



April 2025

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

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org

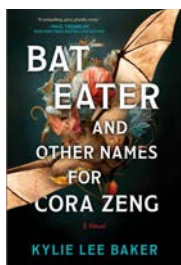


The Sirens
Emilia Hart
(St. Martin's Press)



In 1800s Ireland, twin sisters are taken from their father and put on a ship bound for Australia. During the voyage, they begin to change as they hear the call of the sea. In 2019, while Lucy looks for her missing sister, she reads her old diary full of strange stories of the sea. Spanning centuries, this novel casts its magic with the story it weaves.

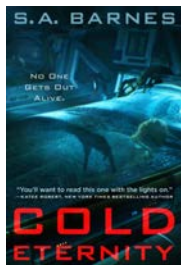
—Jennifer Winberry, LibraryReads Ambassador, NJ
NovelList read-alike: *To The Sea* by Christine Dibley



Bat Eater and Other Names for Cora Zeng: A Darkly Funny, Gory, and Ghostly Horror Novel
Kylie Lee Baker
(MIRA)

In the midst of the COVID pandemic of 2020, Cora's haunted by her deceased sister and stalked by a serial killer as her chaotic life spirals further out of control. The journey to finding her way back to some semblance of normal won't be easy. Readers seeking a book blending slasher and bio-horror need look no further.

—Jolie Hanlon, Girard Free Library, OH
NovelList read-alike: *The Only Good Indians* by Stephen Graham Jones



Cold Eternity
S.A. Barnes
(Tor Nightfire)

Hiding out due to a political scandal, Halley decides to take a job in the most remote place she can find. That turns out to be a large space barge holding cryogenically frozen wealthy people. The horror begins as Halley starts hearing noises and notices a presence at the foot of her bed. Thrilling and downright scary, this is a must-read.

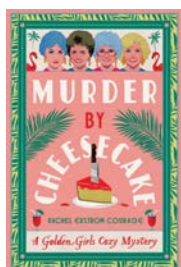
—Terri Smith, Cornelia Library, GA
NovelList read-alike: *Crypt of the Moon Spider* by Nathan Ballingrud



A Drop of Corruption: An Ana and Din Mystery
Robert Jackson Bennett
(Del Rey)

Din and Ana return in a new sci-fi/fantasy mystery. This time an official in the Treasury delegation has gone missing from a locked room. Tense negotiations are ongoing between the Treasury and a small outpost kingdom. What Din and Ana find is a hidden hornet's nest and extreme danger to the Empire. Can the two stop a terrorist from destroying everything?

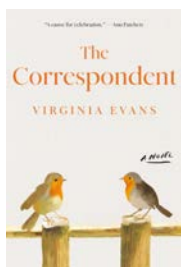
—Michelle Ogden, Crawfordsville Dist Public Library, IN
NovelList read-alike: *The Mimicking of Known Successes* by Malka Older



Murder by Cheesecake: A Golden Girls Cozy Mystery
Rachel Ekstrom Courage
(Hyperion)

Golden Girls plus cozy mystery equals match made in heaven! This novel is nostalgic fun for fans of the TV show and might even draw some new fans in with the atmospheric 80s Miami vibes. The story is over-the-top silly at turns, but it's all part of the fun. Readers will be left hoping the series continues with more mysteries for the ladies to solve.

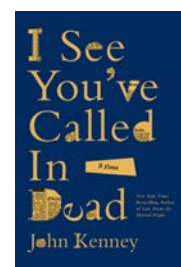
—Elizabeth Motyka, Wheaton Public Library, IL
NovelList read-alike: *The Excitements* by C.J. Wray



The Correspondent: A Novel
Virginia Evans
(Crown)

Sybil's life has centered around her correspondence with both people she knows and with strangers. Why she finds writing easier than conversing soon becomes clear, and her sadness and remove are explained through the events of her past and in her encroaching blindness. The plot unfolds with wonderful character development.

—Mary Robinson, Vernon Area Public Library District, IL
NovelList read-alike: *Olive Kitteredge* by Elizabeth Strout



I See You've Called In Dead: A Novel
John Kenney
(Zibby Publishing)

In this sensational novel, Bud gets a new lease on life after he starts visiting wakes and funerals. With equal measures of laughter and tears along the way, this character-driven novel probes the psyche of the contemporary male mind and takes readers in unexpected directions, all leading to a very satisfying conclusion.

