

## November 2024

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

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The Songbird & The Heart of Stone (Tor)

Mische, once the chosen girl by the Sun God, is now disgraced and awaits her fate in prison. Asar, the bastard son of the Shadowborn King, needs her magic for his mission. Together they navigate the five realms of the underworld to find relics that have been scattered, and face their past, fears, and their worst secrets during their travels.

–Melissa Turner, Maricopa Library & Cultural Center, AZ NoveList read-alike: Nytefall by Chloe Penaranda



#### The Lake of Lost Girls Katherine Greene (Crooked Lane)

When Lindsey was six, her sister went outside to grab her birthday cake and disappeared. Three other girls from the college she attended also went missing. Now, twenty five years later when a body is found, Lindsey must face the past. Readers who enjoy cold-case mysteries will devour this dual-timeline novel.

-Carly Hathaway, Salem Public Library, VA NoveList read-alike: I Have Some Questions for You by Rebecca Makkai



#### The Teller of Small Fortunes: A Novel Julie Leong (Ace)

Tao lives a quiet and lonely life, traveling to villages telling fortunes, with her mule as sole fortunes, with her mule as sole companion. That all changes when an ex-mercenary asks for her help finding a child. Their not-so-merry band is complemented by a baker and a magical cat, creating an unusual family for Tao, but one she may have desperentely needed. have desperately needed. A lovely cozy fantasy debut.

—Jennifer Winberry, LibraryReads Ambassador, NJ NoveList read-alike: Can't Spell Treason Without Tea by Rebecca Thorne

> **Bonus** pick:





Eleanore of Avignon: A Novel Elizabeth DeLozier Dutton) Based on actual events, this is

a fascinating look at early medicine and the ways women worked to heal, even as they were persecuted as witches. Apprentice midwife Elea hides her talents, but as the Black Plague reaches France, she's called on to heal the Pope and an exiled Italian queen. Fans of historical fiction will have a hard time mutting this down

putting this down.

Before We Forget Kindness

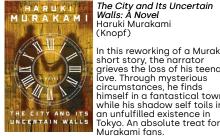
Toshikazu Kawaguchi (Hanover Square Press)

-Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, TX NoveList read-alike: Nicked by M.T. Anderson



Each story here follows an individual who wishes to go back in time at the magical cafe. As the individuals experience the past, they reflect on their life, which in turn serves to heal old wounds. Each tale tugs at the heartstrings and makes you want to wrap them up in a hug. This is another soft, gentle addition to the Before the Coffee Gets Cold universe.

-Arianna Van Dam, Brown County Library, WI NoveList read-alike: The Kamogawa Food Detectives series by Hisashi Kashiwai



(Knopf) In this reworking of a Murakami short story, the narrator grieves the loss of his teenage love. Through mysterious circumstances, he finds himself in a fantastical town, while his shadow self toils in

-Magan Szwarek, LibraryReads Ambassador, IL NoveList read-alike: Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell



Lost and Lassoed Lyla Sage (Dial Press)

This romance has everything: a small town, cowboys, and an enemies-to-lovers plot, all packed in one little book. Sage's books are quick reads with likable characters and relatable story arcs. This will be sure to tick all the boxes for romance novel fans.

NoveList read-alike: Chelsea Springs Romances by Elsie Silver



The Co-Op: A Novel Tarah DeWitt (St. Martin's Griffin)

LaRynn has inherited her grandmother's beachside home, but there's a catch: her ex Deacon inherited half of it. With funds running low, they marry in order to access her trust fund, leading them to fall in love again. This atmospheric tale is set against a stunning backdrop and will appeal to fans of slow-burn, emotionally charged romances.

**TOP PICK** 

—Migdalia Jimenez, Chicago Public Library, IL NoveList read-alike: Luck and Last Resorts by Sarah Grunder Ruiz



The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World Robin Wall Kimmerer

A lovely and powerful essay on reciprocity and the potential of a gift economy in the face of our unsustainable current of our unsustainable current models—illustrated by the analogous natural systems that create the serviceberry and its ecosystem. This illustrated gem brings a timely message, truly thought-provoking and inspiring.

–Jessica Trotter, Capital Area District Libraries, MI NoveList read-alike: The Mushroom at the End of the World by Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing



The Author's Guide to Murder: A Novel Beatriz Williams, Lauren Willig,

and Karen White (William Morrow)

What starts off as bawdy Scottish entertainment for three authors evolves into a sincere, deeply emotional story of women's strength and survival, each woman experiences a complete story arc, and more than one double entendre. Equal parts fun and sincere.

—Tina Panik, Avon Free Public Library, CT NoveList read-alike: Amy Among the Serial Killers by Jincy Willett



Ingenious: A Biography of Benjamin Franklin, Scientist Richard Munson (W.W. Norton & Company)

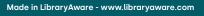
RICHARD MUNSON

-Kellie Gillespie, Olathe Public Library, KS



(Scribner)

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



The City and Its Uncertain Walls: A Novel Haruki Murakami



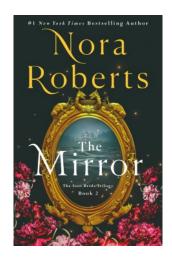
# **November 2024** HALL OF FAME TITLES

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.



Sophie Cousens Is She Really Going Out with Him?: A Novel

(G.P. Putnam's Sons)



Nora Roberts The Mirror: The Lost Bride Trilogy, Book 2

(St. Martin's Press)

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