June 2023
The Top Ten Adult Fiction and Nonfiction Chosen Monthly by America's Library Staff

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| Title | Author | Read-alike | Publisher | Review
|-------|--------|------------|-----------|--------|
| All the Sinners Bleed | S.A. Cosby | Jill Minor, Washington County Public Library | 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?

| The Brightest Star: A Novel | Gail Tsukiyama | Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library | 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".

| The First Ladies | Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray | Debbie Lease, Hillsdale Public Library | Berkley | An illuminating read about the unlikely friendship between Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune as both overcome obstacles pursuing equal rights during the Great Depression/WWII and formed a close relationship through their personal struggles.

| A Most Agreeable Murder: A Novel | Julia Seals | Michelle Ogden, Crawfordsville District Public Library | Knopf | Beatrixte 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 village man solve the case. Much laughter is had on the way to personal freedom and autonomy.

| The Seven Year Slip | Ashley Poston | Judy G Sebastian, Eastham Public Library | Berkley | Suspense 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.

| The Whispers | Ashley Audrain | J.R. Ring, Baltimore County Public Library | 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.

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**Bonus pick:**

**Notable Nonfiction:**

| Title | Author | Publisher | Review
|-------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Much Ado About Nada | Uzma Jalaluddin | (Berkley) | A captivating novel exploring themes of identity, family, and sacrifice.

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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.

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HALL OF FAME TITLES

**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, Ench 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)

Moelys 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 Moelys 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

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**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 Bellefluer

**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