October 2023
The Top Ten Adult
Fiction and Nonfiction
Chosen Monthly by
America’s Library Staff

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org

Let Him In
William Friend
(Poisoned Pen Press)

After the death of their mother, young twins Sylvie and Cassio find comfort in an imaginary friend, but their father begins to worry as things escalate. Grief and the paranormal are central to this book, and the story will leave readers questioning reality. This unsettling gothic read will keep readers turning the pages!

—Kristin Skinner, Flat River Community Library, MI
NoveList read-alike: We Hear Voices by Evie Green

Better Hate Than Never
Chloe Liese
(Berkley)

Neighbors Kate and Christopher grew up together and over the years, snarky comments and shenanigans ensue until Kate flees home. When she returns later, the animosity between them hasn’t waned. With their families begging for peace, they determine they need to get along. Which they do...too well. Readers will find watching them fall in love to be nothing short of magical.

—Taylor Banze, St. Charles City-County Library, MO
NoveList read-alike: Kiss Me Catalina by Priscilla Oliveras

Let Us Descend: A Novel
Jesmyn Ward
(Scribner)

On the long treacherous journey to the New Orleans slave markets, Annis turns inward, speaking to her lost mother and revisiting the stories of her African warrior grandmother. Ward’s prose assists the reader to travel alongside Annis, flowing between hell on earth and the comfort of memory. For fans of She Would Be King by Wayetu Moore.

—KC Davis, LibraryReads Ambassador, CT
NoveList read-alike: Beloved by Toni Morrison

Midnight is the Darkest Hour
Ashley Winstead
(Sourcebooks Landmark)

In this small corner of Louisiana, religion runs deep. As a teenager, the reverend’s daughter Ruth becomes summer friends with Everett, and begins seeing the truth through his eyes. Ruth chooses to follow the word of the church and stay put while Everett seeks more. However, when a skull is found in the swamp, Ruth begins questioning everything she thought she knew.

—Andrea Galvin, Mt. Pulaski Public Library, IL
NoveList read-alike: The Toll by Cherie Priest

The Hurricane Wars
Thea Guanzon
(Harper Voyager)

As enemies sworn to destroy one another, Alaric and Talasyin seem like unlikely candidates for a political marriage. This Asian-inspired fantasy series takes all the elements needed for a new world—alliances, royalty vs. rebels, magic powers, a fierce orphan with a secret destiny, and enemies-to-lover tension—then sets them in a world of horrific storms and a kingdom under siege.

—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, TX
NoveList read-alike: Daughter of the Moon Goddess by Sue Lynn Tan

West Heart Kill
Dann Mcdorman
(Knopf)

In this twist on the trope of a locked room mystery, a private eye is trapped in an exclusive hunting cabin in the Adirondacks during a major storm with three dead bodies, while finding he is as much a suspect as the rest of the elite set of guests. A great original debut!

—Jennifer Winberry, Hunterdon County Library, NJ
NoveList read-alike: The Ward is Murder by Anthony Horowitz

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—Andrea Galvin, Mt. Pulaski Public Library, IL
NoveList read-alike: The Toll by Cherie Priest

The Leftover Woman: A Novel
Jean Kwok
(William Morrow)

A Chinese woman desperate to find with the daughter adopted without her consent makes a dangerous journey to the U.S. Her story intersects explosively with that of a librarian eager to recover from a career-ending scandal. Kwok hooks readers with an emotionally gripping story of two mothers willing to risk everything to protect what they love, skillfully balancing perspectives to a riveting climax.

—Mara Bandy Fass, Champaign Public Library, IL
NoveList read-alike: Say Her Name by Dreda Say Mitchell

The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year
Margaret Renkl
(William Morrow)

This fun summer camp sports romance is a perfect beach read. The characters are complex, and the men (other than ‘bad guys’) are written to be very respectful of and thoughtful to the women in their lives, whether in friendship or romance. The book is also very sex-positive. Readers who missed the first book in this series won’t feel like they are missing anything, but will want to catch up!

—Jennifer Lizak, Chicago Public Library, IL
NoveList read-alike: Never Been Kissed by Timothy Janovsky

Wildfire: A Novel
Hannah Grace
(Atria)

When rule-follower Winnie decides to take part in a steamy Christmas movie, she doesn’t have a clue how to perform racy scenes. She asks co-star Kallum, the former chubby goofball member of a boy band, for sex practice sessions. As the two grow closer, can they get past their issues and have a real relationship?

—Nanette Donohue, Champaign Public Library, IL
NoveList read-alike: Ship Wrecked by Olivia Dade

The Unmaking of June Farraroow:w:
Adrienne Young
(Delacorte Press)

When her grandmother dies, June worries about falling prey to the family curse of hallucinations which stole the sanity of her mother and grandmother. When a door opens leading to the past, June learns more about her family and discovers unexpected truths about herself—and her place in time.

—Nonette Donohue, Champaign Public Library, IL
NoveList read-alike: The Invisible Life of Adeline lunar by V.E. Schwab

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The LibraryReads Hall of Fame designation honors authors who have had multiple titles appear on the monthly list since 2013. Please visit our website for the full author gallery.

**Wreck the Halls: A Novel**
Tessa Bailey
(Avon)

Novelist read-alike:
*All I Want for Christmas* by Maggie Knox

**10 Things That Never Happened**
Alexis Hall
(Sourcebooks Casablanca)

Novelist read-alike:
*Season of Love* by Helena Greer

**Iris Kelly Doesn’t Date**
Ashley Herring Blake
(Berkley)

Novelist read-alike:
*The Fiancée Farce* by Alexandra Bellefleur

**The Burnout: A Novel**
Sophie Kinsella
(Dial Press)

Novelist read-alike:
*Twice Shy* by Sarah Hogle

**Starling House**
Alix E. Harrow
(Tor Books)

Novelist read-alike:
*The Hacienda* by Isabel Canas

**My Darling Girl**
Jennifer McMahon
(Gallery/Scout Press)

Novelist read-alike:
*Mothered* by Zoje Stage

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