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

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org

**The Future: A Novel**
Naomi Alderman
(Simon & Schuster)

What would happen if three companies (think Amazon, Facebook, and Twitter), were removed from the world and their money put to saving the planet and all of the people on it? Alderman once again places the reader in a world that is falling apart, run by greedy billionaires who don’t care what damage they do as long as they keep making more money. Look into The Future and get an idea of how that might go.

—Linda Quinn, LibraryReads Ambassador
Novelist read-alike: *Stay This Day and Night With Me* by Elizabeth Strout

**Exes and O’s**
Lucy Foley
(Macmillan)

In this worthy prequel to Legends & Lattes, a young Viv is laid up in the quiet town of Murk after her enthusiastic inexperience leads to a serious injury. She gradually assembles a group of friends including a swear happy bookshop owner, a mercurial turned baker, and an irrepressible Gallina, eager to join Rackham’s Raiders. Murk doesn’t stay quiet for long with Viv around, and there’s plenty of coziness in this bookshop, eating delicious baked goods, and flirting with a new friend.

—Lauren Abner, KY Dept for Libraries & Archives, KY
Novelist read-alike: *Under the Whispering Door* by Kliune

**How Far to the Promised Land**
Christina Henry
(Berkeley)

Celia finds herself trapped in someone else’s life. Allie’s birthday trip turns into a slasher fest in a cabin in the woods. The story is kind of a spin-off and made to play a dangerous dystopian maze game. All three women find themselves in situations reminiscent of their favorite horror fiction, and are fighting to survive. What is really happening, and is it possible to make it out alive? A thrilling page turner.

—Candice Machata, North Kingstown Free Library, RI
Novelist read-alike: *Good Girls Don’t Die* by Stephen Graham Jones

**Class: A Memoir of Motherhood, Hunger, and Higher Education**
Stephanie Land
(Algonquin)

Life after Maid is where Class begins, and takes us to the heart of systemic inequity that exists in this country. Unflinchingly honest and gripping, this is a memoir that is either relatable,riveting, and/or eye opening. That exists in this country.

—Jessica Swedell DeKart, Nell Public Library, WA
Novelist read-alike: *How Far to the Promised Land* by Esau McCaulley

**The Mystery Guest: A Maid Novel**
Nita Prose
(Ballantine Books)

When a famous author dies before he can make an important announcement about his career, Molly can’t help but insert herself into the investigation. Molly and her friend Angela work to prove the author was murdered, but solving the case is not easy. Fans of the Tiptree in this series will not be disappointed, and the ending may mean another sequel.

—Cari Dubiel, Twinsburg Public Library, OH
Novelist read-alike: *How Lucky by Will Leitch

**The Other Half**
Charlotte Vassell
(Anchor Books)

There’s something about the sleaze hidden beneath a thick veneer of lucie that is always compelling. The prodc nots characters here are in and out of each others’ packets (and beds). When one winds up dead beneath a hedge, a trio of outsider detectives seek out who is responsible. The mystery is tidied up nicely, with enough hanging threads to leave readers excited for more.

—Krista Feick, Columbus Metropolitan Library, OH
Novelist read-alike: *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley

**A Grandmother Begins the Story: A Novel**
Michelle Porter
(Algonquin)

A young Métis woman seeks to learn about her heritage as her mother tries to reconnect their last years while protecting her daughter from what she perceives as the sins of her own mother. Told from the point of view of five generations of women, this is a beautiful and affecting debut.

—Jennifer Quinn, William Jeane Memorial Library, PA
Novelist read-alike: *The Future* by Elizabeth Strout

**Plotted Twist**
Eri La Rosa
(Canary Street Press)

Romance writer Sophie has the hots for her landlord, former indie movie star Dash. He’s stand-offish, but that’s because he’s harboring a secret crush on her. Their paths collide when, hungover, she bars him. Reader’s will be charmed by this sexy, low-stakes romance as the the relatable characters slowly build themselves up to reach for each other.

—Jennifer Winberry, Hunterdon County Library, NJ
Novelist read-alike: *Sabrina & Corina* by Kat Fajardo-Astine

**The Manor House**
Gilly Macmillan
(William Morrow)

Childhood sweethearts Nicole and Tom win the lottery and are thrust into a life of splendor, including a dreamy glass mansion. When Tom turns up dead in the pool, Nicole doesn’t know whom she can trust—was Tom’s death a tragic accident or is someone trying to get a piece of the woman’s? Macmillan’s latest is perfectly paced suspense.

—Kaitie Stover, Kansas City Public Library, MO
Novelist read-alike: *The Last Party* by Claire Mackintosh

**The Boy Next Door**
Charlotte Vassell
(Anchor Books)

A young woman seeks to learn about her heritage as her mother tries to reconnect their last years while protecting her daughter from what she perceives as the sins of her own mother. Told from the point of view of five generations of women, this is a beautiful and affecting debut.

—Jennifer Quinn, William Jeane Memorial Library, PA
Novelist read-alike: *The Future* by Elizabeth Strout

**Day: A Novel**
Michael Cunningham
(Random House)

This intimate and almost claustrophobic book follows a family on the same day in three different years: April 5th of 2019, 2020, and 2021. The story is about endings, beginnings, aging, relationships, and the impact of Covid-19. A lyrical novel, with deft prose and a focus on the internal lives of the characters. Cunningham has a gift of providing just enough detail to engage readers without weighing the prose down.

—Chad Cunningham, Monroe County Library System, NY
Novelist read-alike: *How Far to the Promised Land* by Esau McCaulley

**Good Girls Don’t Die**
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—Krista Feick, Columbus Metropolitan Library, OH
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**Dolls of Our Lives: Why We Can’t Quit American Girl**
Mary Mahoney and Allison Horrocks
(Feiwel & Friends)

Be sure to check out our social media for the Bonus Pick annotations!

Bonus pick:

**Calamity**
Constance Fay
(Bramble)

**Notable Nonfiction:**

*Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org*
November 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 Good Part: A Novel**
Sophie Cousens
(G.P. Putnam’s Sons)

NovelList read-alike:
The Two Lives of Lydia Bird
by Josie Silver

**Do Your Worst**
Rosie Danan
(Berkley)

NovelList read-alike:
Well Met by Jen DeLuca

**The Kingdom of Sweets: A Novel of the Nutcracker**
Erika Johansen
(Dutton)

NovelList read-alike:
The Salt Grows Heavy
by Cassandra Khaw

**A Power Unbound**
Freya Marske
(Tordotcom)

NovelList read-alike:
Spellbreaker novels
by Charlie N. Holmberg

**Hunt on Dark Waters**
Katee Robert
(Berkley)

NovelList read-alike:
Black Dagger Brotherhood series by J.R. Ward

**Inheritance: The Lost Bride Trilogy**
Nora Roberts
(St. Martin’s Press)

NovelList read-alike:
Lost Lake
by Sarah Addison Allen

**System Collapse**
Martha Wells
(Tordotcom)

NovelList read-alike:
Imperial Radch series
by Ann Leckie

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org/HOF