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

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org

The Couple in the Photo
(Helen Cooper)

Lucy’s perfect life crumbles when she sees a photo of her best friend on a romantic vacation with someone who isn’t his wife. When she tells her husband, he tells her she must be mistaken and to leave it alone. Soon, the woman Lucy saw in the photo is found dead, making Lucy wonder if it’s all in her head or her husband is keeping something from her. Readers will be sucked into this well-written, fast-paced, twisty tale.

—Sarrah Knight, Newton Public Library, IA
NoveList read-alike: Just the Nicest Couple by Mary Kubica

The Curse of Penryn Hall
(Jess Armstrong)

Unconventional American heiress Ruby is living in Exeter, where she runs a bookstore. Sent to deliver a box of rare and dangerous books, she ends up getting involved in a murder, an ancient curse, and the possibility that witches really do exist. The story is revealed slowly, giving readers a chance to guess the who and why. The possibility of the supernatural lingers like fog along the Cornish coast, with a view that’s sometimes clear and other times, otherworldly.

—Janet Makouy, New City Library, NY
NoveList read-alike: The Cherry Robbers by Sarai Walker

Rebecca, Not Becky
(Christine Platt and Catherine Wigginton Greene)

Two mothers—one Black, one white—form an uneasy relationship when their daughters become friends at their “progressive” private school. A must-read for those wanting contemporary fiction that addresses important issues but maintains a brisk plot and relatable characters. Book clubs looking for something both funny and compelling should definitely consider this one.

—Jennifer Schultz, Fauquier County Public Library, VA
NoveList read-alike: Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid

This Spells Love
(Kate Robb)

Gemma just broke up with her ex, so her aunt, sister, and best friend Dax help her perform a love cleanse. Suddenly, she wakes up in another timeline, where Dax doesn’t know who she is! Though now she has her own store, she wants to get back to her own reality. Or can she have Dax here as something more than a friend? Readers of Lana Harper’s Witches of Thistle Grove series will love this.

—Jessica C. Williams, Cleveland Public Library, OH
NoveList read-alike: The Good Part by Sophie Cousens

Sarai Walker

The Good Part
(Kiley Reid)

But there’s one big catch. Her longtime rival, Dr. Ford, is the lead on the expedition. As they become better acquainted, their animosity transforms into an undeniable attraction—that is, until the truth behind Ford’s motivations comes to light. Will they be able to find their happily ever after? This thrilling and steamy debut will appeal to fans of adventurous romances.

—Migdalia Jimenez, Chicago Public Library, IL
NoveList read-alike: Do Your Worst by Rosie Danan

Kathleen Willet

The Other Mothers
(Katherine Faulkner)

Choose your friends wisely! Tasha needs to jump start her journalism career, so when a nanny turns up dead in a neighboring community, she begins to investigate. She enrols her son in school and becomes friendly with the other mothers. Exploring class and motherhood, this clever, twisty plot alternates between the nanny’s past and Tasha’s present narration of events.

—Jayme Oldham, Highland Park Public Library, IL
NoveList read-alike: Another All Saints by Kathleen Willit

Perfect Little Lives
(Amber and Danielle Brown)

Perfect Little Lives
(Amber and Danielle Brown)

Two sisters—one Black, one white—are determined to uncover the mystery of their father’s disappearance. As they delve deeper into the family’s past, they uncover shocking truths that threaten their own lives.

—Beth Emmerling, Enoch Pratt Free Library, MD
NoveList read-alike: This Train by James Grady

Bonus pick:

Perfect Little Lives
(Amber and Danielle Brown)

Notable Nonfiction:

Airplane Mode: An Irrelevant History of Travel
(Shahna Habib)

As the reader explores the distance between unlikable and likable, each character reveals that they are not who they seem to be. When they intersect at a run-down hostel, these travelers—whether killers or caretakers—drive this fast-paced narrative in which each viewpoint is well fleshed out.

—America’s Library Staff
NoveList read-alike: This Train by James Grady

Read-alikes provided by NoveList and the LibraryReads Community | Made in LibraryAware - www.libraryaware.com

Be sure to check out our social media for the Bonus Pick annotations!
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 Engagement Party**
Darby Kane
(William Morrow)

NovelList read-alike:
The Twelve Days of Murder
by Andreina Cordani

**The Frozen River**
Ariel Lawhon
(Doubleday)

NovelList read-alike:
Wolf Winter by Cecilia Ekback

**The Gentleman’s Gambit**
Evie Dunmore
(Berkley)

NovelList read-alike:
The Queer Principles of Kit Webb
by Cat Sebastian

**Technically Yours**
Denise Williams
(Berkley)

NovelList read-alike:
Take a Hint, Dani Brown
by Talia Hibbert

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org/HOF