



## June 2023

### The Top Ten Adult Fiction and Nonfiction Chosen Monthly by America's Library Staff

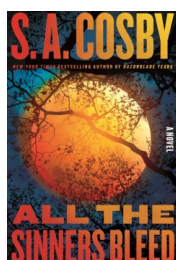
Find out more at [www.LibraryReads.org](http://www.LibraryReads.org)



**The Quiet Tenant: A Novel**  
Clémence Michallon  
(Knopf)

The entire town feels sorry for Aidan Thomas when his wife dies. But the mysterious woman staying in the house Aidan shares with his teenage daughter has seen a very different side of him... and knows her every move has life-or-death stakes. A great pick for thriller fans looking for a page-turner with strong female protagonists.

—Mara Bandy Fass, Champaign Public Library  
NoveList read-alike: *The Last Housewife* by Ashley Winstead



**All the Sinners Bleed**  
S.A. Cosby  
(Flatiron Books)

As a Black sheriff in rural Virginia, Titus Crown is caught in political turmoil while a pedophile mass murderer runs amok. A brilliant perfectionist and former FBI agent, Titus ran for office to change things for the better, but can anything honestly change?

—Jill Minor, Washington County Public Library  
NoveList read-alike: *When Ghosts Come Home* by Wiley Cash



**The Brightest Star: A Novel**  
Gail Tsukiyama  
(HarperVia)

This moving historical novel spotlights Chinese-American icon Anna May Wong, a talented and ambitious actress caught in a film industry that denied her the roles she was born to play, even as she was expected to teach white actresses how to "act Chinese".

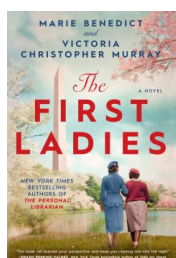
—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library  
NoveList read-alike: *Siren Queen* by Nghi Vo



**A Crown of Ivy and Glass**  
Claire LeGrand  
(Sourcebooks Casablanca)

Gemma is the only person in her powerful family not to possess magic; in fact, she's physically sickened by it. But when a dashing man tells her of a demonic curse, Gemma engages in a quest to find her tormentor. This is a sweeping, romantic fantasy with the promise of more to come.

—Mary Lovell, Seymour Public Library  
NoveList read-alike: *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros



**The First Ladies**  
Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray  
(Berkley)

An illuminating read about the unlikely friendship between Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune as both overcame obstacles pursuing equal rights during the Great Depression/WWII and formed a close relationship through their personal struggles.

—Debbie Lease, Hillsdale Public Library  
NoveList read-alike: *The Thread Collectors* by Shaunna J. Edwards



**A Most Agreeable Murder: A Novel**  
Julia Seales  
(Knopf)

Beatrice has had enough of Regency societal rules about what is proper and loves true crime and Lord Huxley. When Huxley's former assistant shows up in her village, Beatrice immediately dislikes him. When another guest to the village is murdered, Beatrice helps the vile man solve the case. Much laughter is had on the way to personal freedom and autonomy.

—Michelle Ogden, Crawfordsville District Public Library  
NoveList read-alike: *The Murder of Mr. Wickham* by Claudia Gray



**The Rachel Incident: A Novel**  
Caroline O'Donoghue  
(Knopf)

Rachel and James meet while working at a bookshop in Cork and decide to hold a book release event for Rachel's professor. Ten years later, a pregnant Rachel reflects on this time in her life and how it led her to where she is now. Capturing university life where friendships are strong, emotions are deep, and money is tight, this is a wonderful novel.

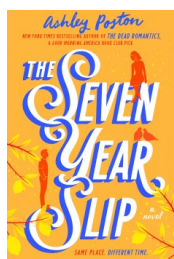
—Tara McGuinness, Cuyahoga County Public Library  
NoveList read-alike: *Conversations with Friends* by Sally Rooney



**Same Time Next Summer**  
Annabel Monaghan  
(G.P. Putnam's Sons)

Sam and Wyatt have met up every summer since they were young and fall deeply in love. Even at their young age they know this love is forever. This starts out as a basic romance novel, but when something terrible happens to our two lovers, the writing changes, becoming more compelling and more nuanced.

—Judy G Sebastian, Eastham Public Library  
NoveList read-alike: *Every Summer After* by Carly Fortune



**The Seven Year Slip**  
Ashley Poston  
(Berkley)

Suspend belief, forget logic, and don't ask questions, just go with the love in this romance set in a magical apartment. Clementine and Iwan fall in love and then lose each other in a seven-year time slip. Their lives are filled with good friends and family and eventually a happy ending.

