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

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Perfectly Nice Neighbors
Kia Abdullah
(G.P. Putnam’s Sons)

This domestic thriller is about the dynamic and ongoing relationship between neighbors, giving readers a suspenseful and exciting conclusion that they won’t see coming. The commentary about race and social media is relevant to the world we live in. The battle between these neighbors may make readers think twice about moving to the suburbs.

—Tabrizia Jones, The New York Public Library, NY
Novelist read-alike: Our Best Intentions by Vibsuti Jain

The Long Game: A Novel
Elena Armas
(Berkeley)

Adalyn needs a hug, not that she’ll ever admit it. Exiled to a tiny Green Oak, North Carolina, after a very public breakdown, she’s forced to examine her life—and of course, falls in love along the way. Armas hits all the right emotional notes and the slow burn is delicious. Pick this one up if you like small-town romance, love interests who actually talk to each other, and female leads who can handle their stuff.

—Amanda Baumann, JCL Northwest, MO
Novelist read-alike: Part of Your World by Abby Jimenez

Nobleman's Guide to Seducing a Scoundrel
KJ Charles
(Sourcebooks Casablanca)

Rufus is the new Earl of Oxney, much to the consternation of his uncle. But another possible heir, Luke, as Rufus and Luke work together to get the estate organized, becomes impossible for them to ignore their mutual attraction. This fun historical LGBTQ romance set 15 years after the first in the series is an ideal beach read.

—Nancy Eggert, Chicago Public Library, IL
Novelist read-alike: The Turner series by Cat Sebastian

The September House: A Novel
Carissa Orlando
(Berkeley)

Margaret believes in following the rules. Four years after moving into a haunted Victorian, she knows how to handle the dangerous ghosts. But her husband can’t take it anymore and leaves when the paranormal activity escalates to excessive levels. Now their estranged daughter—who’s never been to the house—is coming to visit, and Margaret doesn’t know how to explain (much less keep her child safe from) the specters’ violent antics.

—Lucy Lockley, St. Charles City-County Lib Dist, MO
Novelist read-alike: How to Sell a Haunted House by Hendrix

Hush Harbor: A Novel
Anise Vance
(Hanover Square Press)

When racism explodes and it feels like the world is on fire, siblings Jeremiah and Nova decide to form a resistance group in an abandoned housing project. But differences about how to move forward divide the group, threatening to derail their project. But differences about how to move forward divide the group, threatening to derail their project. The group must find a way forward without becoming like the enemy. Thought-provoking and intense.

—Shari Suar ez, Genesee District Library, MI
Novelist read-alike: American War by Hamid Rahmanian

The Museum of Failures: A Novel
Thrity Umrigar
(Algonquin Books)

Remy Wadia is back in Bombay to adopt a child and to check in on his estranged mother, but nothing is working out as planned. As necessary truths are finally shared, Remy is forced to rethink his entire life. A beautifully written, heart-warming, and welcoming glimpse into the Parsi community and the complications of family.

—Jessica Trotter, Capital Area District Libraries, MI
Novelist read-alike: Sankofa by Chibundu Onuzo

Bonus pick:
Land of Milk and Honey
C Pam Zhang
(Riverhead)

Notable Nonfiction:
Of Time and Turtles: Mending the World, Shell by Shattered Shell
Sy Montgomery
(Mariner Books)
HALL OF FAME TITLES

September 2023
HALL OF FAME AUTHORS

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Bright Lights, Big Christmas
Mary Kay Andrews
(St. Martin’s Press)

Enchanted to Meet You: A Witches of West Harbor Novel
Meg Cabot
(Avon)

Black Sheep
Rachel Harrison
(Berkley)

The Wake-Up Call
Beth O’Leary
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NoveList read-alike:
Seasons of Love by Helena Greer

NoveList read-alike:
Small Town, Big Magic by Hazel Beck

NoveList read-alike:
Sundial by Catriona Ward

NoveList read-alike:
The Ex Talk by Rachel Lynn Solomon

The Last Devil to Die: A Thursday Murder Club Mystery
Richard Osman
(Pamela Dorman Books)

Starter Villain
John Scalzi
(Tor Books)

The Fragile Threads of Power
V.E. Schwab
(Tor Books)

Cleat Cute: A Novel
Meryl Wilsner
(St. Martin’s Griffin)

NoveList read-alike:
Marlow Murder Club series by Robert Thorogood

NoveList read-alike:
Hench by Natalie Zina Walschots

NoveList read-alike:
The Bone Season by Samantha Shannon

NoveList read-alike:
The Princess Deception by Neil Stark

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