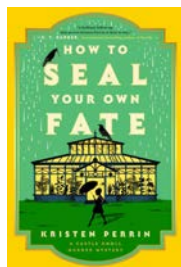
—Todd Krueger, Baltimore County Public Library, MD
NovelList read-alike: *Keya Das's Second Act* by Sopan Deb



Any Trope but You: A Novel
Victoria Lavine
(Atria Books)

Margot and Forest are genuinely likeable, though flawed characters, and seeing through their perspective is a delight. The conflicts come from practical issues, and the couple is not kept apart by miscommunication, but by respect for each other's priorities and values. A love letter to "romancelandia" and the tropes it celebrates.

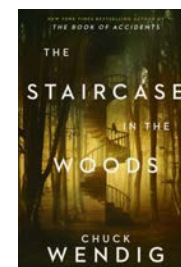
—Katrina Dagenais, Bucks County Free Library, PA
NovelList read-alike: *Unromance* by Erin Connor



How to Seal Your Own Fate: A Novel
Kristen Perrin
(Dutton)

This second book in the Castle Knoll series has Annie involved in another mystery of long past and current murders. Annie realizes she's being set up when all of the clues point to her. Readers will love that this book builds so well on the last one, and wonder just how many secrets exist in this small rural town.

—Linda Quinn, LibraryReads Ambassador, CT
NovelList read-alike: Agatha Raisin series by M.C. Beaton

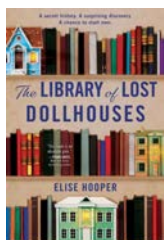


The Staircase in the Woods
Chuck Wendig
(Del Rey)

Four friends are haunted when another climbs a mysterious staircase and never comes down. Years later, they decide to rescue the boy they lost. What they find is a haunted house preying on their personal nightmares. A coming-of-age story reminiscent of *Stranger Things* and *It*—plus all the perfect scary things that Wendig is known for.

—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, Austin, TX
NovelList read-alike: *The Children of Red Peak* by Craig DiLouie

Bonus pick:



The Library of Lost Dollhouses: A Novel
Elise Hooper
(William Morrow)

Notable Nonfiction:



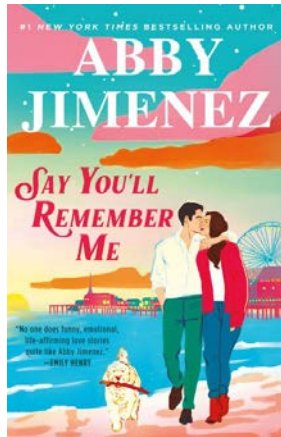
No More Tears: The Dark Secrets of Johnson & Johnson
Gardner Harris
(Random House)

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



April 2025 HALL OF FAME TITLES

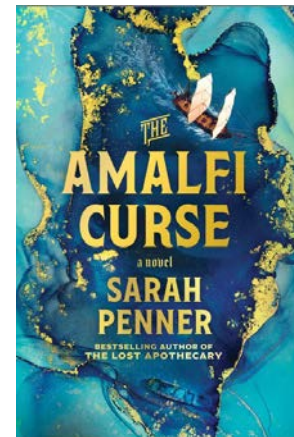
The LibraryReads Hall of Fame designation honors authors who have had multiple titles appear on the monthly list since 2013.



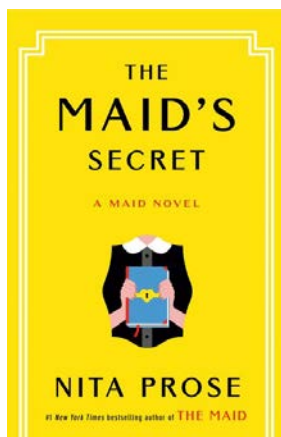
Say You'll Remember Me
Abby Jimenez
(Forever)



Swept Away
Beth O'Leary
(Berkley)



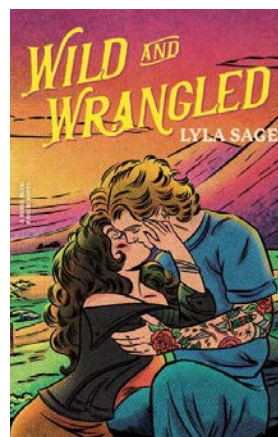
The Amalfi Curse: A Novel
Sarah Penner
(Harlequin Trade Publishing)



The Maid's Secret:
A Maid Novel
Nita Prose
(Ballantine Books)



Vera Wong's Guide to
Snooping (on a Dead Man)
Jesse Q. Sutanto
(Berkley)



Wild and Wrangled:
A Rebel Blue Ranch Novel
Lyla Sage
(Dial Press)



The Griffin Sisters'
Greatest Hits: A Novel
Jennifer Weiner
(William Morrow)

Find out more at www.LibraryReads.org/HOF