—JR Ring, Baltimore County Public Library  
NoveList read-alike: *The Impossible Us* by Sarah Lotz

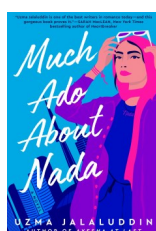


**The Whispers: A Novel**  
Ashley Audrain  
(Pamela Dorman Books)

After a picnic where everyone hears the host losing her temper towards her son, that same boy is admitted to the hospital with a life-threatening injury. Told from multiple perspectives, revealing a bit more with every chapter, this story centers around deception, envy, and despair, leaving readers rushing towards the climactic conclusion.

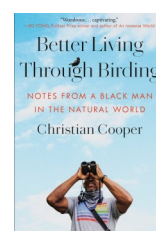
—KC Davis, Fairfield Woods Branch Library  
NoveList read-alike: *Dirty Laundry* by Disha Bose

### Bonus pick:



**Much Ado About Nada**  
Uzma Jalaluddin  
(Berkley)

### Notable Nonfiction:



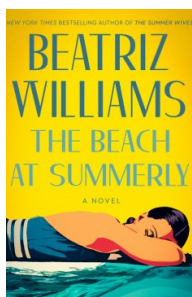
**Better Living Through Birding: Notes from a Black Man in the Natural World**  
Christian Cooper  
(Random House)

See our social media for annotations!



# June 2023 HALL OF FAME TITLES

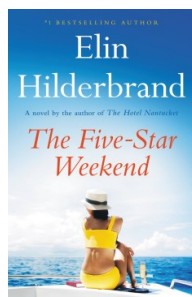
The LibraryReads Hall of Fame designation honors authors who have had multiple titles appear on the monthly list since 2013. As of the October 2018 list, when an author's third title places on a monthly list via library staff votes, the author moves into our Hall of Fame.



***The Beach at Summerly: A Novel***  
Beatriz Williams  
(William Morrow)

Emilia, who lives on Winthrop Island, becomes good friends with glamorous Olive when she arrives in 1946. But when Emilia helps an FBI agent capture a Russian spy, she must deal with the fallout eight years later. Williams writes great historical novels, and this well-researched story brings the Cold War to life.

— Beth Emmerling, Enoch Pratt Free Library  
Novelist read-alike:  
*A Woman of Intelligence* by Karin Tanabe



***The Five-Star Weekend***  
Elin Hilderbrand  
(Little, Brown and Company)

When popular food blogger Hollis Shaw unexpectedly becomes a widow, she decides to move on by inviting four friends from different phases of life to spend an all-expenses paid weekend together. Hollis hires her daughter to film the weekend—which turns out to be full of secrets, deceptions, and surprises. Highly recommended for readers who enjoy novels about women's friendships.

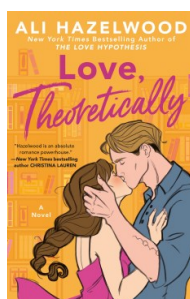
— Sandy Ruhmann, Allen Park Public Library  
Novelist read-alike:  
*Hello, Sunshine* by Laura Dave



***Lady Tan's Circle of Women***  
Lisa See  
(Scribner)

Inspired by a true story, this novel set in 15th century China follows Yunxian (Lady Tan) from her childhood to marriage and motherhood. She learns the art of medicine from her grandmother alongside Meiling, a midwife-in-training who becomes a close friend. After entering an arranged marriage, Yunxian is forbidden to apply her skills and knowledge to help other women. See's description of this remarkable woman and her remedies will fascinate readers.

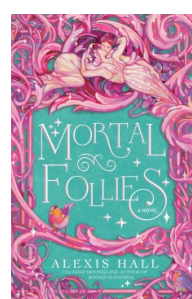
—Madeleine Felder, San Francisco Public Library  
Novelist read-alike:  
*The Picture Bride* by Kum-i Yi



***Love, Theoretically***  
Ali Hazelwood  
(Berkley)

Theoretical physicist Elsie Hannaway works as both an adjunct professor and fake girlfriend. This works out fine until she has to contend with Jack Smith, the arrogant experimental physicist who is her professional enemy. Hazelwood makes it easy to get wrapped up in this science-based story with her relatable and witty characters. This is a quick and easy read; a good heartfelt book.

