February 2024

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

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org

**The Tainted Cup**
Robert Jackson Bennett (Del Rey)
In a world where leviathan blood allows people to acquire amazing abilities, a bare-nosed investigator, Ana, and her sidekick in training, an “engraver” named Din, embark on the gristy death of a wealthy official. This hugely enjoyable fantasy and mystery blend will leave readers eager for another installment.

—Mara Bandy Fass, Champaign Public Library, IL
NovelList read-alike: The Witness for the Dead by Katherine Addison

**The Book of Doors**
Gareth Brown (William Morrow)
Cassie likes her quiet life working in a bookstore in Manhattan. When one of her favorite customers dies in the shop one night, she finds a book in his possession with an inscription to her and the newfound ability that allows her to go through any door and come out wherever she wishes. This fantastical time travel novel has several interesting twists, including the final one.

—Jennifer Winberry, Hunterdon County Library, NJ
NovelList read-alike: Ink Blood Sister Scribe by Donna O. Hill

**The Fox Wife**
Yangsze Choo (Henry Holt & Co.)
This wonderful weaving of fantasy and folklore builds on ancient lore that foxes can change form into humans. When a young woman is found dead in the snow, Bao, a thoughtful investigator, is hired to explain her death. Rumor has it that foxes might be involved, and Bao follows clues shrouded in mystery to find the story of her death—and more. Highly recommended for fans of fantasy and whoaldents that feature vivid characters and settings.

—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, TX
NovelList read-alike: The Serpent & the Wings of Night by Clarissa Brentner

**The Teacher**
Freida McFadden (Poisoned Pen Press)
Eve, a married high school math teacher, has been warned that Addie, a teenage student coping with traumatic events from her fellow classmates, could not be trusted. Inappropriate conduct soon occurs. The twists and turns in this psychological thriller will leave the reader with a deep feeling of unease.

—Kristin Skinner, Flat River Community Library, MI
NovelList read-alike: Reconstructing Amelia by Kimberly McCreight

**Wandering Stars: A Novel**
Tommy Orange (Knopf)
Orange’s second novel is a stunning achievement, depicting over a century’s worth of atrocities against the indigenous people of America, while also being a multigenerational family story full of the richly drawn, fascinating characters first introduced in There, There.

—Rachel Rooney, Mid-Continent Public Library, MO
NovelList read-alike: Calling for a Blanket Dance by Oscar Hokeah

**When Grumpy Met Sunshine**
Charlotte Stein (St. Martin’s Griffin)
When Mabel meets ex-footballer Alfie to discuss ghostwriting his memoirs, it doesn’t go well. After he convinces her to work with him, the press gets involved, and they decide to pretend to be a couple. Filled with playful banter, embarrassing mishaps, and believable, respectful relationships, this is a huge rom-com.

—Lea Stapleton, Richland Library, SC
NovelList read-alike: Business or Pleasure by Rachel Saloman

**A Love Song for Ricki Wilde**
Tia Williams (Grand Central)
Ricki has been given an opportunity to achieve her dreams. Ezra is looking for an opportunity to be himself. They were destined to meet! With flashbacks to the Harlem Renaissance, this entertaining read is both modern and classic and does not disappoint. (Do yourself a favor and play some jazz in the background while reading.)

—Tanya Pearl, Memphis Public Library, TN

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**A Step Past Darkness**
Vera Kurian (Park Row)
This romantic, sexy, funny, and magical hijinks novel is recommended for readers who enjoy mythology and what to do to keep from being devoured. This hugely enjoyable read is both intriguing and interesting.

—Jennifer Winberry, Hunterdon County Library, NJ
NovelList read-alike: Ink Blood Sister Scribe by Donna O. Hill

**Notable Nonfiction:**

**Why We Read: On Bookworms, Libraries, and Just One Page Before Lights Out**
Shannon Reed (Harper Square Press)

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HALL OF FAME TITLES

The LibraryReads Hall of Fame designation honors authors who have had multiple titles appear on the monthly list since 2013.

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**The Warm Hands of Ghosts: A Novel**
Katherine Arden
(Del Rey)

NovelList read-alike:
The London Seance Society by Sarah Penner

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**Fangirl Down**
Tessa Bailey
(Avon)

NovelList read-alike:
The Graham Effect by Elle Kennedy

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**At First Spite: A Harlot’s Bay Novel**
Olivia Dade
(Avon)

NovelList read-alike:
Yours Truly by Abby Jimenez

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**The Women: A Novel**
Kristin Hannah
(St. Martin’s Press)

NovelList read-alike:
The Lotus Eaters by Emily Clements

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**Bride**
Ali Hazelwood
(Berkley)

NovelList read-alike:
Wolf Gone Wild by Juliette Cross

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**What Feasts at Night**
T. Kingfisher
(Tor Nightfire)

NovelList read-alike:
The Haunting of Ashburn House by Darcy Coates

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**The Guest**
B.A. Paris
(St. Martin’s Press)

NovelList read-alike:
The House Guest by Hank Phillippi Ryan

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**Simply the Best: A Chicago Stars Novel**
Susan Elizabeth Phillips
(Avon)

NovelList read-alike:
The Hollywood Jinx by Sarah Wilson

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**The Phoenix Crown**
Kate Quinn and Janie Chang
(William Morrow)

NovelList read-alike:
China Dolls by Lisa See