May 2024
The Top Ten Adult Fiction and Nonfiction
Chosen Monthly by America's Library Staff

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**The Ministry of Time: A Novel**
Kaliane Bradley
(avid reader press)

An employee of the Ministry of Time becomes a “bridge,” helping an Arctic explorer adjust to modern life after being rescued from the last Franklin expedition of 1845. But as she begins to grow closer to him, she finds herself wondering whether her life might be in danger. Totally gripping, with great character development.

—Mara Bandy Foss, NoveList read-alike
Champaign Public Library, IL

**Daughters of Shandong**
Eve J. Chung
(Berkeley)

At times both heartbreaking and uplifting, this novel follows the journey of the women of the Ang family from their farm in rural China to Taiwan during the horrific land reforms of 1948-1950. With this story based on Chung’s grandmother’s experience of a turbulent era, readers will be riveted from page one by the mother/daughter bonds and their will to survive.

—Martha DiVittorio, Bellmore Memorial Library, NY
NoveList read-alike: A Woman of Pleasure by Kiyoko Murata

**Savor It**
Tarah DeWitt
(St. Martin’s Griffin)

This Pacific Northwest rom-com has delicious tension from the first interaction. Add in fake dating and a steamy scene in a library, and who could ask for more? Readers will appreciate how much attention and care DeWitt put into creating fully-fleshed characters grappling with grief, chasing dreams, and figuring out how to live in the moment.

—Ebby Bowles, Hingham Public Library, MA
NoveList read-alike: Chef’s Choice by TJ Alexander

**Lies and Weddings: A Novel**
Kevin Kwan
(Doubleday)

Arabella Leung is doing everything she can to match her son Rufus to a very wealthy, titled woman in this romp around the world of controlling parents, one of whom is desperately matching to save the family estate. Readers who love high entertainment and the bad behavior of the haves and have-evens-more will devour this wild ride.

—Jessica Trotter, Capital Area District Libraries, MI
NoveList read-alike: Thistletop by GennaRose Nethercott

**This Summer Will Be Different**
Carley Fortune
(Berkeley)

Filled with emotional moments as well as fun and flirty scenes, this wonderful story set in picturesque Prince Edward Island is about friendships and family. More than a love story, this novel has a lot that readers will relate to, including friendship and family. A perfect steamy romance book for the summer.

—Karen Troutman, LibraryReads Ambassador
NoveList read-alike: How To Marry Keanu Reeves in 90 Days by K.M. Jackson

**Long After We Are Gone**
Terah Shelton Harris
(Sourcebooks Landmark)

This moving story follows four siblings trying to hold onto their family property. Secrets and dubious life choices threaten to break the family apart as the siblings experience despair followed by self-discovery and self-determination, seeking what truly matters. An engaging and satisfying read, featuring believable, complex characters.

—Monica McAbee, PGCMLS Suratts-Clinton Branch, MD
NoveList read-alike: Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson

**The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club**
Helen Simonson
(The Dial Press)

Constance, companion to an elderly woman, meets Poppy, a young woman trying to start a business for women motorcycle riders. Constance gets drawn into the circle of friendship and independence the motorcycle ladies enjoy. Readers will love the characters, the setting, and the portrayal of life after The Great War.

—Linda Quinn, LibraryReads Ambassador
NoveList read-alike: The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer

**Can’t Spell Treasure Without Tea**
Rebecca Thorne
(Bramble)

This book is so cozy, readers will want to snuggle under a heap of blankets with a delicious cup of tea. Kianthe and Reyna were the perfect opposites-attract couple—determined to make things work no matter the obstacles. Lots of humor with a serious amount of heart. Perfect for fans of Legends & Lattes.

—Laura Eckert, Clermont County Public Library, OH
NoveList read-alike: Notorious Sorcerer by Davinia Evans

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**The Last Murder at the End of the World**
Stuart Turton
(Sourcebooks Landmark)

After a deadly fog decimates most of humanity, the small population that’s left lives on an island. As one villager begins investigating a murder, what once seemed like utopia begins to reveal dark secrets that no one could have predicted. Turton raises tantalizing social questions, presents an inventive world structure, and keeps readers intrigued and surprised throughout the novel.

—Sharon Layburn, South Huntington Public Library, NY
NoveList read-alike: Clean Air by Sarah Blake

**The Light Eaters: How the Unseen World of Plant Intelligence Offers a New Understanding of Life on Earth**
Zoe Schlanger
(Harper)

Bonus pick:

**The Return of Ellie Black**
Emiko Jean
(Simon & Schuster)

**Notable Nonfiction:**

Be sure to check out our social media for the Bonus Pick annotations!
May 2024
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