—Elisabeth Byers, Prairie du Chien Memorial Library  
Novelist read-alike:  
*Love, Hate & Clickbait* by Liz Bowery



***Mortal Follies: A Novel***  
Alexis Hall  
(Del Rey)

Maelys Mitchelmore thinks she is cursed, and every time something embarrassing, tragic, or downright terrifying happens, Lady Georgianna Landrake is right there. Rumor has it that Lady Georgianna is a wicked enchantress—is she behind the curse, or can she save Maelys from the spirits that plague her? A rollicking queer Regency romance featuring charming characters and a clever premise; ideal for fans of historical rom-coms.

—Nanette Donohue, Champaign Public Library  
Novelist read-alike:  
*Half a Soul* by Olivia Atwater

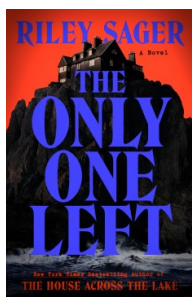
Find out more at [www.LibraryReads.org/HOF](http://www.LibraryReads.org/HOF)

Read-alikes provided by NoveList and the LibraryReads Community. | Made in LibraryAware - [www.libraryaware.com](http://www.libraryaware.com)



# June 2023 HALL OF FAME TITLES

The LibraryReads Hall of Fame designation honors authors who have had multiple titles appear on the monthly list since 2013. As of the October 2018 list, when an author's third title places on a monthly list via library staff votes, the author moves into our Hall of Fame.



*The Only One Left: A Novel*  
Riley Sager  
(Dutton)

Kit lost her job as a home health aid when a patient died under suspicious circumstances. She is given one last opportunity of employment: a job that requires her to care for Lenora Hope, longtime suspect in the murder of her whole family. This twisty Gothic mystery will leave savvy thriller readers and fans of *Verity* by Colleen Hoover gasping until the very last page.

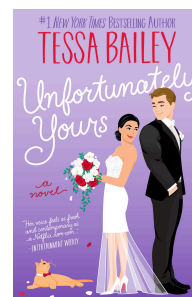
—Jayme Oldham, Highland Park Public Library  
Novelist read-alike:  
*The Book of Cold Cases* by Simone St. James



*The Spectacular: A Novel*  
Fiona Davis  
(Dutton)

Marion Brooks loves to dance. This is the 1950s though, and her father is not so thrilled but she has been able to balance her love of dance and family by teaching in a dance studio. When she sees an opportunity to try out for the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes, Marion decides to go for it, and succeeds. Unexpectedly, after a serial bomber strikes Radio City with tragic results, Marion and her friend Peter investigate.

—Joan Hipp, Florham Park Public Library  
Novelist read-alike:  
*The Socialite's Guide to Murder* by S.K. Golden



*Unfortunately Yours*  
Tessa Bailey  
(Avon)

Natalie Vos, daughter of wine country royalty, is miserable in her hometown. A quickie marriage to August, annoying purveyor of awful wines, might help them both, since she must marry to receive her trust fund, and his winery is in desperate straits. These characters are likable and well-realized and their issues and baggage make their marriage-of-convenience ring true.

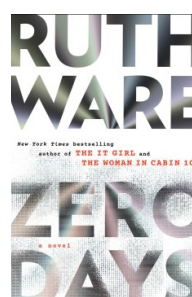
—Kaitlin Booth, Cuyahoga County Public Library  
Novelist read-alike:  
*The Fiance Farce* by Alexandra Bellefleur



*We Could Be So Good*  
Cat Sebastian  
(Avon)

It's 1950s NYC. Andy, a bumbling, scatter-brained son of an editor, meets Brooklyn-born, rough-and-tumble Nick while they work as reporters. As the two become friends, Nick hides his feelings for Andy and follows a dangerous police corruption story. Readers who love Alexis Hall and Roan Parrish will love this novel's dual-POV, gentle pining, historical accuracy, and delightful ending.

—Claire Sandoval-Peck, Timberland Regional Library  
Novelist read-alike:  
*Worth a Fortune* by Sam Ledel



*Zero Days*  
Ruth Ware  
(Gallery/Scout Press)

Jack and her husband Gabe work in computer security. One night, Jack comes home to find Gabe murdered after a job. She's absolutely devastated and vows to find Gabe's killer. The police aren't much help, so she goes rogue, setting the police on a chase to find Jack as she investigates. The excitement builds and you won't be able to stop reading. With great characters and mounting tension, this is highly recommended.

—Cari Dubiel, Twinsburg Public Library  
Novelist read-alike:  
*I Will Find You* by Harlan Coben

Find out more at [www.LibraryReads.org/HOF](http://www.LibraryReads.org/HOF)

Read-alikes provided by NoveList and the LibraryReads Community. | Made in LibraryAware - [www.libraryaware.com](http://www.libraryaware.com)