: A Psalm for the Wild-Built* by Becky Chambers

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Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org
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—Cari Dubiel, Twinsburg Public Library, Twinsburg, OH

Happy Place: A Novel
by Emily Henry
(Berkley)

Though they broke up six months ago, Wyn and Harriet pretend they’re still together to avoid disrupting their college friends’ last annual getaway to a cottage in Maine. This book takes the fake relationship trope to a whole new level with switching timelines that reveal how this former couple got to where they are now. Every character is flawed but lovable, and their banter is delightful. Emily Henry fans may have a new favorite!

—Molly Thatcher, Charleston County Public Library, Charleston, SC

The Last Remains
by Elly Griffiths
(Mariner Books)

Dr. Ruth Galloway faces the closing of the anthropology department at the University of North Norfolk while DCI Harry Nelson considers retirement. Both are at a crossroads personally and professionally when the skeleton of a former archaeology student is found after disappearing fifteen years ago. This intricate mystery is full of red herrings and local color, and features characters who continue to grow in a way that is seldom seen in series.

—Stacey Lunford, Irvin L. Young Memorial Library, Whitewater, WI

The Bromance Book Club
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